

with bad training in early life, bad surroundings, and bad nutrition, have made them of necessity unsound, and liable to have many and complex brain defects. Such persons are always more or less without consciousness or realization of their acts. They act automatically only, governed by the lowest and most transient impulses. Crimes of all kinds are generally accidents growing out of the surroundings, without premeditation or plan. They are incapable of sane reasoning or appreciation of the results of their conduct. The crime is unreasoning, and general indifference marks all their acts afterwards. The crime is always along lines of previous conduct, and never strange or unusual. The claim of no memory in such cases has always a reasonable basis of truth in the physical conditions of the person. Mania is very rarely present, but delusions and morbid impulses of a melancholic type always exist. The mind, like the body, is exhausted, depressed, and acts along lines of least resistance.

The second group of criminals who claim no memory are those where the crime is unusual, extraordinary, and unforeseen. Persons who are inebriated suddenly commit murder, steal, or do some criminal act that is foreign to all previous conduct. In such cases the trance condition may have been present for some time before and escaped any special notice, except the mere statement of the person that he could not recollect his acts. The unusual nature of the crime, committed by persons who never before by act or thought gave any indication of it, is always a factor sustaining the claim of no memory. The explosive, unreasoning character of crime always points to mental unsoundness and incapacity of control.

A third group of criminals urge this statement of no memory, who, unlike the first group, are not imbeciles generally. They are positive inebriates, drinking to excess, but not to stupor, who suddenly commit crime with the most idiotic coolness and indifference, never manifesting the slightest appreciation of the act as wrong, or likely to be followed by punishment. Crime committed by this class is never concealed, and the criminal's after conduct and appearance

gives no intimation that he is aware of what he has done. These cases have been termed moral paralytics, and the claim of the trance state may be very likely true.

A fourth group of cases where memory is claimed to be absent occurs in dipsomaniacs and periodical inebriates, who have distinct free intervals of sobriety. This class begin to drink to great excess at once, then drink less for a day or more, and begin as violently as ever again. In this short interval of moderate drinking some crime is committed of which they claim not to have any recollection.

Other cases have been noted where a condition of mental irritation or depression preceded the drink explosion, and the crime was committed during this premonitory period and before they drank to excess. The strong probability of trance at this period is sustained by the epileptic character of such conduct afterwards. The trance state may be justly termed a species of *aura*, or brain paralysis, which precedes the explosion.

In some instances, before the drink storm comes on, the person's mind would be filled with the most intense suspicions, fears, delusions, and exhibit a degree of irritation and perturbation unusual and unaccountable. Intense excitement or depression, from no apparent cause, prevails, and during this period some crime may be committed; then comes the drink paroxysm, and later all the past is a blank. Trance is very likely to be present at this time.

In these groups the crime is generally automatic, or committed in a manner different from other similar crimes. Some governing centre has suspended, and all sorts of impulses may merge into acts any moment. The consciousness of acts and their consequences are broken up. The strong probability is that these trance blanks begin in short periods of unconsciousness, which lengthen with the degeneration and mental feebleness of the person. The obscurity of these conditions, and the incapacity of the victims to realize their import, also the absence of any special study, greatly increases the difficulty. It will be evident from inquiry that trance states among inebriates are common, but seldom attract at-