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Generatie-psychozes en hersenstam

Visscher, Gerhardus Reinard Andreas

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SUMMARY.

Of the mental diseases in the generation we see the greater number of psychoses appear in the puerperium period, less during pregnancy and still less in the lactation period. Of 184 cases I find 106 psychoses in the puerperium, 43 during pregnancy and 35 appear in the lactation period.

The differences we meet here already point to important differences of a generative, endocrine nature, influences that make themselves felt in the domain of metabolism and may be taken as a deficiency in consequence of which the greater part of these psychoses is seen in the puerperium period.

If, by this, we have already found an indication of the importance of exogenous influences in originating these psychoses, also the syndrome of illness that is most frequently found, the confusional state, points to this.

We have seen that the confusional state is the syndrome that is attended by impairment of consciousness, confusion, despair, conception disturbance with a strong impulse to understand the outer world and moreover with affective aberration and fluctuations of consciousness. All these symptoms we do not meet in the case of endogenous psychoses but we do find them in symptomatic psychoses when physical illness or impairment is attended by mental impairment.

Also the favourable course of these syndromes of confusional state (amentia) pleads for this opinion. In exogenous forms of reaction (amentia) we find a percentage of cure of 80.3.

By the side of these, however, we come across cases of psychosis, which, though they show close resemblance to ordinary endogenous psychosis as there are manic depressive psychosis and schizophrenia, yet have a favourable course. The syndromes with symptoms of depression, fear or mania show few relapses and are on this ground also to be distinguished from phasic manic depression.

They are rather exogenous reaction types which closely resemble the vegetative dystone depressions of Rosenfeld and Hempel. They belong to symptomatic psychoses.

The percentage of cure is 82.6.

The schizophrenic syndromes do not belong to the nucleus group

of Wilmanns or the genuine schizophrenia of Kahn but to the symptomatic schizophrenia (Rümke, van der Scheer).

The number of cures with these schizophrenic psychoses is much more favourable than with schizophrenia without known cause. The percentage of cure with this symptomatic schizophrenia is 39.1 where as for process-schizophrenia 20 % is stated without the application of any of the modern shock-treatments.

Of all psychoses together a percentage of cure of 69.4 was found allowing an ample time of catamnese.

From the above we may conclude that the mental diseases in generation belong to the symptomatic psychoses.

It is still of importance that „amentia” especially shows up during puerperium, and during pregnancy and lactation period relatively oftener a depression is observed.

For pathogenesis it is of importance, that during pregnancy a number of symptoms (neuro-endocrine impairments, changes of metabolism, alterations in affects and impulses, food cravings) should be connected with changes in the function of the vegetative neuro-endocrine regulation-apparatus of the brain-stem to which also thalamus opticus belongs.

Also in the two other periods this brain-department is of special importance.

Further a great number of separate symptoms of generation-psychoses can be explained by supposing function-changes in the brain-stem.

Analogous symptoms we can observe in states of illness in which the mesodiencephalon is positively affected.

Finally we can draw attention to the favourable influence of an insuline-treatment to a praecomatose stage, from which a stimulating influence on the functioning of the brain-stem, which is supposed to be impaired, is expected.