

by spasmodic exhibitions of an ability that might, if gone on with, have left all of the other pupils in the rear. The case came before my attention, and from what I learned, without seeing the lad, the development of dementia paranoides was suspected.

A few weeks after this time the boy made what was supposed to be a most determined effort to commit suicide, and I was called upon to give an opinion on the mental status. The patient spoke to me freely and without hesitation, and the story told was a pathetic one. He had been fully alive to the false estimates made by his teachers, but had been so interested in watching, as he believed, the development of a new brain, that he had no time to worry over the trivialities of school life. "They called me stupid," he said, "but if I had cared to exert myself I could have passed them all."

A mysterious voice had been directing him, and he had been told by it that he had the same power as Christ, and his belief in that power had led to his making the so-called attempt at suicide. He reached complete dementia in a few months, and died in a year or so.

Here is a brief history of a case of the hebephrenic variety:

C. S. was always an eccentric child; even in the earliest days at school she attracted attention by her mannerisms and vanity. When she was ten or twelve her mannerisms were a common subject of remark. She walked with a silly strut; her hair was arranged in a manner so grotesque that it was always a subject of comment, particularly on the part of the village gossips, who saw evidences of the degeneracy of the modern days in this so-called new style. Even her voice, as is so often the case in D. P., gave evidence of the abnormal. This poor girl endeavored to stand the pace set at school, but in vain. By and bye the village gossips had more than enough material to keep their tongues wagging. Poor C. S. began to give evidences of what they called "dreadful wickedness"—what I was able to classify as well-defined mental defect.

She was removed to a hospital for the insane, and reached complete dementia almost at once. To see her now, after many years, a mere lump of hideous clay, is object lesson enough to inspire many a plea, far more eloquent than this, in favor of more careful study of school children, in search of the weaklings who may be helped.

Perhaps I should have said that I am not one of those who believe that our school systems are so developed that they cause over-strain in the average child. On the contrary, my impression is that the majority of children are capable of acquiring with ease and benefit, much more than is given them, and I strongly believe in the proper development of the brain, an organ that is of far greater importance than any other in the human economy. I merely maintain, that without an intelligent study of the individual, it is not possible to avoid the tragedies the alienist is called