

Clayton Taylor, age 20 yrs; Ht. 5 ft. 9 in.; Wt. 140 lbs.; features, regular; general appearance attractive; race, mixed - English, Irish, French-Canadian; religion, Seventh Day Adventist; education, first year in college; occupation, student; physical findings, without gross pathology; intelligence rating, High.

Reason for Commitment

Committed to this hospital by transfer from Danvers in April 1927. He has been "nervous" since the previous July. He was at that time trying to decide upon his work for the coming year. There was also involved a love affair. Against his father's wishes, who insisted upon his remaining at home, he entered the medical school in the Atlantic Union College, a small Seventh Day Adventist school near his grandmother's home. It seems that the love affair had something to do with the decision. During his stay there he was bombarded with letters from his mother demanding that he come home. His love affair then went on the rocks. He was also torn by the feeling that he ought to study for the ministry instead of studying medicine. In January he yielded to the demands of his parents and came home. But he was unable to work. In February he had to go to a sanitarium. There he became so disturbed that they could not take care of him. He was therefore sent to Danvers. From Danvers he was transferred to Worcester at the request of his relatives.

Personal History

Heredity and Early Influences

He comes of neurotic stock and out of a difficult home situation. He was born very shortly after the marriage of his parents. His father had been engaged to marry another woman when it was discovered that the patient's mother was pregnant. He was forced to break his engagement to the other woman and marry her. Clayton was therefore an unwanted child. As a baby he was turned over to the paternal grandmother and has spent much of his life in her home. In his own home there has been little love and little understanding. His father has been nervous and irritable, his mother unreasonable and domineering, while his own attitude all the while has been obedient and rather over-conscientious. For some years, especially since Clayton has developed into an unusually talented and attractive boy there has been a severe struggle between the parents on the one side and the grandmother on the other to control him. In this struggle Clayton has been torn between the conflicting loyalties but his affections have remained with the grandmother. In this conflict have also been involved a conflict between his loyalty to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, the church of his grandmother and the Roman Catholic Church to which his mother belongs.

The grandparents with whom Clayton's early childhood was spent live in a small New England village. The grandfather operates a small farm and works also as a carpenter. He is a stubborn, unreasonable, irascible man who takes little interest in the church or in religion. The grandmother is small and gentle in manner, outwardly yielding but very tenacious and stubborn. She is a devoted member of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

The parents live in Lowell, where the father has for many years held a position with the City Fire Department. In appearance and in temperament he resembles his father. He is stubborn, unreasonable, irascible and given to taking refuge in fancied illnesses. He is not religiously inclined and belongs to no church, but in the differences between his mother and his wife, he inclines toward his wife. The wife is of Irish extraction. She is apparently a woman of some force, but she is ignorant, unreasonable and domineering. Little is known about her family beyond the fact that an uncle and one or two other members have been insane. In addition to Clayton, they have also a daughter two years younger than he, a very bright and attractive and popular girl.

As a baby Clayton was not strong. He required a great deal of care and attention. When he was about three years old his parents took him from the grandmother. He has since divided his time between the two homes.

Vocational Adjustments

Difficulty in choosing a vocation has been a factor in the present disturbance. He started in to study medicine with the idea of becoming a medical missionary. In this he is apparently influenced by a love affair with a girl living in the small town where the medical school is located which he elects to attend. Then he gets the idea that he ought to study for the ministry.

Previous to entering this school he had worked for some months on a milk route. He had found this work uninteresting if not distasteful.

His high school course had been a distinct success. He ranked second in scholarship in a class of two hundred.

Sex Adjustments

Difficulty in managing the sex drive is probably the chief factor in this disturbance. According to his own statement he began the practice of masturbation in his eighth year and continued this until he entered high school. During the high school period he succeeded in "sublimating the urge by study and work and social activities". After graduation, when he found an easy job on a milk route the trouble began again. It is clear that with him this difficulty has been attended with much crude erotic phantasy.

It appears also that mixed up in his difficulties there is a clear homosexual trend. He has been involved in several homo-sexual experiences. He is apparently of the type that homo-sexual addicts have no difficulty in singling out.

It also seems that the love affair involved in the onset of the disturbance was far less simple than it appeared in the original account. He said at first that the affair was broken up thru the opposition of the girl's mother and represented himself as broken-hearted over the matter. It has come out however that the mother's opposition, and apparently also the girl's change of attitude grew from the fact it became clear to them that he himself did not mean business, that he had serious doubts as to his right to marry and that his love-making did not get beyond some rather cheap sentimental utterances.

Social Adjustments

Clayton is distinctly of a likeable and attractive type. He is of the athletic figure and good features. He has a narrow face, deep-set eyes, well-formed nose and chin and dark wavy hair. Among his school-mates he was something of a leader. He was president of the honor society, editor-in-chief of the high-school annual, on the cabinet of the Hi-Y, a member of the basketball team. He does not however impress one as being particularly aggressive but rather gentle and submissive, more inclined to dream than to act.

His religious life has had many ups and downs. At the age of twelve he was serving as an altar boy in the Catholic Church and until his sixteenth year he attended faithfully. At that time as a result of reading a book given him by his grandmother, "the truth dawned upon him" and he became a Seventh Day Adventist, and decided eventually to devote himself to religious work.

This conversion to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, as might be expected aggravated the home situation and arrayed the parents against the grandmother.

While in school during the past year, he had, according to his account, a somewhat distinct religious experience connected with the choice of a vocation. He had been thinking that he ought to study for the ministry, worrying a good bit about it. When he was scheduled to make a speech of some importance. He became wrought up over this and he could not get his mind to work. In his distress he prayed for help and it came to him that if his speech went well, it meant that he ought to become a minister. There came to him then a feeling of great peace and trust and he made a brilliant success of his speech. This incident came apparently about the time or shortly before his love affair went wrong.

Characteristics of the PsychosisField of Attention

During the disturbed period, absorbed in his inner problems, not out of contact with his surroundings but responding chiefly to the inner promptings.

Mood:

He says of himself that he was not as much disturbed as he ought to have been. That judgment is perhaps correct. He was ~~depressed~~ and seemed apathetic and yet held ideas that usually are attended by an extreme degree of agitation. On admission he was not greatly disturbed but following a visit of his grandmother he became agitated and depressed until he had to be tube-fed.

Intellectual Functions:

Correctly oriented for time and place, memory intact, speech coherent and relevant. There is however considerable blocking or retardation. He apparently wants to talk and yet when asked even a simple question he would often wait for some time before replying.

Social Attitude

Attitude throughout idealistic and self-sacrificing, free from ideas of persecution and free from attempts at evasion or transfer of blame. He did a good deal of praying and preferred to have some one with him rather than to be alone. On each ward on which he was placed he singled out some patient as his particular friend. Toward those in authority he was however negativistic. He would not do what was requested of him and no amount of reasoning would make him stop insisting on whatever idea of his own he might happen to have. His leisure time was spent largely in sitting or standing still thinking.

During Clayton's stay here the hospital has been besieged by his relatives. The second Sunday after his arrival he had thirteen visitors. Following this he became disturbed. Later he seemed not to care particularly to see his relatives.

Content of Thought

Philosophy of Life and Eschatology. Chiefly concerned with the idea of an approaching cosmic catastrophe and the second coming of the Lord. He had dreams in which he could see Christ, surrounded by angels, riding on the clouds on his way to earth. He also felt that he had a special duty or office in connection with the Second Coming and was in some way to announce or prepare for it. One of these duties was the healing of the sick. It came to him that whenever he went to sleep the other patients began to moan and to groan. When he began to pray the groanings ceased. He spoke at one time of having committed the unpardonable sin. When questioned it came out that this unpardonable sin lay in placing himself on an equality with Christ and thus having a spirit of exaltation such as Satan had had. On one occasion when the importance of obeying orders was urged, he said, "Shouldn't I give orders?"

Self Estimate: In addition to these grandiose ideas he had also a marked sense of isolation from God, and the feeling of unworthiness was acute. He had at Danvers the vivid sense of shriveling up into nothingness.

Symbolism and Hidden Meanings: During the period of disturbance he saw hidden meanings in every trivial happening. The bells ringing mean something concerning him but he cannot figure out just what, so also the wagon passing under the arch-way, the arrangement of the furniture, snatches of song, incidental remarks, certain selections on the victrola. On one occasion while out walking a crow flew past. He took it to indicate a sombre future. He was moreover much disturbed by the fact that the nurse on his

ward was Mrs. Crowe. On another occasion he inquired if it were not true that he was going to be married that day. What could be the meaning of all the orange blossoms on the ward?

He is also obsessed with the idea that a great struggle is going on between certain organizations. He was not sure just what those organizations were but they seemed to be the Protestants and the Catholics; or perhaps it was the Adventists against the others. Every person whom he meets is assigned to the one group or the other. He is frequently at a loss to know where to place them. The chaplain has at one time or another been assigned to each of these groups.

Anxiety: Constant fear of something about to happen as already noted.

Guilt: Marked. Greatly troubled over his own sinfulness. Very little, perhaps no projection of responsibility.

Incapaciation : Not in evidence

Persecution: Ideas of poisoned food and of the work of secret organizations directed against him have been present. They are not however prominent.

Erotic Interests: After the disturbed period had passed there was some perverse pleasure-taking in the form of masturbation and masturbation phantasies, also some homo-sexual episodes.

Religious Concern: Marked thruout. He still feels himself called to an important mission of some sort.

Integration

Definite hallucinations present during disturbed period. He spoke of getting revelations right along. The ideas of cosmic catastrophe and of cosmic identification and the constant reading in of hidden meanings into trifling acts all indicate a profound regression and the going to pieces of his subjective world.

Reaction Pattern

The life-situation here is somewhat complex. There are certain marked mal-adjustments in the sexual sphere, there is the unhappy love affair, there is the conflict between the two loyalties, that due to his parents and that due to his grandmother. There is also the difficulty of choosing a vocation. He is aware of danger and attempting to face it. He also makes a supreme surrender. In December he gives up his girl. In January he accedes to his parents demands, gives up his own career and goes home.