

dan¹ was an inebriate. Swift was a patron of taverns. Poe,² Southey³ and Hoffman⁴ were dipsomaniacs.

Most geniuses present reproductive anomalies. Tasso⁵ indulged in youth in sexual excess, but was chaste after thirty-eight. Pascal,⁶ excessively sensual in early life, later feared even the maternal kiss. Rousseau⁷ was hypospadiac, and like Baudelaire,⁸ had a sexual perversion. Newton⁹ and Charles XII.¹⁰ never sacrificed to aphrodité. Lenau¹¹ wrote, "I am unsuited for marriage." In lieu of the solitude of the study, the genius is impelled to wander continuously. Lenau wandered even to America, and thence over Europe. He said: "There is an absolute necessity for me to change climate to refresh my blood. Tasso⁵ wandered from Terran to Urbino, Bergamo, Rome, Naples, Turin and Paris. Poe² made the *Review* editors despair by his wanderings between Baltimore, Richmond, New York and Philadelphia. Rousseau¹⁰ claimed that more than three days' sojourn in one place was unendurable, whence his wanderings, as well as those of Cardan¹² and Cellini,¹³ Gerard de Nerval¹⁴ had nomadic tendencies, which grew with age. His departures resembled absconding.

The same errabund tendencies are manifested in their changes of career. Swift¹³ wrote, beside satires, on Irish manufacturers, theology, politics and history. Cardan¹⁴ was at once theologian, *litterateur*, mathematician and physician. Rousseau¹⁵ was at once artist, botanist, musician, charlatan, philosopher and poet. Hoffmann¹⁶ was a lawyer, caricaturist, poet, musician and dramatist. Tasso,¹⁷ as later Golgol, tried all varieties of poetry, history and didactic writing. Ampère¹⁸ in youth was a mechanician and musician, and later at once linguist, naturalist, physician and psychologist. Newton¹⁹ and Pascal¹⁹ during periods of aberration abandoned physics for theology. Haller²⁰ wrote on poetry, theology, medicine, physiology, botany, and even studied mathematics under Bernouilli. Lenau²⁰ studied law, agricul-

ture, theology and medicine. Walt Whitman¹ was a printer, school teacher, soldier, wood-cutter, and even (strangely enough for a poet) an office-holder.² Poe³ studied medicine, physics, zoology and mathematics.

Philomneste has pointed out in this connection that of forty-five insane authors, fifteen occupied themselves with poetry, thirteen with theology, five with prophecy, three with autobiography, two with psychiatry and two with politics. Among paranoiacs the tendency is toward theology, science and psychology. These energetic, terrible thinkers, are true pioneers of science; they leap in advance as a forlorn hope, attack with avidity the greatest difficulties on which can be spent their morbid energies. They seize upon the strangest relations of things, the newest and most striking points. In this they recall the originalities pushed to absurdity, of insane hospital poets and artists. Ampère sought after what Arago calls the abysses of mathematics—the problems of mathematics. Rousseau, in his "Devin de Village," attempted the "music of the future," as did later, Schumann, another lunatic of genius. Swift was accustomed to say he felt perfectly at ease when dealing with difficult subjects foreign to his own occupation. His style in his essay on "Servants" is not that of a politician, a preacher, but that of a flunky. His "Confession of a Thief" induced the accomplices of the supposed confessor to deliver themselves to justice.⁵ In his predictions as "Bickerstaff, Astrologer," he so disguised himself as a Catholic in predicting the downfall of Rome that the Inquisition burnt the book.⁶

Walt Whitman is the creator of a poetry without rhyme or rhythm, vaunted by the Anglo-Saxons as the poetry of the future, which is certainly not destitute of strange, wild originality.

Baudelaire, an admirer of Poe, writes that :

The compositions of Poe seem created to prove how the weird may enter into the elements of the beautiful.

He collects them under the title of "Arabesques and Grotesques," because they exclude the human, and his literature was extra-human. This recalls the predilection of insane artists for arabesques, but arabesques humanized.⁸ Baudelaire, in his turn created poems in prose. He exalts the artificial element in the beautiful and discovers poetic

1. From his cardiac syncope.

2. Periodical dipsomaniac.

3. I can find no authority for this. My "Life of Southey" does not mention it.

4. A congenital victim of locomotor ataxia. Sir Walter Scott denies dipsomania.

5. Chastity of impotence.

6. Under theological teaching, *vide* trial of Rebecca (in "Invanhoe"), a sexual, passionate, religious man, flees from all possible temptation.

7. Early masturbatory excess.

8. Mental preoccupation inhibits sexual passion.

9. Periodical furor and necessity.

10. Necessity and suspicious delusions.

11. Monetary and criminal causes.

12. Monetary causes of the Parisian student type.

13. As a politician necessarily became a pamphleteer.

14. University course of the time required this.

15. "Pot-boiling" required these changes.

16. Many cultivated Germans are so to-day.

17. "Pot-boiling," so did Dryden.

18. So are, even in this day of specialization, hundreds of others.

19. Theology was a study of the time.

20. The studies of a University course of the time.

1. Whitman's career was normal for an American.

2. How about Chaucer, Spenser, Addison, Fielding, Johnson, Lowell, Stedmann, Boker, Halleck? Not to speak of Charles Lamb, Washington Irving and Hawthorne. These show the absurdity of calling clerical pursuits and office-holding strange procedures for Anglo-Saxon *litterati*. See Macaulay's "Essays" and "History" for reasons why *litterati* at times assume such prominence even in Latin countries.

3. So are, even in this day of specialization, hundreds of others.

4. Why not cite Wagner, another sexual pervert?

5. An exploded literary fable due to one of Swift's deceptions.

6. This cremation was not caused by Swift's style but his topic.

7. "Tales of the Arabesque and Grotesque."

8. This is a strangely forced association. The insane humanize arabesque but Poe describes them, as a sane mind would, as abnormal.