fit by each other's knowledge and experience. Only by mutual understanding and helpfulness can we give our patients the service of which we are capable, to the end that the frequently expressed regrets for the passing of the family doctor will give place to appreciation for the results which only those of special training and long experience in more limited fields can obtain.

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GEORGE NEWTON HOSFORD, M. D. (490 Post Street, San Francisco).—Doctor O'Connor has been using his method so long and so successfully that it is only natural that he should be impatient with the reluctance of the parents of cross-eyed children to permit the surgical treatment of the condition, and of pediatricians and general practitioners to advise it. However, I can remember, all too vividly, the days when I used, in succession, the Reese resection, the method of suturing of which is safe enough but subject to a varying amount of slipping; the Worth advancement, with its hazardous and uncertain scleral sutures; Meyer Wiener's cumbersome goldplate modification of the resection; and several of the other seventy-one modifications which have been described in the literature. In those days I was quite willing to wait until the child was seven (or even seventeen) years of age before attacking his strabismus with surgery. If I did not operate, I at least knew that the parent and medical adviser would not blame me for making the patient worse. I also knew that all the parent was interested in was the child's appearance, and, unfortunately, this will always be the chief concern of the relatives.

After learning Doctor O'Connor's technique, and personally verifying every one of the advantages which he has enumerated to you today, I completely changed my point of view and I now share his enthusiasm for early operation.

If the visual acuity of the two eyes can be made approximately equal (not necessarily normal) early enough, there is a very excellent chance for binocular vision to develop spontaneously. If an orthopedic surgeon succeeds in straightening an infant's clubfoot, he does not have to teach him to walk. With a safe and positive technique at our disposal, we may and should operate early; and although we may have to use the improvement in appearance and the psychological benefits as the chief arguments in overcoming the apprehension of parents (which, after all, is well founded, because of the relatively poor results obtainable by the older methods). We can frequently confer the vastly more important blessing of binocular vision, with no additional expense or trouble and much to the gratification of all concerned. It is my belief that the O'Connor technique will be remembered and practiced long after all the other oculists of this generation are forgotten.

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W. A. WOOD, M. D. (400 Twenty-ninth Street, Oakland).—The importance of the early diagnosis and treatment of strabismus is brought home to us forcibly when we find a child who has lost the vision in his deviating eye. There is certainly no room for argument here, nor again when we discover a child who has fallen out of line at school and been stigmatized as a delinquent or a mental deficient just for want of an eye examination.

I certainly agree that children should be tested before entering school. As to the operation itself, I can testify from personal experience to the great benefits and safety of the cinch-shortening method. One of the best arguments for it, too, as once expressed by Doctor O'Connor, is this: "You have nothing to lose."

❋

DOCTOR O'CONNOR (Closing).—I wish to thank the discussers for their remarks, which are more than kind, and also for reëmphasizing my contentions.

URCLOGY—THE PLACE OF PERSONAL VALUES THEREIN*

By EDWARD W. BEACH, M. D.
Sacramento

DISCUSSION *by Victor G. Vecki, M. D., San Francisco; Julian M. Wolfsohn, M. D., San Francisco.*

THE clinician must always reckon with personal values in both medicine and surgery; yet, oddly enough, nothing is more difficult of definition or determination. These personal values are of necessity all relative, and their enigmatical totality expressed by the personality, offers no peaceful picture, but a changing, moving, dynamic pantomime of reactions.

The urologist must familiarize himself with these reactions because satisfactory management of many patients waits upon a deeper analytic knowledge of their make-up. Perhaps no other specialist is consulted by more discordant individuals, *i. e.*, individuals known as neurotics, "borderline" dwellers, mattoids, maladjusted types, constitutional defectives, psychopathic personalities, etc. The basic reason for this lies in the fact that the discordant personality devotes more time and attention to sex than his concordant brother; so much so, that a reliable account of his sexual activities provides a sort of index to the degree of discordancy.

Notwithstanding these pertinent facts, the brilliant surgical chapter in urology exhibits no counterpart in understanding of the individual *per se;* and with this thought in mind an effort is made herein to work out a practical scheme for better comprehension of these individual values.

We consider personal values in a relative sense like space and time, because of our inability to define personality in the absolute. Both the axiolitic view (the Good, the Beautiful, the True, and possibly the Holy) as well as the non-axiolitic tenet, with its pragmatical or extra mental endowment, fall short, it seems to us, of the perfect personality mark. We accept the latter as a transcendental principle, exactly as the physicist accepts an eternal existence. The physicist defines space as a three-dimensional extension (infinitude of planes with lines erected) in a four-dimensional world (infinitude of three dimensional spaces) with time as the fourth dimension. These two are thus united by the speed of light. An existence removed from time, literally an eternal one, is then outside the restraining influence of light's speed, and hence a "something" without space. This "something," like personality in the absolute, is impossible of conception.

Structurally we conceive the personality as an admixture of static and dynamic qualities, each reciprocal and all united in a living, changing entity functioning as a unit. Personality is influenced by environment and tinctured by the era of existence. For better comprehension of personality, three phases appear mandatory: (1) Its psychobiologic factors; (2) its causal or construc-

* Read before the Urology Section of the California Medical Association at the sixty-third annual session, Riverside, April 30 to May 3, 1934.

tional analysis; (3) its final or teleological aspects. Most authors develop one phase and neglect others, so that the perplexed clinician attends a Pantagruelian trial, with the exception that he, unlike the contestants, is dissatisfied. He either quits in disgust or agrees with Sir Peter Teazle, "It's a damn bad world," at least the personality world. We feel that these divisions are all strings on the same fiddle, and all must be used to judge the instrument.

PSYCHO-BIOLOGIC FACTORS

Anyone dubious of the mutual relationship and interdependence of mind and body should read the "Life and Letters of Charles Darwin" for graphic evidence. Like hydrogen and oxygen in the water molecule, both mind and body are essential to the personality molecule. The exact charge each atom bears, *i. e.*, the exact somatic influence on the psychic horizon, and vice versa, is equivocal. A balanced personality presupposes resonance between body and mind, and it requires little imagination to conceive the incongruity of an Egyptian body type with Herculean impulses and psychic tempo.

Kretschmer has broadly grouped individuals according to body form into: (1) The long, lean asthenic or leptosome; (2) the tall sthenic or athletic; (3) the short and stocky or pyknic; (4) the special dysplastic types. The endocrine rôle in (4) is often prominent, but in the other groups not so clearly defined. With the psychiatrist's outlook he associates (1) and (2) intimately or remotely with the schizo personalities, and (3) with the cyclic personalities. He feels that schizo characteristics, residual in the healthy leptosome, when hypertrophied result in schizophrenia, and that all degrees between the healthy schizothymic and mental sickness exists. In the cyclo group there exists a range between the hypomanic and the depressive. The schizo group he judges from character standpoint, and the cyclic from the temperament standpoint.

In the schizo group something goes awry inside and the individual lives within himself. There exists an antithesis between the "I" and environment, often an insurmountable barrier, as a "pane of glass." There is a peculiar combination of cold affectivity and warm idealistic sensitivity. Since the road of environmental adjustment is difficult, solace is found in books or love of nature, and detours into the bypasses of fanaticism, idealism, and despotism are frequent. The cyclic group more easily adjusts to environment, and hence complexes are rare.

Of urological interest, the sexual life of the asthenic-autistic group is often placid and distinguished by a richness of eroticism with a paucity of the physical element. Auto-eroticism, especially narcistic inclusions, uncertainty of sexual object, with mother fixation complexes are logical developments. Sometimes suppressed carnal desires are endowed with a religious cloak, as exemplified by Dante's "Vita Nuova" to Beatrice. In the more athletic types, the physical element predominates. In the cyclopyknic group, the sexual life flows like a harmonious motif throughout the life theme; it rarely becomes short-circuited and gives the owner little concern other than activity.

CONSTRUCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Through these treacherous waters we take Eugen Kahn as our pilot. We do not here treat of the intellect other than to state that a gifted intellect is often possessed by the discordant personality, as though nature had tried to make amends for her unkindness. Many geniuses in music, art, literature, science, and philosophy substantiate this contention.

To facilitate study of causality, we artificially cleave the personality into three strata from below upward: (1) impulses; (2) temperament; (3) character.

Impulses are founded on the physical. An impulse may be defined as a compelling urge to fulfillment of a biologic need. These are the basic impulses: the preservation of life with its various ramifications, as hunger, thirst, flight, etc., self-development and the procreative impulse. Consummation of an impulse brings pleasure, while denial brings displeasure, and hence their psychic rapport is apparent. All nascent impulses are considered amorphous, and hence in their evolution may be interchanged or annexed to any strata.

Temperament rests on both the physical and the impulses, but has a greater psychic derivation than the latter. Temperament collects and bundles the impulses, so to speak, and transforms these along with the bioplasmic expression in a step-up manner to the higher strata of character. Temperament, likewise, acts as a step-down transformer from character to the lower levels of the physical and the impulses. Its emotionality is judged by its excitability, its inner course and expression. Conduction, without temperament participation, from the lower to the higher strata, and vice versa, is constantly in progress.

Character, being energized by the two lower strata, now directs the personality through environment. "It is both the ship and pilot," as Kahn states. Each process in its finality again spreads downward to temperament, the impulses and the physical, since each process involves the personality as a unit.

In all individuals we can distinguish these three strata. They are exactly comparable to contrapuntal form, since all three instruments are used simultaneously to produce a euphonious combination (the concordant personality) without loss of individuality of any instrument. Now, in the discordant personality we still have the three instruments, and they retain individuality; but one instrument is flatted or sharped so that a non-musical or disharmonious combination results. This emanates from one instrument, but must of necessity affect the tonality of the other two instruments. It follows that not everything in such a personality is discordant, but a quantitative dent on one strata necessitates a compensatory bulge on the others, or reciprocal involvement of all the strata. This deviation may be clinically most discernible on any of the three strata. Such a personality in proportion to the deviatory quo-

tient suffers internal friction, dissipates his energy and often, like Falstaff, melts in his own grease.

THE TELEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

We now consider the finality or purposefulness of the personality after the ideas of William Stern. In childhood we have only ego purposes (autotely) to be considered; but as the adult stage is reached, the horizon widens, and then follows the development of foreign or non-ego purposes (heterotely) *i. e.,* those concerned with family, society, state, Godhead, etc. The autotely, by a process of introception, is incorporated into the heterotely, so that a fine balance accrues (orthotely) which directs the individual toward the proper aim or goal. The physical, impulses, temperament and character comprise the autotely, but character becomes the determinative factor in heterotely by balancing the two and directing the personality toward the true goal.

Christ said, "When I was a child, I thought as a child, I understood as a child, I spake as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things," and the shift from autotely to heterotely is apparent with directional substitution of the proper goal for the false one of childhood. The advanced socialized teaching of Christ, with its total self-abnegation or altruism, represents the fastigium of non-ego purpose development. Conversely, Nietzsche apotheosizes the "I," or autotely, with his brutal Superman, and honorable mention goes to Zola (La Travail, for example) for his doctrine of work for material enjoyment or self-enhancement.

The concordant individual strikes a happy medium between the two, striving always for heterotely preponderance. The discordant personality, with asynartetic strata, fails of proper development, and hence has exaggerated or false ego values with which he struggles toward the false goal of personal prestige.

In the struggle with environment, a plethora of persistent ego values or developmental anachronisms proportionately increases the frictional coefficient, and the infantile adult often uses defensive mechanisms, subterfuges and transpositional excuses in direct ratio to his inadequacy. The latter condition likewise may temporarily accrue in the more harmonious personality through dissipation of energy in the battle with a hostile environment or formidable obstacles.

CONSTITUTIONAL INADEQUACY

Frequently these discordant personalities, because of their inherent asymmetry and rococco embellishments, are unable to cope with life's exigencies, and this inadequacy may be transposed and expressed in the somatic realm inclusion of the genito-urinary system. In this category is the hysterical personality, who remained a child except for knowledge of frustration displeasure, but posed as an adult, with the concomitant referred pains, frigidity, eroticism, uncertain sexual object, and pseudologistic tendencies. Again, many so-called "neurasthenics" belong here with their vague and bizarre pains, their "phobias" and their ever-present impotency.

These personalities may be compared to an airplane whose motor (physical endowment) is of fair construction, but rarely powerful, and whose air-foils and leading contours (psychic equipment) are so illy-designed that the lift coefficient, with full throttle, just overcomes the parasitic drag. Now comes inclement weather (environmental demands or vicissitudes of life) and the ship rolls, pitches, yaws, loses altitude and must descend (nervous breakdown). Her design may be so poor that no take-off is possible (psychosis), or if she begins to climb, she rotates about her own axis with rapid dissolution. Her motor may be thought responsible, but no amount of "tuning" will render such a ship efficient, even in fair weather. With such aerodynamic construction, she will "hunt" on the slightest pretext and can never vie with Pegasus under any circumstances. However, since each personality represents certain avigational possibilities, an individual performance curve should be attempted so that the demands, in a measure, may be tempered to the capacity.

SEXUAL PHENOMENA

The sexual impulse is one of the basic triad, if not the most elemental of all. In the concordant individual it is a silent yet potent activator blending without precipitation; but in the discordant personality it is a veritable "sore thumb," protruding in unexpected places and often bedecked in fantastic wrapping.

With certain reservations, the sexual impulse in personality is comparable to the grid charge in a triode vacuum tube, since a change in potentiality or polarity here is followed by correspondingly wider alteration in electrostatic performance, *i. e.,* in the ionic stream between filament and plate. Similarly, a change of potentiality or polarity in the sexual charge is amplified in the behavior of the personality, and this constitutes a rough index for the degree of discordancy. Most all discordant people, commensurate with the disharmony show sexual deviation, ranging in scale from slight aberration to actual sexual madness.

Prior to puberty sex consists mostly, if not entirely, of eroticism. Don Quixote's love for Dulcinea exemplifies the erotic tendency, an inclination to worship from afar, usually associated intimately with articles of the beloved and pedestal elevation or idealization. In the more advanced types, the article itself constitutes a fetish or symbol for the sum and total of the sexual expression. The writings of Bretonne add much to our knowledge of this subject. Postpuberal protraction of the erotic attribute in various degrees, spells inornate vanity, self-gratification, mother fixation and uncertainty of sexual object. The latter may be projected into bi-sexualism or hemosexual proclivities.

With the advent of puberty, or thereabouts, the erotic tendency is incorporated into and supplemented by the physical or libidinous development, so that sex then partakes of both phases. Our discordant hero may, therefore, enact the rôle of Tristan with Isolde in one part, and Samson with Delilah in another, in absence of a common

recipient. Certain hyperhedonistic types, which Dante relegated to the circle of high winds, are probably the result of sthenic impulses which notch the character and cause the individual to set all sail in a carnal direction. However, these sexual beings like Casanavia, Don Juan, Byron, Cleopatra, Messalina, etc., all apparently retain a kernel of sexual infantilism.

Hemosexual proclivities may be either inherited or acquired, it seems. The active or passive rôle is determined somewhat by the biophysical constitution. Berman Bang, the Danish poet, sheds light on this subject; but much remains to be learned about these inverted types.

Sadism and masochism are intimately related, and exist in every cosmos to some extent. The former, named after Count de Sade, who possesses the doubtful distinction of being the only romancer to advocate vice, signifies cruelty in connection with the sexual act, either as an adjunct or substitute. It ranges from slight mental hostility to the unspeakable atrocities of Gilles de Rays. It is usually a masculine constituent, an evidence of will to power; but is also found in intersexual personalities of feminine persuasion. Catherine de Medici affords a notable example. Masochism, so called after Sacher Masoch, indicates desire for pain in connection with or in lieu of the sexual act, really the desire to yield raised to the superlative, and is, therefore, most often a feminine inclusion. In the male sex, Rousseau affords a classical illustration, with his pleasure in flagellation. Intersexual personalities often present a jumble of sadomasochistic tendencies corresponding somewhat to their androgynous physiques.

If the sex "ray" is passed through a Newtonian prism, the resultant spectrum includes all of these deviations; but our discordant hero represents an imperfect prism, hence this irrationality of dispersion phenomena. Study of these components in their dispersed forms provides a key to the "normal" sex equation, exactly as "forbidden" forms of oxygen and hydrogen in the nebular of Orion furnish a key to transformation of matter (bottled radiant energy) into radiation (unbottled energy or light).

CONCLUSIONS

We have utilized the three tangible keyboards (the psychobiological aspects, the causality, and the finality) of personality, both individually and collectively, in an effort to formulate a workable scheme for its comprehension. We are fully aware that our scheme has its limitations, but feel it serves a practical purpose.

According to our interpretation, despite the large number of variants in the personality nucleus, the impulses, temperament and character are constants (qualitatively identical), although they exist in different amounts (quantitative deviation) and are hence employed in a different manner for different purposes by each individual.

Constitutional inadequacy, either because of developmental anachronisms or extraordinary environmental demands, and which therefore is permanent or temporary, depending upon the etiologic factor, is often expressed in somatic terms. This expression or transposition may be productive of physical symptoms anywhere along the line and particularly in the genito-urinary domain.

Sex is one of the "motors" of personality. If the motor "misses" or performs badly its action is amplified in the behavior of the personality. The sex equation serves as a loose index to the degree of discordancy, and therefore the greater the discordancy, the wider the sex oscillation with its ramifications.

We have attempted this article in somewhat the same spirit, and for much the same reason; that Colonel Sellers placed a candle in the parlor stove, hoping thereby to shed some light and to serve some useful purpose in absence of better fuel. We feel that it is only by the keenest observation and the deepest thought on the part of many medical minds, that the truth concerning personality may be reached.†

Medico-Dental Building.

DISCUSSION

VICTOR G. VECKI, M. D. (450 Sutter Street, San Francisco).—We certainly are progressing. When, in 1914, I read before the annual meeting of the American Urological Association my paper, entitled "Psychotherapy in Urology," I was led by ideas similar to those expressed in Doctor Beach's admirable paper, which certainly requires and deserves careful study and consideration.

At that time I did not endeavor to penetrate into the stratosphere of "the place of personal values" of our patients, but I am quite sure that the results of our therapeutic endeavors would be considerably better in a number of cases if the differences of personality were always duly considered.

JULIAN M. WOLFSOHN, M. D. (490 Post Street, San Francisco).—In this paper Doctor Beach has given us necessarily all too condensed a summary of his wide reading not only in classical and scientific literature, but of his experiences in clinical urology.

Without enlarging on the subject-matter in this extraordinary contribution, one may stress the point that what Doctor Beach has pointed out, so far as urology is concerned, obtains also in gynecology, and to a lesser extent in the other domains of medicine.

The individual must always be considered from the clinical standpoint as an integration of the psychobiological together with the somatic. When even one part of either of these spheres shows a deviation, the whole organism is affected proportionately.

To enlarge further upon this subject at this time would only reiterate what Doctor Beach has only too well emphasized.

The modern psychiatric approach in practice, which Doctor Beach has adopted, is that which Dr. Adolph Meyer promulgated years ago, and is now accepted by psychiatrists in general, namely, the psychobiological as influenced by heredity, environment, and organic function.

As the science of modern medicine becomes better understood, physicians specializing in different fields begin to find their functions overlapping with other fields only recently considered quite independent, and with this conception above enumerated we shall have a happy rapprochment between the urologist and the psychiatrist; both of whom should work together on the same problems, but each from a different vantage

† In preparation of this article the author has leaned somewhat heavily on E. Kahn, taking numerous basic ideas as well as the terms "concordant" and "discordant" from his valuable book, "Psychopathic Personalities."

point, attempting to reconstruct a machine which will give the most perfect performance possible.

This paper should be re-read and studied carefully, for the meat of its contents is in very concentrated form.

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DOCTOR BEACH (Closing).—I am grateful to you, gentlemen, for the indulgence and leniency shown me in your discussion. Twelve years of priceless intimacies and close psychic rapport with the urological patient, drawn from every walk of life, has furnished me, as well as most of my urological brethren, a different perspective and a new horizon. The latter is responsible for my extraordinary interest in the subject of personality. Perhaps not all of these ideas are unequivocal, but they represent some thoughts gleaned in the search of a deeper and better comprehension, especially as to the "How?" "Why?" and "For what reason?" of it all.

NUMMULAR ECZEMA*

By ERNEST DWIGHT CHIPMAN, M. D.
San Francisco

DISCUSSION *by William H. Goeckerman, M.D., Los Angeles; Kendal Frost, M.D., Los Angeles; Howard Morrow, M.D., San Francisco.*

THE ordinary eczematous patch is indistinct in outline. The insensible blending of the diseased with the healthy area is, in fact, a cardinal diagnostic point. There is, however, at least one form of eczema which presents a border so sharply defined that it has been given such designations as orbicular, discoid, circumscribed, herpetoid, nummular, and possibly still others. Of all these, none seems more appropriate than nummular for, meaning coin-shaped, the name indicates a circular configuration as well as a clearly defined margin.

American textbooks grant little space to nummular eczema, although it is given complete recognition by European writers. The importance which Brocq [1] attached to it is evidenced by his division of eczema into four types, viz., (1) true vesicular eczema (amorphous eczema of Devergie), (2) papulovesicular eczema, (3) nummular eczema, (4) erythematous eczema.

STRIKING CHARACTERS OF NUMMULAR ECZEMA

The striking characters of nummular eczema are the circular, or sometimes oval, form and the sharp outline. The lesions are circumscribed by a clearly defined circular border outside of which the appearance is perfectly normal, and inside of which the protean manifestations of ordinary eczema may be present. So sharp is the outline of these lesions that a ringworm infection is at once suggested.

While plaques may appear on any portion of the body, the favored sites are the arms and hands, more particularly the dorsal surface of the hands and fingers.

The size of the plaques is variable. They may be as small as a twenty-five-cent piece or as large as the palm of the hand. The average size is perhaps slightly larger than that of a silver dollar. They are often quite rebellious to treatment, and when they yield they are prone to recur, the recurrence choosing the same or a near-by site. A distinctive feature is that the plaques attain their full development at once, not spreading concentrically as in ringworm.

While commonly the lesion retains the same appearance throughout the entire extent of the nummular plaque, it happens at times that the center fades with a disappearance of all, or nearly all of the vesicles, while the borders become actively inflamed and vesicular. This variety more closely resembles ringworm than the ordinary type, and is designated by Brocq [2] as the tricophytoid form.

ETIOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION

Upon an etiologic basis French writers consider subvarieties such as (1) traumatic, (2) alimentary or toxic, (3) neuro-arthritic, and (4) reflex. The original description of arthritic eczema by Bazin corresponds exactly with our present-day picture of nummular eczema. It is interesting to note the emphasis which is placed upon the nervous system by the French, who refer constantly to arthritic or neuro-arthritic types of eczema. The recognition of the reflex variety adds another reason for the confusion which seems to exist in some quarters as to the relationship between nummular and what is called neurotic eczema. This subject will recur presently.

As to the mechanism whereby the lesions occur in sharply defined plaques, Brocq offered the suggestion that they choose areas of diminished resistance comparable to the fixed drug eruptions.

SECONDARY NUMMULAR FORMS

Thus far our discussion has been limited to original or primary forms; but by other means secondary nummular forms may be produced. These may cause confusion. First, is the transition of a primary amorphous patch into a sharply defined plaque by reason of invasion by bacteria or fungi. Next is the development of an eczematization upon a preëxisting, sharply defined dermatosis such as parapsoriasis, tricophytosis, even certain syphilids, tuberculids, and dermatophytids. This last item is of present-day importance, when so much confusion exists concerning the concept of dermatophytids. Also to be remembered is the ease with which a neurodermite becomes eczematized.

The situation, already complicated by the necessity of distinguishing between primary and secondary forms, is rendered more difficult by the description of like pictures under different names. Especially confusing at times is the designation of an eruption as neurotic eczema. A brief review of this topic will be worth while.

NEUROTIC ECZEMA

The idea of neurotic eczema first became prominent in this country following the publication of a paper by Bulkley [3] in 1898, in which he dealt with various forms or phases of nerve disturbances seen in connection with neurotic eczema. These were considered under the following heads:

* Read before the Dermatology and Syphilology Section of the California Medical Association at the sixty-third annual session, Riverside, April 30 to May 3, 1934.