

frequent delusions among white people suffering from mental disease.

In his study of insane people, he investigated the relation between the types of mental disease and the economic, social status of the patients and their race, nationality and sex. For this purpose he studied the records of several hundred patients admitted to the Cook County Psychopathic Hospital of Chicago and the Chicago State Hospital.

Money and Religion

He found the most prevalent forms of delusions of grandeur in both negro and white patients refer to money and religion. These delusions concerning money are twice as common among Americans as foreign born patients. The latter are more likely to have delusions concerning professional or religious power. This shows that the ideal of success instilled into American children concerns money.

But piling up money is a sign of success which not every one can achieve. Neither can every European child achieve success in religious or professional fields. To many of those who are destined to failure, the goal becomes so important that they lose sight of everything else, Dr. Sherman explained. No longer able to recognize or face reality, they suffer mental breakdown of a form which makes them see themselves as second Rockefellers or Victor Hugos or they believe they have a mission to save the world. A few Americans, 9 per cent. of the patients Dr. Sherman studied, might fancy themselves second Edisons, but no such grandiose delusions concerning inventions were found in the foreign born.

Negroes as Benefactors

Among negroes, delusions of superiority in literary and educational fields were found to be a close third to those concerning money and religion, but were relatively infrequent in the whites. An interesting finding was that many of the negroes who had grandiose delusions concerning money, saw themselves as benefactors of their race. They would, in their fancy, acquire huge sums to found schools. The white patients whose grandiose delusions ran to money were concerned with it as a means to social or business achievement.

Dr. Sherman found that college graduates had more delusions of grandeur than persons who had never attended college. This he attributes to four more years of following the Bulwer-Lytton-

Richelieu maxim, Never say fail, or to four more years of emphasis on football champions, honor societies and prom leaderships.

Among white people a man who loses his sense of the world's realities is twice as apt to consider himself a grand and important figure as a woman. But among negroes, the women are just as apt as the men to see themselves as prominent or powerful personages.

White men who found competition for success in the world too much for them most commonly delude themselves into thinking they were powerful and successful financiers or business men. On the other hand, Dr. Sherman did not find a single white woman among the patients he studied in these mental disease hospitals who considered herself a second Hetty Green. Instead the women who failed, though they did not realize it, sought escape from disappointing reality in delusions of a religious nature, comforting themselves with the idea that they were Joan of Arc types, perhaps.

Control of Others

Among other delusions of grandeur with which people who have failed sometimes comfort themselves in an unreal world, are ideas that they can control other people through hypnotism or through electricity emanating from their bodies.

Servants and laborers are less apt to have these delusions of grandeur than persons higher up in the social scale.

MEDICINE

Heart Stimulant Effective As Cyanide Antidote

AMYL NITRITE, well-known heart stimulant, is a better antidote in cyanide poisoning than the dye, methylene blue, it appears from experiments reported to The Journal of the American Medical Association by Drs. K. K. Chen and G. H. A. Clowes and Charles L. Rose of Indianapolis.

These experiments indicate that amyl nitrite is at least twice as efficient an antidote to cyanide as the blue dye. It is also more easily given, since it may be administered by inhalation while the dye must be injected by hypodermic.

The blue dye has recently been used with success in treating cases of both



PSYCHOLOGICAL ERROR

Scene from Bulwer-Lytton's play, Richelieu—on the left is Francois, to whom the Cardinal makes the oft-quoted remark "In the lexicon of youth—there is no such word as fail"—Dr. Mandel Sherman, modern psychologist, says he was wrong.

These findings, Dr. Sherman hopes, will give mental hygienists clues to what stresses in childhood lead to mental breakdown in adulthood. The mental hygienist, who tries to prevent mental breakdown, can take more practical steps in this direction by following these clues and relieving the strains they indicate in the life of the child.

Science News Letter, July 22, 1933

cyanide and carbon monoxide poisoning and has become the subject of considerable scientific discussion.

The Indianapolis scientists started their investigations on amyl nitrite following reports of Dr. E. Hug and Dr. W. B. Wendel. The former showed that sodium nitrite was a better antidote for cyanide than methylene blue, and both Dr. Hug and Dr. Wendel, working independently, came to the conclusion that methylene blue neutralizes the effect of the poison by forming the compound, cyanmethemoglobin

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