

diseases in groups C and D can hardly be called primarily nervous diseases, since they take their origin in a more general source, namely, in deviations, perversions and erroneous functioning of certain of the biological instincts—principally those that relate to the adaptation of the person to his environment. As, however, the central nervous system is essentially concerned in this, it is readily comprehensible that the manifestations of such disorders should reveal themselves by means of perturbations of this system. In the same way, Graves' disease is not now regarded as a true nervous disease, for the nervous alterations and symptoms are only *secondary* to affections of the thyroid gland.

A word must be said on the differences between the actual neuroses and the psycho-neuroses. The main three are these: (1) The injurious trauma is a physical one in the former case, a mental one in the latter. (2) In the former case the cause is still operative at the actual moment, and the neurosis ceases when it is removed. In the latter case the ultimate cause lies in the patient's past, in early childhood. (3) In the former case the individual symptoms cannot be further reduced or explained by any form of psychological analysis, whereas in the latter it is found that each separate symptom has a psychological meaning, is in fact a condensed symbolic expression of a great number of mental experiences.

It is frequently observed in practice that a given patient may present signs of both a neurosis and an organic affection. No doubt this occurrence is frequently a coincidence, for there is nothing in the nature of a neurosis that precludes the patient from acquiring a tumour of the brain or other organic trouble. Every neurologist will agree, however, that in many cases there is a causal connection between the two conditions, in that the presence of an organic affection, perhaps of some more than of others, seem to favour the occurrence of certain neuroses. It is to be noted that the organic affection should be regarded as the cause of the *outbreak* of the neurosis, not of the neurosis itself. To understand the explanation of this, we have to remember that in the etiology of the neuroses, just as in that of all other diseases, there have to be distinguished specific, essential factors, in the absence of which the condition cannot arise, and accessory, adjuvant or exciting factors; the latter, such as overwork, strain, grief, and accidents, are often erroneously thought to be the essential factors. Now you are familiar with the fact that with various infections disease will result if the dose of the specific virus is sufficient, but that disease may also result from a smaller dose,