

Graham Roberts - age 21; Ht. 5' 5"; Wt. 111 lbs; crippled in left leg; features good; expression pleasant: race, English; church, Unitarian; education, 3rd year H. S.; psychometric rating 15 years.

Reason for Commitment

This patient was sent to the hospital by the court after having been arrested for shooting his father. The shooting occurred as the result of a disordered mental condition which had become marked about five weeks before. He had at that time begun to lock the door before going to bed. He was restless at night and would get up in the middle of the night and go out and stay until noon the next day. The neighbors heard him shooting with a revolver which he had got thru a mail order house. He complained that people were against him and that certain people would look at him thru the bushes. He even saw some one pointing a gun at him. These delusions of persecution became associated with certain persons, a neighbor by the name of P. and the village physician. Finally the father became involved in the system. Meantime the family were getting much concerned and the father finally summoned the chief of police in order to get the revolver. It was in the attempt to get the revolver that the father was killed.

Personal History

Heredity and Early Influences

This boy comes of old New England stock. His paternal grandfather was a well-to-do farmer. The father was partner in a store in ----- . He was a hard-working man, but is said to have been cranky at home and not above reproach as to morals. The mother is spoken of as "not over-stocked mentally" and is nervous and high-strung. There is a question as to her morals and as to the legitimacy of the younger children. A brother two years younger than the pt. was slow in school and has been arrested twice for larceny. Another brother, aged 13 is healthy and does well in school. Of his early development we learn that the birth was normal but labor very difficult, lasting 13 hours and that he did not talk till the age of three. In his third year he developed a tubercular hip and knee. It is this which is responsible for his present lameness. He was treated at the children's hospital in Boston. In addition to being crippled he suffers also from an impediment in his speech, and has been very sensitive about this. We learn also that there was enuresis until between his tenth and eleventh years.

School Adjustments:

His work in school was irregular. In his first year of high school he failed in three subjects, English, biology and physics. In his second year he passed in all subjects. In his third year he failed in everything. The principal states that he seemed unable to concentrate and that his mind seemed to be forty miles away. Much of his leisure time was spent in trapping. He made as much as \$75 in a season in this way.

Social Adjustments

He was very sensitive both in regard to his physical handicap and in regard to the impediment in his speech. When called upon in school he would be confused and blunt. He seems to have been well-liked by the other boys but was very seclusive and spent much time in the woods alone, hunting and trapping.

Sex Adjustments

Beyond the fact that there was enuresis up until the age of 10 or 11 and that he was inclined to do a good deal of day-dreaming we have no information.

Characteristics of the Psychosis

Field of Attention This boy has always been of the seclusive, brooding type, spending much time alone and inclined to day-dream. During the psychosis this tendency was much accentuated. He was however much concerned as to what was going on around him.

Mood: During the disturbed period he was suspicious and anxious and then after the shooting overwhelmed with remorse and profoundly agitated.

Intellectual Functions: Orientation and memory good thruout, answers relevant and speech coherent.

Social Attitude: He was anxious, suspicious, agitated but never ugly or bitter. Normally this boy has been well-meaning and co-operative tho shy and seclusive.

Content of Thought: Ideas of persecution were the outstanding feature of the disturbed period. He thought that people were after him, that they were trying to shoot him, that a neighbor was putting clairvoyants on him and that they were poisoning his food. There were some elaborate formations tho not well-systematized.

Integration: There is evidence of a good bit of regression and disintegration at the time of the disturbance. There were hallucinations and ideas that he was going to be killed. The ideas were not however extremely bizarre and grotesque as in the deeper regressions.

Reaction Pattern: Over-sensitiveness and brooding followed by the projection of the personal difficulties upon other persons seems to be pattern in this case.

Subsequent History

At the beginning of his residence in the hospital he was much disturbed and agitated. Then he cleared up and showed himself friendly and co-operative. Seven months after his admission he was taking part in base ball and volley ball and in spite of his lameness he showed himself active and skilful and always gentlemanly, cheerful, obliging and full of grit. He has been working in the industrial room, doing good work. For the last three years he has had a parole and has given no evidence of psychotic behavior.