



## A N E M B I T T E R E D H U S B A N D

Varden M. age 44; race, Armenian; education, college; occupation, clergyman; and teacher; civil condition, divorced.

### Introductory Statement

Varden M. has been an inmate of this hospital for about three years. He was hospitalized at the instance of the Veterans' Bureau because of the peculiar ideas of persecution he had expressed in an insistent attempt to file claims for compensation. An investigation showed that two years before he had been sent to the P. State Hospital as a result of an attempt to shoot his daughter, that he had been discharged from there as improved a few months before, and that since his release he had been going from one friend to another with tales of unbelievable persecution, seeking unsuccessfully for work.

In appearance he is tall and spare with high cheek bones, clean-cut features and thoughtful, the bitter expression.

The physical findings are negative.

### Personal History

M. comes of a long line of Armenian village priests. His parents are dead. They were killed during the Armenian massacres when he was about twelve years old. Armenian priests are not as a rule well-educated, but he himself had received a fine education. In his native country he had been educated at a mission school and had then completed a theological course.

In 1904 he married a beautiful but illiterate Georgian woman. After doing some preaching and missionary work in the old country he came to America in 1910 at the age of twenty eight, leaving his wife and two children behind.

From 1911 to 1915 he served with the Congregational Home Missionary Society as pastor of one of their Armenian congregations. He is said to have been a good preacher and to have done good work. By 1915 he had saved up enough money to bring his family over. They arrived in company with an uncle, a brother of his father's. Five months later the wife gave birth to a child. The father of this child was presumably this uncle, for whose company the wife showed frankly her preference.

M. felt the situation very keenly. He gave his wife a divorce "in order that she might be happy." He also gave up his church saying he had no right to keep it.

Following this he went back to school and studied bacteriology. He received the degree of M. S. from Columbia and has served as tutor or laboratory assistant at Harvard and at the University of California. Apparently however he found it difficult to keep pace and he did not hold his positions for any length of time.

M. is of the shut-in type, extremely sensitive and proud. These traits date back to his boyhood. He has always been serious and has been much more concerned with life in the abstract than with concrete human affairs. Any sort of manual work he has regarded as beneath him.

Following the divorce he became sad and morose and had some sort of breakdown. He was not however at this time sent to a hospital. He recovered in some measure, but continued to dwell on his grievances until the culmination came in an attack upon his daughter. He had developed the idea that she was plotting against him, furnishing information to some agency, and that this was the reason for his inability to retain a position.

### Behavior in the Hospital

Following the attempted shooting of his daughter at the time of his first commitment he became very much disturbed. He is said to have been untidy and confused and to have attempted suicide by hanging. He cleared up however and became outwardly composed. In the hospital he makes a good appearance. He dresses neatly, talks coherently and has a large fund of general information. But he mingles little with other patients and spends most of his time in his room or pacing the floor, occupied with his own troubles and grievances. The outstanding feature of his condition is his extreme bitterness and pride. He refuses to do any work and any attention shown him he accepts as his right and demands more. Whenever he is taken out on a hike with a group, he will wander away, apparently in order to assert his claim to special consideration. Not long ago he came the chaplain with a demand that he take him into Boston, adding that the superintendent had given his consent. He was asked what he wanted to do in Boston. With an ugly snarl he replied, "That is none of your business. The superintendent says you are to take me, that is all you need to know."

He has at times thought the food was being poisoned and that he was the victim of a far-reaching plot. He has talked much of vengeance and of what he is going to exact for his imprisonment here.

He is at his best when visitors come and he often succeeds in making an excellent impression. He discusses philosophy and theology and politics with considerable acumen, but it is difficult to keep him off the theme of his grievances, and his theology often takes some peculiar quirks. The Golden Rule, for example, -- on which he is always harping -- is in complete reverse. It is what others ought to do for him, not what he should do unto others.

M I K E

Michael O'Neill-- Age 48, born in Boston of Irish parentage; education, first year H. S; occupation, machinist; civil condition, single; religion, R. C.

Michael O'Neill has been twice in this institution. His first commitment was in 1912 when he was 32 years old. He was released in 1916 as "improved." In 1921 he was committed a second time and has remained here ever since. He is five feet, nine inches tall and weighs one hundred and thirty pounds. The physical findings are negative. Intellectually he rates high, having an I. Q. of 115. The onset has been gradual. The symptoms first became marked in 1909 when he was 29 years of age. There has never been any pronounced disturbance. Outwardly he has been composed and orderly. Delusions of persecution and ideas of reference have been the outstanding features.

I was introduced to him when I first came as chaplain to the Worcester State Hospital. Much to the surprise of those who knew him he took quite a liking to me and we had many interesting talks. I was quite impressed with his keen observation of other patients and his intelligent ideas as to what was wrong with them. One day I had a bright idea. I gave him a copy of Hart's "Psychology of Insanity." After a few days I inquired as to the progress he was making in the book. He replied that he had been too busy with his paper work to do any reading. The paper work continued to absorb his attention for a number of weeks. Finally the book was returned to me by one of the attendants. I at once looked Mike up. "How did you like the book?" I inquired. His reply was a black scowl. "You get out of here," he said, "You're a steel pigeon." Never since has he spoken to me except to order me out of his presence.

The scanty early history indicates that he received a fair education, going thru the first year of high school. He then left school and became a machinist and continued in this trade until his twentieth year. He then took up civil engineering.

In 1909 he began to talk of being interfered with in his work and of having vile accusations made against him. He was the victim of "dirty work." All this was because he was getting ahead. If he had had justice he could prove this, but lawyers accept retainers and do nothing. Even the district attorneys are part of the system. After talking with many lawyers in the effort to get them to bring his persecutors to justice he laid his case before the District Attorney. It was this which led to his commitment.

In the hospital the same ideas have dominated thruout. Vile reports are being circulated about him both on the male and on the female side and all his energies are bent on getting released so that he can bring his persecutors into court. For a number of years he showed himself a good worker and, altho always morose and seclusive, he was fairly cooperative. For the last four years he has refused to do any work at all and spends all his time on his "paper work." This consists in letters to the Governor, in which he carefully records the measurements of each piece of meat and each piece of bread which is dealt out to him at the cafeteria, all in the endeavor to prove that he is being discriminated against. These letters also contain minute descriptions of certain inventions of his-- most of them pertaining to the radio-- and lengthy charges against the enemies who are stealing the patents from him.

His own story is in part as follows:

"I went to New York early in 1909. I had been working with building work for different concerns. I had lost several jobs and had to take anything I could get. About October I didn't have any business. I never have been much on chumming around with men. I didn't want to get acquainted with people. It seemed as though people tried to get acquainted altho I was trying to keep them off. When I first came to New York, there was two fellows who kept talking filthy. They used a name I had never heard on the street before. They used it sort of ambiguous. What was that name? Sodomist. It was the first time I had ever paid any attention to it. In February 1910 I came back to Worcester. Two weeks after I came back, my brother came home one night intoxicated and looking for trouble. He invited me out for a little excitement and called out, "You G.... D.... .." and other vile names. He said I was those things and other people knew it. He called it to me then at other times both ambiguously and directly.

Then I went to Portsmouth, N. H. I got a job as time-keeper, but noticed as I came around a lot of Italian lingo. It seemed to be meant for me. They seemed to be making remarks of the same nature all the time. So I went to see a couple of parties about it. Then I went to Boston and there I heard the same thing. One time in Cambridge it came on sudden in the night. I got to worrying over this thing. I wanted to see if it couldn't be stopped. I came home and went to see a lawyer, a fellow I used to go to school with. He told me to hold up the thing. He took me to the office of a certain man. This man didn't seem to pay any attention to it. He said I imagined it. But I believed it was the only way to clear things up. It doesn't take much for a man on the job to hurt another."

#### A Letter to His Father

Dear Father;

I want you to see C. G. at once and ask him to take steps to stop the dirty work that is being put over on me. Ask him to go to the Governor or to the State Board of Insanity. You will recall how I told you about the patients being set to accuse me publicly of masturbation. Well the same thing is being done now.

Last spring the story that I was a sodomist, not only with me but with women was spread thru this rotten hell. Dr. A. and the supervisor were chiefly to blame for it. It was done deliberately.

.....

The story about my being a masturbator has been spread everywhere. You see it is revenge for going to the trustees. It has been told to male and female. Last Saturday the foreman in the laundry told me I was worse than a certain Frenchman who was kept in from work some time ago for committing masturbation before everyone. Since then every time he gets talking with me, it is nothing but masturbation and sodomy. This morning he yelled it out from a window where a lot of women were working, accusing me of masturbation. He is doing this upon orders.

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## V A S T L E E      S U P E R E A

Anne K., age 49; race, English; religion, Episcopal; education, high school and music school; civil condition, single; occupation, singer.

### Introductory Statement

Anne K. is an alert, neatly dressed, rather fine-looking woman who has been for ten years an inmate of this hospital. At the time of admission she thought her food was being poisoned and that men were following her. She had been for some time increasingly a problem to her family. She had been dependent upon her brothers for support and whenever they had placed her she had made trouble. During her stay in the hospital she has become fairly well institutionalized. The ideas of persecution have sunk into the background and grandiose delusions have developed in an interesting manner.

### Personal History

This patient was the second of three children in a cultured and fairly well-to-do family. The father was a business man and the grandfather a prominent jurist. The mother died when she was three years of age and she and her two brothers were raised by some sisters of the father.

From early childhood she was a problem. At the age of one year she became acutely ill and for about three months she ran a very high temperature. She was not expected to survive. Following her mother's death her aunts were unable to manage her. She was always fighting with the other children and always wanted to be the center of attention.

She finished high school at the age of seventeen. She rated fairly well as a student and while she got along reasonably well with her school-mates, she made no friends among them. In addition to her regular studies she devoted much attention to music and became an accomplished pianist and singer. She was also a fine dancer.

After leaving school she tried numerous jobs. For a time she worked as a professional dancer. She has been a manicurist, a hair-dresser, a saleswoman, a librarian and at one time she sang in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera.

According to her sister-in-law she had always been interested in men but her methods of dealing with them were so aggressive and so silly that she scared them all away.

The first definite symptoms of mental illness began four years before her admission to this hospital. She was at that time living in a hotel in New York. She developed the idea that men on the street were looking at her with covetous eyes and that they were following her. In order to protect herself against them she would not go to bed but would sit up all night. The hotel management finally took notice and sent word to her brothers. She was then taken to a sanatorium and kept there four months.

She was then brought to Chicago and lived with one of her brothers. She had not been there long before the entire family was ready to fly at each others throats. She was then tried out in various boarding homes. Here also she caused difficulty and had to be moved six times.

Previous to the final commitment she had developed the idea that some one was trying to poison her. She also thought that she was an agent of the Intelligence Bureau and that she had trapped down some gangsters.

Behavior in the Hospital

In the hospital she has made a fair adjustment. She is always neat and much of the time she has had a ground parole. Her work record has been somewhat fitful however. She will try a number of things and do them very well. Then she will feel that she is not being given sufficient attention and quit.

Two years ago she was tried out as director of the Patients' Choir and she handled it nicely. After four months she announced that as choir director she should be moved to the best ward in the hospital and should be allowed to eat in the employe's dining room. When these privileges were not immediately granted, she resigned.

Meantime the grandiose ideas have undergone a remarkable development. She signs her name 'Vastlee Superea.' She is related to almost all the distinguished people she hears about. She is thus a cousin of Governor Green, a grand niece of Franklin D. Roosevelt, a distant cousin of Mary Baker Eddy and a grand daughter of Cyrus McCormick. She announced one day that the Main Building of the hospital is 'Grocian architecture with ornament' and that it was built by her grandfather John D. Rockefeller. She busies herself also with grandiose projects. One of these is the founding of Eternity University. Another is her 'Vastlee Superea Projects, Inc.'

Thruout, her mood is pleasant, even mildly euphoric and her social attitude agreeable, albeit somewhat aloof and superior.

VASTLEE SUPEREA PROJECTSBEAUTIFUL BEE COMBINE

I. Beautiful Bee Combine is hereby introduced as a social and commercial institute for the preservation and extension of national and local welfare. It is devised and planned to function by means of definite projects originated and outlined herein by VASTLEE SUPEREA, social welfare research analyst. Departments are defined and arranged as follows:

- A. Drama, Folk Dancing, Glee and Orchestral direction and organization of units, clubs and societies for youth and adults. See Courier-News full page spread regarding proposed Youth Center and drive for funds to build same.
- B. Polemics and Peace Armamentary. Inspiration Please Air Brigade. Universal Mental Protective Constabulary to affiliate with the U. S. Marine Corps, Mind-Reading Division of the Intelligence Department.
- C. Inventions. Construction and Promotion of same.
- D. Publication. Original books, articles, and musical compositions. Condensed News-sheet, 4 page (Except Sunday) daily, "The Re-appearing Comet."
- E. Sales and Management. Art collections, inventions, music, literature, organizations
- F. Educational. Establishment of universities, colleges and class units preparatory to same.
- G. Colonization and Navigation. Mississippi Flood Control by means of extension and improvement of Illinois waterways, rivers and canals. St. Lawrence Waterway completion.
- H. Real Estate Developments, Housing, Architectural Restoration and novelties, period and modern. Hotel construction and maintenance.
- I. Research Costuming, Beauty Culture, Antiques, Decoration and Horticulture.
- J. Bureau of Business Abetment. "Ahoy," Office Club for social activities and friends of business.

II. These ten groups constitute the initial program to launch the American idea in our vicinity for the "Welcome Home" and "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant" theme by VASTLEE SUPEREA in connection with welfare organizations' greeting to returning Armed Service men and women.

III. Other ddpartmental plans which could employ our nations defenders, exports and artisans of every kind will be added to the above projects at logical intervals. Individuals who approve this type of American motivation are invited to participate by contributing ideas, funds, endowment or subscription and professional ability and services.

IV. BEAUTIFUL BEE COMBINE invites your interest and cooperation now. Inquiries may be addressed to the director, VASTLEE SUPEREA, Attention Sectetary, ATK., Room 203, Apt. a-2-North, 750 South State Street, Elgin, Illinois.



## THE FIRE-LIGHTER

Charles B. age 59, civil condition single, race, English (from the Isle of Jersey; occupation, carpenter.

### Introductory Statement

This man was sent to the hospital from the municipal court where he was under indictment for having anarchistic literature and explosives in his room and for making and disseminating a little instrument of his own contrivance, which according to the advertising matter he sent out "may be used to carry on an effective warfare against society without danger to one's self." This instrument is "the only morally effective instrument which a man can have and is very important in the struggle against greed and against the exploitation of the masses."

According to the account given by the police, their attention had first been attracted to this man thru fire insurance under-writers who discovered that he was sending by mail "all over the world" instruments to set fire automatically. The police found in his room, in addition to these instruments other inventions such as automatic toy pistols, demountable toy animals, anarchistic literature, a certain quantity of explosives and voluminous writings by himself.

In appearance the patient is a small man (5 feet 4 inches) somewhat stoop-shouldered, with dark, graying hair, somewhat thin on top. His manner is collected and his expression pleasant. He hears with difficulty and has been partially deaf since his seventh year.

Aside from his deafness the physical examination was negative. In the psychometric he had an M. A. of 17 years and an I. . . of 110. His most remarkable performance was in the vocabulary test in which he defined correctly 47 words out of 50.

### Personal History

According to information supplied by the brother, the patient was born in the Isle of Jersey, one of a large family of whom four brothers and sisters are now living. The father a farmer, whoemaker, and local preacher died at the age of 84, the mother at 74. There is no record of mental disease in the family.

At the age of seven years Charles became deaf as a result of scarlet fever. He has since then been peculiar. He did not play with other children and was often made fun of by them. Because of this handicap he left school after the second year and spent a large part of his time at home, doing odd jobs of carpentry.

In 1884 he came to Boston and worked as a carpenter. He was skilled but not steady. He would quit if the other workers joked him. He lived with the family until seven years ago, supporting his mother after his brother got married. According to his employer he was an excellent workman, earning \$8 a day.

Since childhood he has been peculiar? He has been solitary and head-strong, reading, writing, inventing and doing pretty much what he liked. He was bashful and yet in the family circle arrogant. His mother and he could never get along but his father took his part. He was egotistic and much inclined to use big words. When seventeen he became quite religious, but lost his interest in religion and now for twenty years he has been frankly atheistic. At one time he became much interested in phrenology and often entertained the neighbors with it. He has read some medicine and at one time he was very careful

## THE FIRE-LIGHTER - 2

about everything he ate or drank, for fear of germs. He had no recreations and dreamed always of being a great inventor.

He never drank nor smoked and never to his brother's knowledge had any bad sex habits. He was shy with girls and has never seemed to think of marriage. The patient himself however admits that he began the practice of masturbation at the age of twenty and has kept it up ever since with more or less phantasy and a certain amount of shame. He states that he has never seen the woman he would care to win. He feels that women are not intellectually his peers, and it would be degrading to have sexual relations without intellectual bonds. He guesses he has not as much passion as some men, judging from the way they talk.

His chief interests have been inventing and writing.

He has written a 45,000 word book of fiction entitled "How the Matrimonial Agency Failed." He has also written a poem entitled "Basic Aims." The poem is an exposition of his patent and of his underlying philosophy. He has also begun another 50,000 word book and he desires greatly to have his liberty so that he may complete it.

His first interest in inventing began at the age of eighteen with an attempt to invent a perpetual motion machine. While he did not succeed in his attempt, he did work out a mathematical formula which he believes to be correct. His first patent was a toy pistol in 1890. In 1917 he patented an improvement on this article and in 1918 a dissecting animal toy and also the automatic fire-lighter.

The fire-lighter is a cigar-shaped article made of metal, wood and metal or paper and wood. It is operated by a liquid tablet in a solid cup or be clock-work and is adapted for all sorts of uses - for lighting the fire in stoves, for setting off fire-works, lighting incense and other important uses. You set it at night and it lights the fire in the morning. The government is afraid of this article because he has stated that it could be used to fight society. They wish to suppress it because it is the most powerful instrument in the world. But he belongs to no organization of radicals and does not desire to use his instrument against the government. He said it could be so used because he would not sell it to the people with an idea that it is a little toy when really it is a big powerful article.

He denies making bombs. He had only a little explosive to use in making caps for his toy pistol.

He does not feel inspired not does he feel that he has a mission. He feels only that this world is bad and that he must do his part by explaining the potencies of the fire-lighter as a morally effective instrument. This "special mission stuff" is out of date. Asked if he ever had inspirations, he replied, "Some days you can go better than others. Things crystallize themselves." His invention has to do with the laws of sociology. It is to give the first blow in establishing the new era. Asked in regard to the new order, his face lights up and he replies: "Mankind is ready, but the redemption has not taken place. Depravity is the cause of all extinction. This instrument is to be the means of bringing a new order."

With reference to his dancing, he says that he danced twenty-five years ago, but it was only recently when the new dances came that he became seriously interested. He took lessons but he could find no suitable partners, being too expert for any one. He therefore hired professional partners at two dollars an evening. But nobody could keep up with him. Nobody could dance his dances. Nobody went on developing the steps logically. He quit because he could find no suitable

partner, being too expert for them all. He danced once with a famous Russian dancer and wore him out completely. He believes he is the fastest dancer there is.

He has read some philosophy. He recognizes Einstein but says that his mathematics is too difficult to follow. His ideas of the relationship of space and time were known to him twenty-five years ago. He has not read much of Kant but he knows of his categories.

Through out his stay in the hospital his attitude has been that of philosophic endurance and martyr-like resignation. His only concern is that the Government may suppress his work. He does not care what becomes of him. When talking he speaks with enthusiasm and conviction.

His Own Story (writton on several sheets of wrapping paper)

"I am a native of Jersey Island, Great Britain, about 52 years ago. Lost my hearing about seven years of age. Attended grade schools for about two years. Defective hearing made this so irksome that I left to start working. Got first job in a wheel-wright shop. Left this soon after. Went to a carpenter shop and worked a year or two. Left or lost several places.

Started a shop of my own. Did a little jobbing and made germinating crates, wheel-barrows and other articles that were sold from a little grocery store kept by my mother. Father had a government job at the time. I was then between fifteen and seventeen years of age.

A native lady whose husband lived in Jamaica Plain, Boston, and who was back go Jersey for her health made the suggestion that I go with her to Boston. This was eventually adopted and the whole family came over and lived with her at her home in Jamaica Plain for a few weeks.

Jobs were secured for myself and brother Joe. Our pay kept the family going, mother helping along by doing housework by the day at various houses in J. P. This was in 1884. My first job was at a wheel-wright's shop, the next at a carpenter's shop. Left or lost several jobs, but still made a fair show so adopted it as my trade.

Could read and write a little and spoke only a few words of English. Soon after this I got a bound copy of Scientific American in my hands and from this the wish to study and learn the meaning of its contents sprang up. Getting a tip as to how to obtain books at the library, I secured a card and set to work as best I could, not attending school."

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I took out my first patent in 1890 for a toy pistol and have had several others since, including some on automatic fire-lighter.

I have written two volumes of fiction and one of verse not yet published besides several other squibls and articles.

I have made the assertion that the automatic fire-lighter is a morally effective instrument. I have embodied this discovery into the device and have sold it substantially in all parts of the world. My purpose is to place a morally effective instrument in the hands of the people and my aim is the redressing of the human lapse.

This is my discovery, this is my purpose and this is my aim.

## THE SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF A CASE OF CHRONIC PARANOIA

Bjerre: Jahrbuch fur psycho-analytische Forschungen, Volume III.

### Abstract

The following study is based upon a case of paranoia of ten years standing in which I have succeeded in destroying a fixed system of ideas of persecution in an unmarried woman of 53 and in giving her complete insight into the nature of her disease.

The patient visited me first on December 10, 1909. She brought with her a letter of introduction from a lady of my acquaintance who had won for herself a world-wide reputation in the woman's rights movement. The contents of the letter was in part an emphatic assurance that neither the chief of the firm in which the patient worked, nor anyone else so far as she knew had ever had a bad opinion of her and partly a demand upon her to visit me in order to be freed from her erroneous ideas.

As soon however as she began to speak, she stated that she had not come to talk of her ideas but to be cured of a goitre from which she had been suffering for years. She was very sure that her nervousness was due to the goitre and that if she were cured of that she would be able to stand her ground against her persecutors, whose boldness was now beyond all bounds.

Asked in regard to the letter she said that she had ventured to write to Fraulein K. who was acquainted with her chief in order that she might use her influence to protect her against all the misdoings in the office. All her own complaints had been without result. She had thought that Fraulein K. had been a central part in the conspiracy. She had been much surprised at her reply. However, even tho Fraulein K. knew nothing of the conspiracy, that made no difference. The evidence was entirely too convincing. It was useless to tell me about it. Assured of my willingness to listen, she was surprised, but permitted herself to be convinced that I knew nothing of it. Her story is as follows: -

She notices the persecutor in all sorts of signs. People move their feet, they make peculiar movements of the legs and arms, they show her pens, scissors and similar objects with insulting intent. But especially they put out their tongues at her in an unmistakable manner. As soon as she appears on the street they begin and it continues everywhere. She cannot go into any shop where she is known, but must visit distant shops in the hope of finding one in which she is not known. But even then she dares not return for even on the second visit she notices that they are already drawn into the conspiracy against her. It is worst of all in her office. The cashier is a regular devil. He stirs up the others and leads the persecution. Every time he passes the door he makes a sign. The assurance in the letter that the chief knows nothing means nothing whatsoever. He also put out his tongue at her. In the restaurant where she eats it is unbearable. Just as she enters they stick out their tongues at her. Even her closest friend from whom she had expected protection became hostile to her some months before. The others do not speak to her any

more. She would have been entirely deserted if a niece had not begun to take lunch with her, but already she begins to see the signs of persecution in the latter's two year old daughter. A shameless serving girl had taught the little one.

In order that I should not believe that she had exaggerated she undertook on the second visit to prove to me that the persecutor had an actual cause. There are so many people who wish at all costs to hinder a woman from living her life as she pleases. She had had a relationship with a man. That was her right and she feels no regret over it. She wished to have a woman's full experience. But people could not bear that. That was the basis of the whole affair. She was for this rejected from society, condemned to death.

She asked me if I knew the story of Fraulein X. The persecutor had succeeded in getting from her the fact that she was pregnant. When she learned that she killed herself. (This was a fact) It is her persecutor's intention to drive her also to suicide. She fears that they may succeed. She cannot stand it much longer. The conspiracy has now for ten years been becoming more and more violent. She knows the center of it all. It is the Women's Society Union which has a real inquisitional purpose. The members spy with unbelievable assiduity. Previously she had been a teacher. She had even been elected principal of one of the largest girl's schools. Now the schools are among her worst enemies. She has also been a journalist, but the persecution manifested itself in the press. Of special importance was a caricature of herself in Puck's Christmas number in 1899 and an article entitled, "Was Neues" in February 1900 in which she was sharply attacked. A deceiver's role had been played by the journalists' society where her affairs had been discussed. It was made clear to her thro an anonymous letter in which she was attacked in the most grossly insulting manner. This letter she had burned at once in order to forget it. At times the persecutor was less intent, but that was only that her enemies might gather their forces for a new onslaught.

Asked more specifically about the beginning of the persecution she said it began early in 1899 in Xbury where she had gone with her lover. She noticed then indications of persecution, and when she returned to Stockholm she noticed this also. Physically, except for the goitre, she is quite well. The goitre she first noticed in 1906.

Concerning her heredity the important facts are these:- Her paternal grandfather was the illegitimate son of a count well-known under the name of Med. X. Before his marriage the grandfather had had children by seven young girls. In his marriage there were a number of children born. In his old age he was afflicted with hypochondria and seemed at times beside himself. The father of the patient was the fruit of a union with a peasant girl. He was a good and gifted but peculiar fellow. He gave up the profitable business of clock-maker to found several news - papers, at least one of which was important. Always he was starting crazy schemes only a few of which came to anything. He once took out a patent for a contrivance for soldiers, a rubber bulb to be placed under the foot inside the shoe, so arranged that at each step it would blow air into the face. His last patent was a contrivance for pulling the bed clothes up over the head.



All the siblings of the father were taciturn, peculiar people. One was gifted but a misanthrope and a pathological liar. Another, a woman, who was fine as a writer of stories could not as a child tell reality from fantasy. Another suffered from the compulsion of riding on the railroad until finally she threw herself out and was killed.

On the mother's side nothing peculiar was noted.

Of the twelve siblings of the patient five died young. All the others are more or less afflicted nervously. One brother has for years had ideas of persecution. One sister suffers from phobias. Two sisters have gone through serious changes of personality. One was in youth a cold, remorseless person, but married happily and is now a saint who dwells in another world.

The patient is unquestionably very talented and her judgement in matters outside her delusional system is good. Both as teacher and as journalist she was most successful.

When the patient was 18 yrs. old there came the great experience of her life. Already early in life she and her sister had begun to print newspapers which were circulated among the circle of friends and relatives. The mystery of anonymity amused her. In fun she inserted a marriage advertisement in a public newspaper. An answer was the beginning of a correspondence which lasted 20 years, without in all that time any meeting between them even though her correspondent lived in Stockholm. Her relationship to the unknown was her happiness and she awaited his letters with all the expectancy and joy of intense love. She was not only bound to him with her whole soul, but he gripped also in a peculiar way her erotic life. His letters were to her as bodily contacts. She dreamed of marrying him, of giving herself to him. He was her fairy prince.

During these twenty years she made the acquaintance of a young man who was sympathetic to her and whom she loved. They were betrothed, but after seven years of doubt and inner struggle she broke with him. She felt that she could not part with the writer of the letters. She was with mysterious bonds united with him forever. Even yet she cannot speak of the correspondence without tears and she emphasizes the fact that in spite of everything this was the most precious thing in her life. It was for her an ideal relationship which filled her entire life and determined her attitude toward men and toward the world. Those letters were the sunshine of her life and thanks to them she was able to carry the burden of work and sublimate a strong sexuality. It is to be noted that her biography abounds in sexual symbolism and sex to her was something dark and cruel. At the age of seven she hears of the curse on women and she and her sister take an oath never to marry, and thus to come under the domination of a man. Adolescence was for her a period of great stress, which was to some extent relieved thru the practice of masturbation. But thru the correspondence the tension is relieved and during the twenty years this correspondence continued she was completely free from this practice.

The breaking up of this relationship she describes as the bitterest experience of her life. This happened gradually. Several factors

entered in but one was decisive. When she was in her 38th year she met this man at a party and understood at once that she was entirely mistaken. The ideal which she had seen behind the letters did not exist. Instead she saw a commonplace fellow who was even mixed up in a love affair with her younger sister. She did not wish to see any more of him. She began not merely to hate the man who had disillusioned her. She became also bitter against everybody. And she even gave up the work in which for fifteen years she had been engaged and on which her existence depended. For this step she gave as her reason that she felt the strength to do it. It is furthermore to be noted that with the breaking up of her ideal relationship she resumed her practice of masturbation.

In the winter of 1898-9 she began a relationship with a certain Hon. C. She had to visit him in Stockholm at his hotel. Even with the second visit he made advances to her and she yielded -- not because she loved him but because she wished to live her life and she seized the opportunity which came to her. Instead of the happiness which she had lost she wished to have experience. This was her right and she had not regretted it. In April 1899 she followed C. to a city on the continent in order to take a position in his office. There she remained until November. Then the relationship came to an end. There was however no outward disturbance and she was able to take up a responsible piece of work and to put it thru. And for ten years she continued to do productive work.

But already in Stockholm she had begun to notice people spying upon her. Once while leaving a hotel the bar-keeper made a grimace at her. He had surely been watching the door. From him the persecution spread.

After considerable difficulty Bjerre succeeded in overcoming her invasiveness and unwillingness to speak frankly of certain things. Finally he got from her the following account of the first indications of persecution.

She went to a horse race in Xburg in order to write a report for a newspaper. On the reporters' bench she made the acquaintance of an elegantly dressed lady who sat near her. She noticed that this lady attracted much attention from the men and that one after another made a peculiar sign-- especially little movements with the tongue. At first she did not understand this. Then it became clear to her that it had a hidden sexual meaning. She parted from the lady without leaving her name and she saw no more of her thereafter. But with terror she began to notice that people on the streets were making similar signs to her.

(At this point Bjerre points out to her the general tendency to identify one's self with those who have made a deep impression upon us. He shows that altho quite clear in her own mind that she was acting within her rights in entering into the relationship, there was yet a conflict and she was afraid of being found out. This lady probably attracted her unconsciously because she recognized her as one who was not entirely innocent and she identified herself with her. Hence she begins to see directed against her the peculiar signs which she thought she saw directed against that lady.

B. then questions her as to painful experiences in the past in which the tongue has played a part. She remembered having seen an insane man who stuck out his tongue.

He then points out that one is constantly making little movements of which one is not conscious and which others also do not notice. Among these movements is the moistening of the lips with the tongue. But when under the influence of a dominating idea attention is called to such movements, then one sees them all the time. A dominating idea attracts with the same certainty that a magnet attracts.

Furthermore a strong idea is accompanied by action. If for example you think intently of the tongue it is difficult to keep it still. And when one person does a thing others are apt to do it too. Thus when one yawns others yawn also.

(She then declares the sexual significance of the tongue movements to be unmistakable.)

When she left Xburg she hoped that the affair had been known only there. Soon however she discovered that the sign language was known also in Sweden and used against her. Her affair was therefore known. That was clear to her also in other ways. Wherever she went people talked about her and laughed behind her back. An article which she had written was rejected -- something which had never happened before. Her former acquaintances became cold.

Then in February 1900 the persecution became general. The storm broke in all its fury. Wherever she went there were signs and everywhere people talked about her. It was her fate to be hounded to death all because she had asserted her rights. She became therefore more and more bitter against everyone and drew within herself. In time the conspiracy covered the whole of Europe and went even to America.

(B. now takes up detail after detail and has her describe the facts accurately. Among these details was the caricature in Punch. He sends for the exact number and discovers that in that year Punch was not in existence. She then herself looks up the article "Was Neues" and finds it to be a wholly impersonal thing.

He now proceeds steadily and shows her the groundless character of one idea after another. After seven weeks of this the ground was pretty well prepared. A change was taking place in the depths of her unconscious. B. then takes the important step of telling her that he begins to doubt whether after all she was really the object of a conspiracy.

Finally of her own accord she relates two incidents:

When she was seventeen she had a friend several years older who was in love with a young man. Her father opposed the marriage. Finally the friend went to a distant city. She then received a letter telling her that the friend was expecting a baby. When the child was born she visited her friend and saw also the young father. Their happiness made a deep impression upon her.