

Come, opprobrium of the sober !  
Come, misleader of mankind ;  
Come, hell of the Eternal Father,  
I shall descend there, glass in hand.

Then the drunken artist painted drinkers. Hoffmann's designs ended in caricatures ; his tales in extravagances ; his music in entanglements of sound. Murger admired women with green lips and yellow cheeks, evidently from a species of Daltonism.

Nearly all these great men, Cardan, Lenau, Tasso, Socrates and Pascal especially, attached great importance to their dreams, which were evidently more intense than those of normal men.

Several presented enormous but abnormal skulls, and, like imbeciles, have finished by grave cerebral changes. Pascal's cerebral substance was harder than normal, and there was suppuration of the left lobe (?).<sup>1</sup> Rousseau had ventricular dropsy. Byron and Foscolo had prematurely closed sutures. Schumann died of chronic meningitis and cerebral atrophy.

The psychoses<sup>2</sup> of geniuses are usually not single but multiple. To melancholia, Chopin, Comte, Tasso, Cardan and Schopenhauer joined the insanity of pride. To imperative conceptions, Baudelaire and Rousseau joined sexual perversion and alcoholism. Gerard de Nerval joined to erotic insanity, alcoholism and the insanity of pride. To morphinism and alcoholism Coleridge joined the insanity of doubt.

The most striking characteristic of the mental state of these great men is an extreme exaggeration of two opposite states of erethism and atony—inspiration and exhaustion, which is manifest in geniuses even the most sound mentally.

A lazy mind, frightened at everything, a bilious temperament, readily suffering and sensible to any contradiction, it should seem could not be conjoined in one organism, yet for all they form the basis of mind.

Affirms Rousseau in his "Second Letter." In consequence of this, and after the manner of the ignorant who explain by external causes subjective alterations of the ego, they refer to a devil, genius or God, their inspirations. Tasso says of his "familiar spirit":

It cannot be a devil for it does not inspire a horror of sacred things, but it is not of natural origin, since it creates in me ideas which I never had previously.

A "genius" inspired Cardan with his works (theology) and inspired Tartini with his "Sonata," and Mahomet with his "Koran." Van Helmont had a "genius" influence him in all the most important actions of his life. He once saw his own soul as a resplendent crystal. Blake retired to the seashore to converse with Moses, Homer, Virgil and Milton, whom he imagined he had known before. When asked what they were like,

he replied that they were majestic, gray, yet shining, and taller than man. Socrates was advised in all his actions by a "genius," whom he valued more than ten thousand masters, and frequently announced to his friends his intention to follow its advice. The glowing, animated style of great writers, the vraisemblance with which they describe bizarre fantasies like the Laputan Academy and Tartarus, demonstrate that they see and touch with the certainty of hallucinations, what they describe, and inspiration is evoked similarly to insanity. It must be said for some geniuses like Luther, Mahomet, Savaronola, Molinos and Tae-ping, that this false interpretation of inspiration gives their teachings a tinge of truth which produces conviction and gives them power over the populace. When gaiety and inspiration turn to depression these great unfortunates misinterpret differently. They are poisoned like Cardan ; condemned to eternal flames like Haller and Ampère ; persecuted by enemies, like Newton, Swift, Barthez, Cardan and Rousseau—religious doubt in all, mounts uppermost as a crime, and becomes an active real origin for new misfortunes. These men are so different from the common stamp that they tinge any psychosis from which they may suffer, with special characters, thus constituting a new psychosis—the insanity of genius.<sup>1</sup>—*Alienist and Neurologist*.

#### SOME FORMS OF RHINITIS WHICH THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER SHOULD BE ABLE TO TREAT.

Of the three turbinated tissues, the two lower are the ones usually involved in catarrhal inflammation, and, as they are in direct relation to respiration, their diseases will receive our attention. The connective tissue and mucous membrane covering the two lower turbinated bones is very vascular, and constitutes a true erectile tissue. Turgescence of this tissue in catarrhal inflammation leads to obstruction, and frequent recurrent attacks of inflammation lead to permanent hypertrophy, and finally to hyperplasia. I am aware that many will deny that such a condition as we term hyperplasia ever exists, and recognize but one term, that of hypertrophy ; but clinical experience certainly does not verify this hypothesis.

The mucous membrane in the respiratory portion of the nasal cavity is lined with columnar

1. In my article on this subject, published some years ago (*Alienist and Neurologist*, Vol. VIII.), I said:

"Genius is not a product of morbid mind. In the exceptional instances where the two co-exist the genius is evidence of a healthy, conservative element, struggling with the incubus of disease."

I see no reason because of Lombroso's sweeping generalizations to alter this opinion. His cited cases are certainly not well analyzed from either psychological or psychological standpoints, nor is his study of the sociological aspects of literary history as profound as the subject demands.

1. These are secondary unrelated pathological findings.  
2. This is wild generalization. These are not psychoses but mental states.