

M. L. P.; age, 20; race, Creole; religion, R. C.; educ., H.S.; occup., student nurse; civil cond., divorced; I Q, bright normal.

#### R e a s o n   f o r   A d m i s s i o n

She created scene at Catholic gathering at the Conrad Hilton. Coming early, she insisted on speaking with Mgr. Sheen. When refused she established herself in the Cardinal's red chair and had to be forcibly ejected. She claimed to be a page of the Blessed Mother entrusted with message on which fate of world depended. This took place about two weeks after birth of illegitimate second child.

#### L i f e   S i t u a t i o n

Social Adjustments: Born in New Orleans into large family of French descent. Father killed in auto accident when she was four. Mother died before that in mental hospital. Adopted at four by well-to-do engineer and business man. Placed in Catholic schools. A bright, attractive child. Until 13th year she responded well. She then became rebellious against stern discipline in one of these schools but continued to read Bible, pray and keep diary. At 15 she got into bad company and began to "get mixed up about herself."

Sexual Adjustments: At age of 16 she gets involved in a wet party. There, according to her account, she is doped and raped. Following this she lives rather fast and is disowned by her guardians. At 16 she marries in order to keep out of trouble but is soon divorced. The baby which resulted from this union she gives to the father. She returns to Chicago and continues to live wild. Another pregnancy results. The child is born two weeks before commitment.

Vocational Adjustments: Two attempts at nurses training. She now wishes to resume it. First venture interrupted by her running away, the second by the birth of her child.

Summary: Clear that this girl has abundant reason for sense of failure. Given many advantages, brought up under influence of Catholic Church, she is disowned by foster-father and lives a wild and irresponsible life. There is, however, a deeper side to her nature represented in bible reading, prayer and keeping diary.

#### R e a c t i o n   P a t t e r n

First dominant reaction is that of rebellion against representatives of authority and seeking social support from other young rebels. She becomes thus a "sociopathic personality of the dyssocial type." But with birth of second child the early up-bringing makes itself felt and the better self asserts itself. The ideation indicates regression to deepest levels, the type which is at same time mental illness and potentially constructive religious experience.

#### C l i n i c a l   L a b e l

Acute schizophrenic reaction, catatonic type, in a sociopathic personality of the dyssocial type.

#### P r o g n o s i s

Now in excellent remission, but with problematic future.

#### T r e a t m e n t

Supportive therapy designed to help her understand the meaning of her experience and to believe that it is "something more than just a nervous breakdown."