

## REACTIONS OF DESPAIR

### Questions

1. What outstanding characteristics do you find in this group as compared with the preceding groups?
2. To what special strains would John Kirk be subjected by reason of the fact that he had just entered a theological seminary? How do you explain his idea that something was about to happen to the northern hemisphere? What do you consider his chances of recovery? Assuming that he could make a good recovery, would it be advisable for him to continue his study for the priesthood?
3. How do you explain Georgia Jones' idea that she had committed the unpardonable sin? How do you account for the fact that she made such an excellent adjustment after her release from the first hospitalization? How do you explain the recurrence of the trouble? What are the chances for her recovery?
4. How do you explain Wilhelmina R.'s recovery after being profoundly disturbed for so long a period? What is your evaluation of her sticking by her psychotic husband? How do you interpret her encounter with the devil?
5. Harvov Benson, when he was about eighteen years of age, became interested in a Pentecostal sect and believed that he had received the "baptism of the Spirit?" How would you explain this experience? What is your evaluation of it? How do you explain his disturbance?
6. Why should the dismissal from the Conservatory be such a serious matter for Warren Newman? What seems to you the meaning of the disturbance in his case? What are the chances of his making a satisfactory adjustment? What is the explanation of his idea of fasting? What light does this case throw upon the origin of fasting as a religious rite?
7. What changes in attitude do you see in John Peterson after he confessed his infidelities to his wife? How did this confession affect his chances for recovery? How do you account for his tendency to see hidden meanings in every trifle?
8. What light do these cases throw upon the nature and meaning of the sense of guilt? What distinction do you make between the "sense of guilt" and the "sense of sin?"
9. In working out an order of service for use in mental hospitals a question was raised as to the advisability of including the General Confession or the Fifty First Psalm. It was suggested that such passages might intensify the self-accusatory tendencies of depressed patients. To what extent would you agree? What principles are to be observed in the treatment of such cases?

### References

Hoch	Benign Stupors	Chapter 10
Freud	The Ego and the Id	Pp. 70-74
Alexander	Psychoanalysis of the Total Personality	Chap. V
MacCurdy	Psychology of Emotion	Chaps. 15 & 35
Menninger	Man against Himself	pp. 212-26
Moore	Dynamic Psychology	pp. 189-97
Boisen	Exploration of Inner World	pp. 34 ff.

## A THEOLOGICAL STUDENT

John Kirk - age 23; race, Irish; religion, Catholic; education, college; civil condition, single; occupation, student for the priesthood; physical findings, negative.

### Introduction

John Kirk is a tall, fine-looking young man of athletic build and clean-cut features who was admitted to the hospital in a deeply depressed condition which had begun three months before at the end of his first semester in a theological school. He had become mute and resistive and could not be cared for at home.

### Personal History

He was the first child of a middle-class Irish family of three. The father, who came to this country from Ireland as a young man, was an iron-filer. He is described as a calm, rather seclusive, home-loving man, a steady worker and a good provider. He died of cancer at the age of fifty two. The mother before her marriage was a house-maid. She is now fifty two years old and has always been in excellent health. She is described as a woman who takes life calmly and who, even tho she may be much troubled, never goes to pieces in an emergency. On neither side has there been any record of mental disorder. John's younger brother is now married and has a good job. The sixteen year old sister is clerking in a 5 and 10 cent store.

John's birth and early childhood were apparently normal. He was a quiet youngster and was for the most part an onlooker rather than an active participant on the play ground. However at the age of fourteen he played normally with other boys. About that time he began to "go in for studies." He went straight thru high school, graduated with honors and won a scholarship which enabled him to go to Boston College. Here also he graduated with honors and was given a scholarship which enabled him to go to a theological seminary near New York. He was naturally a good student but is said to have worried a good deal over his studies. His decision to enter the priesthood was made at the age of fourteen. He was often heard to remark that the only solution for his life was that of entering the priesthood. At one time he thought of becoming a school-teacher. During vacations he worked at odd jobs to pay his way thru school. When fourteen he worked during the summer in a bowling alley. Last summer he was employed as a hotel clerk in Maine.

He has been seclusive and reticent, somewhat self-depreciative and inclined to be fearful in new situations. He has also been over-conscientious and scrupulous about small matters. He showed little common sense in regard to maintaining a balance between work and play.

He was especially sensitive and modest on questions of sex. He would refuse to go to theatres where vaudeville was shown because he did not like "wise-cracks and burlesque jokes relating to women." He has never shown any interest in girls and has never gone out with them or had anything to do with them.

He has been extremely fond of his mother and has been her favorite child. He felt keenly the separation from her when he went to the seminary, as this was the first time he had been separated from her for any length of time. As a boy he was very responsive to religious teachings and was much concerned not to do things which were sinful. Toward others he has been unselfish and in his associations with other boys he was inclined to stand up for the under dog. He went around a good deal with a group of college class-mates, but did not take part in their activities. The family has not been particularly well-to-do and they made great sacrifices to enable him to go thru school.

## The Illness

According to John K.'s room-mate the first symptoms were noticed about three weeks before mid-year's. He complained at that time of not feeling well and became unusually quiet. He began to lose sleep and to pace the floor at night. He was unable to study and became more and more absent-minded and absorbed. What was troubling him he would tell no one. He only said that he lacked ambition to do anything. On January 25th he went home for the mid-year vacation. At home he complained that he could not get his studies off his mind. He went to bed stating that he was tired. Then he became highly nervous and excitable. After four days he started to take tonic baths and massage. Several times he remarked to his brother that he was afraid he was going crazy. Toward the end of February, following an electrical treatment down-town, he went to bed and refused to eat, saying "Electricity will get that meat before I can get it in my mouth." When a glass of water was given him, the reflection of the electric light in it disturbed him greatly. He thought it was lead and that people were trying to poison him. He resisted being bathed, saying he was sure to die if water should touch his feet. He also talked about some important change which was about to take place in the northern hemisphere. At the time he was sent to the hospital he had become mute and resistive.

## Behavior in the Hospital

When first admitted he was resistive and on one or two occasions assaultive. For the most part, however, he was stuporous to the degree that he became untidy and had to be tube-fed. For some weeks now he has been taking care of himself and eating his meals. Altho still mute, it is apparent that he is attentive to what is said to him. His expression is often appealing. Many times his lips may be observed to move as if he were trying to reply. Most of his time he spends standing or sitting on the ward absorbed in deep thought.

Because of his mutism it is impossible to determine what is on his mind. All the information we have on that is what he expressed during the period of onset, as given by the family.

GEORGIA JONES, age 56; civil condition, married; occupation, corset-maker; church, Congregationalist.

#### Introductory Note

Mrs. Jones brought to the hospital by one of her daughters. She had for two years been under considerable strain in caring for a sick daughter and she is now suffering from a profound depression. She complains that she is dead and that God is dead. Twenty-five years previously she had had a somewhat similar depression and had for seven years been an inmate of the M. State Hospital. In appearance she is slightly above average height with sharp features and reddish hair now streaked with gray. She was on admission much emaciated. Aside from this the physical findings were negative.

#### Personal History

Owing to the fact that her family were at the time out of the state little information in regard to her personal history could be obtained. It is known that she comes of an old Vermont family and was brought up rather strictly. She has always been a faithful member of the Congregational Church. She was married 35 years ago but has for seventeen years been living apart from her husband. She left him shortly after her release from the M. State Hospital. She has three daughters, at least one of whom has been living with her.

After her release from the hospital she came down to Boston and found work as a corset maker. She took special orders, working for certain doctors and fitting patients according to their directions. She was both industrious and skillful and a very good house-keeper. In Boston she and her daughter belonged to the Broadway Congregational Church and were regular attendants there.

#### Onset

According to her pastor, who was well acquainted with the patient and had frequently conferred with her in regard to her problems, there was much in her situation to account for her depression. In the first place there had been tension between Mrs. J. and her husband. In the second place, the daughter, a fine attractive girl had been stricken down with nephritis and for two years Mrs. J. had been caring for her and at the same time supporting the household. She may have received some help from other members of the family, but she had always been too proud to ask for it.

#### Behavior in the Hospital

In the hospital she sat usually in a chair in the corner of the ward, screwed around so as to face the corner. At least so long as she knew she was being observed she would hold her hands over her face. When questioned she would only moan, "I have no friends. God is dead. His kingdom is divided." Little more could be obtained from her beyond the fact that she had committed the unpardonable sin. She had apparently much the same ideas as on her previous commitment seventeen years before.

## A FAITHFUL WIFE

Wilhelmina R.; age, 60; race Swedish - in U. S. since her 16th year; religion, Lutheran; education, common school; civil condition, married; physical findings, negative.

### Introductory Statement

This case is of special interest as the story of a woman who for four and a half years was stuporous or "demented," who then made a good recovery and was able to give an intelligent account of her experience. The first twenty five months of the disturbed period were spent at the Northampton State Hospital. Here she was deeply disturbed. Part of the time she was untidy and stuporous and had to be tube-fed. At no time was she able to do any work on the wards or in the institution. She was then transferred to Worcester with a classification of "Dementia Praecox, Catatonic Type, very much demented." I recall her at that time as a tall, gaunt, disheveled female who gave no response when addressed, but kept reiterating, "I ban Swede. I ban Swede." She was confused, apprehensive and part of the time untidy. Then one Sunday afternoon, after two and a half years, I noticed at the church service a tall, strikingly fine-looking woman whom I had not seen before. Upon inquiry I discovered to my amazement that it was this same patient. She had suddenly snapped out of her disturbance. She was at this time fifty eight years of age, but would pass for thirty five or forty.

### Personal History

There is little information regarding her social background and about her early years. She was born in Sweden of good middle class family and was raised on a farm. She received the equivalent of a common school education and came to this country at the invitation of an aunt at the age of sixteen.

After her arrival here she worked as a domestic until her marriage at the age of twenty six. After her marriage she showed herself a good housekeeper, very neat and very thrifty. Her husband was a carpenter and she herself found employment part of the time. They were able thus to save four or five thousand dollars.

In her social adjustments she was one who took life very seriously. She and her husband allowed themselves few luxuries and few pleasures. She had however quite a number of friends and she was active in the little Swedish Lutheran church. She was an attractive person, vigorous, vivacious, and efficient.

The chief maladjustment is to be found in her married life. She married her husband against the advice of her friends, who warned her that he was queer and of extremely jealous disposition. After her marriage she discovered that her friends were right. He proved to be seclusive and jealous and he soon developed ideas of persecution so marked that he had to be committed to Northampton. He stayed there four months. She then took him out against the advice of the physicians and for twenty one years she kept him out of the hospital, putting up with his queer ways and with his paranoid ideas, protecting him from his neighbors and them from him.

When asked why she had continued to live with her husband so long, she said it was due to her training in the old country. She had been taught that a woman should stick by her man for better or for worse. Besides she was perhaps too proud to give up.

There are no children. She had two pregnancies, but one resulted in a still-birth, the other in a miscarriage.

### The Illness

According to the physician's certificate at the time of commitment the disorder was of fourteen years' standing. As long ago as that she had been hearing the motormen and conductors on the street railway talking about her and laughing at her. The policemen also made remarks about her and the neighbors began to insinuate that her moral character was not good.

She now traces the disorder to the time she got word of her mother's death. She was much upset over this and going over on the boat she had visions of an unhappy home and was quite nervous. She staid eleven months in Sweden and when she started back she was in fairly good shape. She enjoyed the trip back. On the boat she found an admirer who proposed marriage. She felt flattered, but of course she was already married so she did not take it seriously. When she arrived home her husband greeted her very coolly, appeared not in the least glad to see her and immediately went up to his room and to bed. She was much upset over this and finally she gave up and let the house go dirty. One day she went down to the lake contemplating suicide. Changing her mind she stopped an automobile and asked to be taken to a state hospital, saying she was mad. She was turned over to a policeman, who took her home. She tried to convince the policeman she was not right and told him to look over the dirty home. He took her at her word and committed her.

### Behavior in the Hospital

For weeks after her admission to Northampton she remained in bed, saying she was very tired and did not feel like dressing. She then became very active and negativistic. She tried to pull the other patients out of bed. She then refused all food and regurgitated everything that was given her. She became untidy, mute, impulsive and would retain large quantities of saliva in her mouth and retain urine for long periods. For several months she was stuporous and had to be tube-fed.

According to her account, told after her recovery, she thought she was dead and that the world was coming to an end. She thought of herself as an outcaste, a stone woman. She thought she had stuffed the cathedral full of hay and then set fire to it. Her most interesting story is that of an encounter with the Devil. This took place in a dimly lighted cellar. She saw the devil coming toward her, cloven feet and all. She was very much frightened and did not know what to do. Then it came to her that it always pays to be polite, so she mustered up her courage and shook hands with him. She found his hand all clammy, but he really acted like a gentleman and did not molest her.

Following her recovery she was somewhat elated and over active. She was given a parole, but the complaint was made that she was trying to gain the attention of passing school children by singing and dancing. She also dressed rather loudly. She thus appeared once at a patients' dance wearing an open-work sweater with nothing on underneath. She worked rosettes into her stockings and adorned herself in other fantastic ways. She was however responsive and open to reason. She explained her behavior by her love for children and her long deprivation of the nice things of life and she was ready and able to avoid the things which caused the censure. Thruout this period she proved herself a rapid and efficient worker. She was eventually released. When last heard from she was getting along nicely.

After her release she accepted an invitation to come back to Worcester and tell her story to the theological group. She told the story so graphically and charmingly that they stood up and gave her an ovation when she was thru.

## A J O U R N E Y I N T O H E L L

Harvey Benson - age 28; born in Nova Scotia; ten years in U. S.; education, 7th grade; occupation, carpenter; civil condition, single; church, Pentecostal.

### I n t r o d u c t i o n

Harvey Benson is a trimly-built young man of average height with clean-cut features who was brought to the hospital in a depressed and agitated condition. He complained that he was suffering in his soul, that he couldn't face people and that he had lost the Spirit.

### P e r s o n a l H i s t o r y

He was born on a farm in Nova Scotia, one of a family of nine, of whom seven are now living and well. The parents, both of them living and well, are of good middle-class English stock. There is no record of mental disorder in the family.

As a child Harvey is said to have been a 'real boy,' kind-hearted, considerate, quick-tempered and one who entered heartily into the usual boys' games. He started school at five and finished the seventh grade at fifteen without having to repeat any grades. He was a regular attendant at the Sunday school of the Baptist Church to which his parents belonged, but he did not join the church.

On leaving school he worked in the woods and on the farm. At the age of eighteen he came to Boston and worked first in a lumber yard. Then he took up carpentry. He is said to have been a good workman, conscientious, industrious and efficient. He has recently specialized in stair-building.

Not long after his arrival in Boston he became interested in a Pentecostal mission to which his uncle belonged. He joined the church and believed that he had received the baptism of the Spirit. For two years he was a regular attendant at the church services and felt himself in full accord with the group. Then he stopped going to church and he stopped praying. Some weeks after this he is reported to have stopped short one night while walking with his uncle, remarking, "The Holy Ghost has left me."

Shortly after this he joined the Army. There he seems to have gone with the crowd, swearing, smoking, drinking and occasionally visiting prostitutes. These tendencies have continued, though not excessively, since he left the Army. There has also been some auto-erotism.

He has made his home with his parents and sister in Boston. In January, 1924 he became engaged to be married. In February he became depressed. He was admitted to the hospital in July.

### T h e I l l n e s s

The first symptoms were thus noticed about five months before admission. He began then to act strangely. He cried a great deal and gave utterance to many peculiar ideas. He thus said on one occasion, "No more cigarettes! No more sin! Isn't it wonderful! The world is coming to an end. All the family will be saved, but I have sinned. I must go to hell."

### B e h a v i o r i n t h e H o s p i t a l

On admission he was deeply depressed. He talked very little, but would occasionally speak of his sins. A recorded utterance is, "The Spirit has left me. I don't know what to do. I want to be alone. I want to die. I can't be happy."



The Spirit said to me that I am going to hell." For a month after admission he sat around the ward groaning about his unhappy condition. He laid his troubles to his neglect of his obligations to his church. Over and over again he moaned that he was guilty and would have to go to hell. The doctors could not understand. For this reason he would not talk to them. But he found great comfort in the society of another depressed patient, a man considerably older than himself, and would sit with him for hours at a stretch. About five weeks after admission he consented to work. From this time on he improved rapidly and was released early in September, condition, "recovered."

Some weeks after his release new light was thrown upon the original difficulty by the patient with whom he had been so intimate. This man let slip the fact that what B. was worrying about was the fact that he had been responsible for an abortion performed upon the girl he was expecting to marry.

#### T h e   Y e a r   o f   P r o b a t i o n

One month after his release the pt. was visited at his home. He had been working that day and was found well and happy. He showed with great pride the bathroom in his apartment, which he had just made over. For two weeks he had been working as a carpenter but he had not yet succeeded in finding employment at his old specialty of stair-building.

The home is an apartment on the second floor of a two-story frame house on a modest residential street. It is comfortably furnished. The most striking features are a good victrola and a library table and a floor lamp. The latter two are Harvey's own handiwork.

Ten weeks later his condition was still excellent. He had by this time got back into his old specialty of stair-building and was earning good money. He seems to have thought seriously about religious problems but he has not resumed his interest in the church. He is turning instead to recreation.

One year later his condition is still excellent. He had the glow of happiness and health. He has been working steadily at his specialty of stair-building. He has in fact been working over-time. He had recently bought a car. Asked if he was planning to get married, he replied, No, he was probably going to be an old bachelor.



## A WOULD-BE MUSICIAN

Warren Newman - age 24; race, English; religion, Baptist; education, high school and 1 year in Conservatory of Music.

### I n t r o d u c t i o n

Warren N. is a tall, slender, rather ungainly young man with an elongated face and a pleasant expression who was brought to the hospital in an extremely agitated condition. Three years before he had been told that it was not worthwhile for him to continue his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. Following this he had passed thru an acute disturbance, but after ten weeks in another hospital he had been discharged as "cured." For two years he attempted with poor success several different kinds of work. Then he broke again.

### P e r s o n a l   H i s t o r y

The parents both came from Vermont. The mother came to Boston at the age of twenty three and did house-work until her marriage at the age of thirty. The father left his farm at the age of thirty to seek his fortune as a music teacher. The family has had a hard struggle and the slender income derived from music students has had to be supplemented in other ways. The mother has taken boarders and the father has at times done other work. The family has been extremely ambitious. An older brother worked his way thru the Institute of Technology and a younger brother is now working his way thru Harvard.

Warren was apparently of normal birth and childhood. As a young child he was however stubborn and obstinate and was subject to frequent temper tantrums and holding of breath. Up to his sixth year he had also frequent night terrors. At the age of four he had trouble with the lymph glands of the neck. There were apparently some sex difficulties during the school years. He himself speaks of having gone around with two or three bad boys while in grammar school. He speaks also of a little girl whose influence was apparently not of the best. His mother states that in early adolescence he was silly about girls. She also states that he was not popular with them. She also states that he had for years the habit of shutting himself up in the bath-room for an unusual length of time. He himself acknowledges masturbation.

In personality he has been quiet, seclusive, serious, sensitive and inclined to take advice too literally. He has been a regular attendant at Sunday school and church and has also been a member of the Y.

### T h e   I l l n e s s

In his twentieth year Warren entered the conservatory of music. He attempted to work his way thru. Either the load was too heavy or he had not the necessary aptitude. At the end of the year his violin teacher refused to let him continue in his class another year. He took this much to heart and in August he left home to "make his way in the world." Before the month was up he was brought back from New Brunswick in a confused, excited, euphoric condition and was sent to the Psychopathic Hospital and from there to Westboro. He was at this time much concerned about religion and spoke of hearing voices as a result of concentration on spiritual things.

The interval from the time of his release in October until his recommitment two years later was spent chiefly around home. He tried several jobs. He worked in a green-house, in a gasoline station, in the office of a mill. In none of these places did he fit. He was very unhappy over his failure. He began then to talk of going back to the hospital. Then came an epileptiform seizure. Following this he remarked, 'Body all gone' and went to bed and stayed there. He was sent first to a general hospital but was uncooperative that he

had to be taken to the Psychopathic.

### B e h a v i o r   i n   t h e   H o s p i t a l

This second disturbance was of much profounder character than the first. Beginning with the epileptiform seizure he became agitated and negativistic. He insisted upon removing his clothes. He was at times mute. When he did talk, he spoke very slowly, pausing between each word, and omitting all unimportant words. In the hospital he showed some improvement, but two months after admission he jumped out of a third story window and received a compound fracture of the leg. During his convalescence his mental condition improved and at the end of three months he seemed almost well.

Then came another disturbance. He refused to eat, went into a stupor and for three and a half months he had to be tube-fed. He then began to eat again and has shown marked improvement. He is willing and co-operative and ambitious, but there is a constant swinging back and forth between the pleasant, friendly, eager attitude and a condition which is characterized by a peculiar glassy stare and a bizarre set of ideas. After three months he started to fast again, stating that it was his religious duty. He compromised however by fasting only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. He kept this up for a while, then gradually became less particular in his observance of these days.

Thruout the entire period he has been constantly concerned with what is right. He gave as his reason for taking off his clothing that this was right. He would not eat until he was sure that this was right. There has been no surliness, no fault-finding, no silliness.

An interesting note made at the Psychopathic gives his explanation of the original disturbance. He had, he said, always lived an inner life of his own away from the world. He felt himself different from his fellows, built of different stuff. He was especially troubled that he should be the age of maturity and still be an object of charity. The trip to New Brunswick he explained as a revolt against environment and circumstances. It grew out of despondency over his inability to meet the world. He converted everything into cash and set forth to make a fresh start. But the attempt was a futile one. He spent his money. He did not succeed in justifying his existence and once more he found himself thrown back on charity - this time the charity of the outer world, a greater disgrace than that of charity at home. Hence his first break-down.

Since his recovery he tried again to unfetter himself and be a man, but his failure at four different jobs brought home to him his inadequacies.

He explains the taking off of his clothing as an attempt to cast away a body that is no good. He cannot function as a man. Therefore he is as a new-born babe.

On one occasion while coming out of his stuporous period, he was found whispering over and over again, "How can I know that this is the proper person? How can I eat unless I know?" He also described on this occasion some terrible monster coming toward him belching flames of fire.

On another occasion when found pushing the swab around, he remarked, "The doctor told me to keep pushing this around until the time comes." When asked, What time? he replied, "Until the dawning of the new day."

He is very much occupied with biblical material, particularly with the stories of the miracles. He takes everything very literally and repeatedly inquires whether God talks to men today as he did of old.

Ever since coming out of the stupor he has been much interested in the matter of fasting. Everything he reads which has the least bearing on that subject he puts out. He has also read up on the Roman Catholic fast days and has undertaken to go to the extreme limit in observing them.

## A PENITENT DON JUAN

John Peterson, age 38; race, unknown; religion, Baptist; education, trade school; occupation, brick-layer; civil condition, married; physical findings, negative.

### Introductory Statement

This patient was brought to the hospital by the police in an extremely agitated condition. He was afraid something was going to happen his wife and he would not allow her or his children out of his sight. He thought that he himself was to die and he read mysterious meanings into the most trivial happenings. He had finally gone to the police, asking for protection. Their response was to bring him to the hospital.

### Personal History

He was an illegitimate child and has never known who his parents were. As a baby he was a ward of the State and at the age of two he was adopted by a family in New Hampshire. The foster parents were good New England people and while with them he went quite regularly to the Baptist Sunday school. When he was twelve years old both of the foster parents died and he went to live with a sister of his foster mother. He staid with her one year and then went to a trade school.

In school he did good work, graduating with honors from the trade school at the age of fifteen. After leaving school he followed the trade of brick mason, doing job work. He is said to have been an excellent workman. He made as much as twelve or sixteen dollars a day. The jobs were however irregular and he has never known how to save his money. During the war he served with the Navy.

In appearance he is short of stature but of athletic build and quick in action. He is said to have been a fair ball-player. He is also fond of music and is something of a singer, having a good baritone voice. In his attractively furnished home he has a good victrola and a large collection of records. He was brought to go to Sunday school and church and tho for many years he has shown little interest in religion, he still accepts the church standards as his own. His wife before her marriage was a faithful attendant at a Congregational church. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge. He is sociably inclined, energetic, convivial and sentimental. He is well-liked by his associates.

The chief maladjustments seem to lie in the sexual sphere. He denies any difficulties in his earlier years but tells of one occasion in his thirteenth year when he went home with a girl two years his senior and with her taking the initiative he attempted sex intercourse. The attempt was unsuccessful, but he intimates that it made a profound impression upon him. He reports masturbation during his fourteenth and fifteenth years and after that promiscuous heterosexual relations, both with regular prostitutes and those of the clandestine variety.

Upon his return from the Navy he went to live with a family with whom he had boarded before his enlistment. This family consisted of a man of sixty five and his unmarried daughter, a woman of perhaps thirty five. They were very kind to him and the daughter used to perform all sorts of little services for him. Their relationship became quite intimate and the woman became pregnant. The situation was met by an operation for abortion. The relationship was not discontinued and again an operation became necessary. A few years later this woman died of carcinoma.

In the meantime the patient became acquainted with his wife. He had met her at a dance and had been at once impressed with her, tho she was not of the dancing kind. He walked home with her and saw her later with increasing frequency. It

was not long before she also was in trouble. He offered to marry her, but before they were married they had an operation for abortion performed. They have now been married for three and a half years and have two small boys, one two and a half and the other one year old. Both are healthy and attractive children. Since the birth of the second child the wife has been insistent upon the use of contraceptives.

### The Illness

He had for some time been using alcohol. He says that he was only a moderate drinker and that he never drank except in company. Last year however he began drinking a good deal more and as a result he lost his job. He then became depressed. He soon got another job and the depression cleared up. Meantime he stopped drinking. This sudden reform was connected with some idea regarding the Odd Fellows. He thought they were watching him and that he was in ill favor with them for having been untrue to the pledge he had taken when he joined their organization. He finally applied to the police for permission to carry a revolver. The permission was of course refused. He then became more and more tense until finally with great emotion he confessed to his wife his promiscuous sex relations, which, it seems, had continued even after marriage. She took the confession in good part. Following this he became even more agitated and fearful and developed the idea that something was going to happen to her.

### Behavior in the Hospital

Thruout his stay in the hospital he has been in full contact with his surroundings and has been able to give a fairly objective account of his difficulties. His mood has been predominantly one of anxiety and worry and perplexity. At times however he will be quite cheerful. In general he seems to be on the look-out for something to worry about and ready to see dire possibilities in the merest trifle.

His social attitude has been consistently co-operative and frank. He has preferred to be with others rather than by himself, taking part in the ward activities and in the hospital dances and movie shows. He has had a great many visitors, chiefly members of the Odd Fellows lodge. He once had fifteen in a single afternoon. Not long after his admission he was assigned to the carpenter and has done good work. He was also given a ground parole and has not abused it. He is eager to talk over his difficulties and comes regularly of his own accord to the chaplain's office. He wants to be prayed with and makes such a request without waiting for the chaplain to suggest it.

He is not a man who has ever thought very seriously or attempted to interpret and organize his life experiences. He has taken things pretty much as they came. Now, however, his conventional world has been smashed to bits and he is trying hard to understand. Most of his thinking centers around lodges and around Protestants and Catholics. He states that while at the Psychopathic it came to him that a great battle is impending, perhaps between Protestants and Catholics. In any case a struggle was in process and he divided those around him into friends and enemies. Asked what part he was to have in this war, he replied, "Well, it's written in the Bible, 'A little child shall lead them.'"

The most striking feature of this disturbance is his perplexity and his tendency to find hidden meanings in the most trivial occurrences. He feels that he is in a strange and mysterious universe and he can only be sure of one thing, that things are not what they seem. Central in this world are the lodges and the churches. "Lodges," he explains, "are very sacred organizations. If you are in trouble, you want the help they can give you." He feels that he has not

lived up to their rules. They are aware of that fact and have, apparently by the use of certain mysterious influences, brought the present disturbance upon him. On one occasion he brought me a card sent out by his lodge. This card contained a telegraph code designed to cover certain situations with which lodges frequently have to deal. "Purple" thus means "Bury him where he is." He was greatly disturbed by the fact that in the room where he slept there was a flower-pot covered with purple crepe paper. These fears were greatly augmented by the gift of a purple neck-tie which arrived the day following the receipt of the card. He interpreted these things to mean that he was slated to die. He has also found great significance in the number five. On one occasion in his presence a certain patient had been informed of a gift of five dollars. This patient had said, "Go to hell!" A little later he was visited by five friends in one day. Again he asked a certain patient for a match and he was given five matches. These things seemed to him most ominous.

Throug his stay in the hospital he has been constantly on watch for something to worry about. He was afraid to write to his wife for fear that by so doing he would bring some trouble upon her. On one occasion he came to me in great distress. His wife was to have come to see him that afternoon and had not shown up. He was sure something terrible must have befallen her. I reminded him that forty miles was a good long distance for her to travel and that something could easily have happened to prevent her coming. My efforts to reassure him brought little result, however. The next day word came that she had actually been involved in a serious automobile accident while on her way out to see him.

Very striking also is the self-blame which has characterized his attitude. He is sure that he is responsible for the death of the mistress upon whom the illegal operation was performed, and since his wife also had a similar operation he fears that she also will have carcinoma. He feels that the lodges are quite justified in singling him out for disciplinary measures. He feels that the one way out is to end it all. This self-blame stands in marked contrast to the persecutory trends which were so prominent in the beginning.