

In making an analysis of a mental case, we commence with the history from the time of birth, and, if possible, go back as many generations as authentic history will give us an account of. The whole development of the child is scanned as closely as it can be done, and rarely indeed in cases of dementia precox is the history without a hundred significant warnings of the tragedy to come—warnings so clear to those familiar with the ear marks of this protean disease that no competent observer could have overlooked them.

When I turn to my own school days and read the histories of the pupils, I stand aghast at the tragedies which occurred, and which possibly might have been averted had the teachers recognized the drifting of several frail barks to their inevitable doom beneath the Niagara of dementia.

These children did their best to stem the current, but no helping hand was stretched to save them from their doom, and their fate was never in doubt for one moment. The wrecks are now scattered about in various institutions for the insane.

The position occupied by such children in the school was somewhat striking—none were *average* in any sense of the word, but at once attracted attention by their departures from what might be called the normal. In some, mannerisms were clearly becoming apparent, the ego undergoing hypertrophy, and emotional disturbances making themselves manifest. Apathy and indifference were the characteristics in others, and those of the paranoid variety were introspective to a degree that brought upon them the accusation of stupidity. In every instance the true mental status was not suspected by the teacher, although some of the other pupils had formed shrewd guesses regarding the mental defect of their companions.

Let me detail very briefly one or two striking examples:

J. C. was a boy of bad heredity, and at an early age showed striking abnormalities in the way of sexual perversions. At school he did well until about thirteen or fourteen; indeed, in certain directions showed unusual ability, especially in mathematics. Then a gradual change took place: he became quiet; neglected work, and was the butt of the school. Teachers lost patience with him, but he showed absolute indifference to the many punishments which came in his direction. He startled the class now and again by flashes of brilliancy which were quite unlooked-for, but at once relapsed into indifference again. The jeers of his companions were taken in good part and without resentment, and among the pupils he acquired the reputation of being a good-natured fool.

He succeeded in mustering up enough energy to make a poor pass at a matriculation exam., and became the *hete noir* of a professor, who was exasperated beyond measure at the stupidity of his pupil, and yet from time to time the whole class was electrified