

NERVOUS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS AS RELATED TO CERTAIN CAUSATIONS OF CONDUCT DISORDER *

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In no branch of scientific therapy does one need to establish a clearer conception of etiology than in the treatment of disordered or antisocial conduct. The rewards of discovery of causes are here often astonishingly direct.

While developing case studies in one interesting portion of this rich field, which is being more and more opened to medicopsychologists, we frequently discover nervous signs and symptoms significantly correlated with etiologic facts of great moment for interpretation of the case. In stating that such interlocking phenomena are frequently found, we must frankly admit that they are not always present in instances of apparently like causation, and that their discovery does not indicate the same relationships or the same etiology. The lack of standard correlations is, after all, just such as we recognize in the symptomatology of many functional disorders.

It may be best to direct our discussion from the standpoint of some specific type of conduct. From detailed case records we might consider various sorts of misbehavior in which disturbed nervous reactions offered evidence of the etiology. We could take examples of violent temper, sometimes with assaults on property or person, cruelties or definite sadism, various sorts of extreme meannesses, exhibitionism, fetich collecting, deliberate moral contamination of others, to say nothing of other forms of sex misconduct, persistent school truancy, running away from home, desertion, miserliness, malicious mistreatment of property, setting fires. Many of these are quite evidently based on disordered emotions or on the distorted play of instinct, or otherwise rather obviously connote the possibility of accompanying nervous or mental disturbance.

For the best example of misconduct that would seem to be quite unrelated to nervous phenomena of any kind, except possibly those concomitant with fear and shame, we may take stealing; sometimes cases of the usual type of thieving, but in other instances abnormally motivated stealing, thieving not engaged in for the easily understandable purposes of gain or possession. Cases of plainly abnormal stealing are sometimes brought directly to the specialist in nervous and

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mental disease on account of the unusual character of the conduct motivation, friends naturally thinking of the possibility of some pathologic condition of the nervous system. From our extensive material we can offer sufficient illustrations of nervous reactions related to this single form of misconduct to serve adequately the purposes of our present text.

SUBJECTIVE PHENOMENA; REPORT OF CASES

Beginning with subjective phenomena we find in our records numerous instances of headaches, "queer feelings" in the head, feelings of excitement and even dizziness, cases in which these symptoms have been significant clues of etiologic factors.

CASE 1.—Take the case of a girl now 15 years old, of somewhat limited mentality and good physique, whom we have had under observation for almost two years, who, up to the time we first saw her had repeatedly stolen in petty ways from homes and sometimes from other places. She herself doubted whether a single month had gone by since she was 5 years old that she had not stolen. She had taken small sums of money and all sorts of trinkets, in spite of corporal punishment and many other efforts at disciplinary treatment by her own respectable family and other people with whom she was placed. She purloined many things of no particular value which she could not use in any way, secreting objects, being generous with money taken, and once unraveling part of a sweater that was being knitted by a member of the family and hiding the yarn. During analysis we found that she derived great excitement from her stealing episodes and a definite sensation of dizziness. Sometimes she wanted to take something, anything, and if she did dizziness and excitement followed, and a little later perhaps a feeling of remorse.

Of course such symptoms indicated some disturbance in her mental life and the revelations of her mental content made the fact particularly clear in this case because the girl herself so plainly worked out for us the links in the chain of associations, going back to early experiences. These involved disturbing sex experiences, first acquaintance with sex words and ideas, together with first knowledge of stealing. Recurrent experiences led to ideation and imagery almost obsessive, which persisted for years. We have her own account of the curious mental mechanisms involved. For example, at 13 years of age, returning for a visit to her home town after a long absence, she engaged in an orgy of stealing foolish things. This was all just after seeing again one of the participants in the original sex-stealing situation, a boy whose name, of course, she had forgotten, but could recall after a time with us. "I took the things only after I saw him." At this time she hid the articles stolen and repeatedly went to look at them, each time experiencing the peculiar feeling which she describes as excitement and dizziness. This is one of the cases in which the analysis of the situation resulted in immediate and continued cessation of the stealing, with no recurrence of the nervous symptoms.

CASE 2.—An active-minded, unusually coherent boy of 9 years, given to such excessive stealing that it was practically a daily affair, reiterated to us at several interviews his marked feelings of nervous upset on occasions when certain ideas recurred to him. After recognizing his nervous reactions during mental testing we found nothing but possibly his moderate coffee drinking to account for them. Placed in a good suburban home he continued to steal with such

frequency that two months later we were asked to see him again and made a much more thorough inquiry. We received finally a specific account of feelings of great nervousness at times concomitant with certain definite mental content. Through this we were led to a first real understanding of his conduct. It was thoughts of a boy, now dead, who had taught him at the same time sex affairs and stealing. "When I feel like taking things I feel nervous and kind of dizzy, and when I think of those niggers and those girls I think of upsetting the whole world. I get excited. I feel funny all over. I feel like turning the whole house upside down on its chimneys." Exploring these experiences and mental associations seems to have started a new career for this boy in spite of the fact that he earlier remarked, "Now I have got started I never can stop. I have two bad habits and one of them is stealing." During several months now he has not stolen, the first break in a delinquent career that had already lasted a long time. It was not his placing out, it was not merely a new environment that turned the trick; as a matter of fact, he stole daily when placed out after first seen by us and when no prolonged or careful analysis was undertaken. The ordinary physical and mental examination threw no light on causation and accomplished nothing therapeutically.

CASE 3.—A boy, 8 years old, of good mental ability, positive and nonsuggestible, who had already been complained of in court by his parents for stealing and repeated running away from home, on study by us was found to be quiet, serious and decidedly reticent. We had to see him over and over to acquire any fair understanding of his background, although we early found that he had times when his "head hurt." It was most significant in this case that, reticent and resistant though this boy was, he voluntarily came again and again to see us. It gradually developed that he had "funny feelings" in his head, "cross and mean" feelings which were directly connected with his thoughts about what bad boys do to each other and about a word, "It begins with f," which a boy had spelled out to him the year before. "He learned me how to spell it. He wrote it on the wall. He swears; he takes money from his mother. He told me about stealing."

CASE 4.—Another boy, 9 years old, we saw because he was complained of for serious delinquencies, truancy, unmanageableness at home, as well as stealing. He was a boy of good mental ability and fair physical development with some pathologic conditions, namely, slight otitis media and carious teeth. He complained of headaches. We advised, of course, treatment at the hands of specialists and, because of home and neighborhood circumstances, we advocated his being placed in another home. Here for some months he did well, improving much in his behavior except in regard to stealing, and in physical condition except for headaches. We saw him once more and again found in this case that our previous examination, while including the ordinary inquiries, had not reached far enough into either the possible causation of his headaches or stealing. He now seemed most anxious to fathom his difficulties, and his own statements were most illuminating. He feels "rotten and queer" at times, he tells us, and those times are when what he heard about bad things comes into his mind. It is bad words which make his head ache and they make him dizzy, too. He tries hard to get rid of them. "It makes me think of getting into places and taking things." Just before leaving us he said, "When they come in my mind, I try to cross them out, like this (gesturing an X) and sometimes they stick to me and sometimes they don't."

CASE 5.—From the cases in which headaches have been reported we may also cite the instance of a boy of 13 years, good in mental ability and normal in

physical development, who demonstrated nervous tendencies by his tense, frowning expression and jerking, incoordinate movements. At home and to us he complained of severe headaches; they were in the back of his head; they came on at night; the boy stated that he used to get out of bed and cry with the pain. His mother put cotton in his ears for it. Worry about words brought on the headaches—bad words in bad stories. The things that had bothered him most in his life had been the bad things he had heard about girls and about stealing and these headaches. He would like a chance to stay in a quiet place, he said.

This has been one of our most unsuccessful cases. Placed with good people, his temperament and the death of both parents seemed to stand in the way of his overcoming his delinquent tendencies. Further stealing led to his commitment to an institution. Before this and several months after we saw him first he reported that his headaches had ceased.

CASE 6.—In our Chicago series there was a boy of 8 years, who was considered a desperate problem because he stole. The mother had long known of certain headaches; he complained to her frequently at night about pain in the back of his head and queer feelings there. Pointing to the occipital region he had long ago told her that a word hurt him there. Of course she paid no attention to such a strange remark and had merely told him not to think about it any more; she thought he ought to have some medicine for his headaches. Coming from an open-faced, frank, pleasant, bright-eyed little boy who, in spite of excessive stealing, was reported to be a consistent truth teller, his story to us proved most striking. He went into some detail about his headaches. "It goes right to here in my head and goes all around here and gets me dizzy." "I try to go to sleep and it hurts me. I sleep a little and it starts up again. It hurts me awfully in my head; only at night." We asked him what he thought made him dizzy and headachy. "It's what the kids told me. I roll all around in bed and mamma can't stop me. I think about what they told me, about that stuff, and sometimes it goes right up to my eyes." Other extracts from his statements may be used to give the gist of the situation. "I don't know that word now, I can't remember it. I told my mother it hurt me in my head." "That N. boy talks bad. He says go ahead and steal, steal." He did not want to say those words, he told us with a sigh, because his mother had told him not to say bad words. "It hurts me awfully in my head." Six months later the boy was still in the old environment, was seeing the other boys, was occasionally stealing and somewhat indulging in the masturbation which had begun earlier. However, he said, "Nothing hurts me in my head any more, I'm glad it don't." We advised placing him in some other private home in order that he might have the reeducational opportunity that he needed. This was done and half a year later a marvellous change was reported as having already continued for several months; there had been no stealing whatever and his other bad habits had been discontinued.

The sign or symptom of something abnormal is often phrased as "nervousness" by the relative giving the history or by the young person who is the subject of investigation as a conduct problem. Tense-ness of manner or feeling, shown often by nervous habits, particularly biting the nails, irritability in social reactions, undue restlessness or tendency to hyperactivity, are evidently what is generally meant by this nervousness.

CASE 7.—One of the worst patients with antisocial behavior we have had to deal with in recent years gave us, when he was in his best mood, a vivid description of his own inner turmoil and its effect on him. When he thought of S. (a companion from whom he learned much that was unfortunate and whose name he could not remember at first) he became nervous. "I think of him and then I get all nervous and I bite my nails." "I don't know what's the matter with me; maybe I could get over it if I went somewhere else. Somehow I can't help it because I am so nervous; even when they get sore I bite them and keep on biting them. When I get nervous I want to steal. I'll be playing a game and will want to think of another game and everything will come up in my mind at once and I'll have to sit down." At another time this healthy looking country boy of 11 years, unusually strong for his age, in altogether a different mood, obviously tense and irritable, told us that he did not love anybody, he hated even himself, he would just as soon be sent to prison or anywhere, and our questions made his head ache. Much might be said about this case, about his arrest at 9 years for burglary and recently for burglary with a revolver in his possession, other stealing, about his irritability at home, unkindness to children and animals, wakefulness at night, complaints of feeling nervous, absolute self-centerment, even though completely gregarious. In the back ground, by way of possible causation, directly and particularly, was his association with a couple of bad companions, who stole and with whom he repeatedly had pervert sex experiences.

Placed in a private family for a few days' observation, this boy proved even more impossible than in his own home; he stole a valuable watch, was up at all hours of the night trying doors, broke up furniture, ran away—and so had at once to be sent away to a reform school without anything more constructive being done for him.

CASE 8.—Another case with a better outcome was that of a boy, 13 years old, whose wornout mother asked that he be put away because of repeated stealing, truancy, troublesomeness and low marks in school, and his bad and nervous behavior at home. He was fidgety, restless, irritable, had occasional headaches and dizzy spells and seemed to have something on his mind, she told us. He had irregular habits of eating and coming home; had been biting his nails for a long time. In some ways he showed good traits; he was very nice to younger children, even to babies.

Seen by us, the boy proved to be poorly controlled both physically and mentally. He showed incoordinate movements of hands and body, bit his nails and fingers, seemed much worried and repressed. He cried when he was asked to do mental tests, answered questions rather incoherently, stated that he could not say what he meant, and his attention varied greatly. He told us that he felt so nervous sometimes that he put his fingers in his ears when the cars went around the corner. After inquiry he said that it was what happened under the wharves, watching homosexual affairs between the boys, "That's what got me nervous. One fellow showed me a picture, a photograph. The kids said it came from France. I guess it's that stuff made me nervous. Another kid has a picture I won't look at. It all makes me feel queer." He wanted to go to the country, he pathetically stated, because there perhaps he could forget those things and become more healthy. After this exploration the boy was sent to a relative for the summer and then he returned home. The school reports now for months have been the reverse of his previous record, his scholarship is fair, attendance perfect, conduct good. He is much less nervous and appears happy.

In not a few instances the delinquent young people we have studied have given us an account of "queer feelings" that seem to be definite nervous phenomena to them.

CASE 8.—As an example we might take the case of a boy highly supernormal and alert mentally, who showed nothing unusual on the physical side, except somewhat poor color, a rather tired look, slight incoordinate movements of the hands, and some undue restlessness. Although only 10 years old, he had been stealing considerably over a period of four years. This dated back, we found from the boy, to the influence of a companion who taught him stealing and masturbation, the latter having been discontinued under the efforts of a woman with whom his mother boarded him. Concerning his queer feelings, of which he definitely informed Dr. Bronner, he said that they were caused by things he had been told at 6 years of age. "If I could forget the words." "They give me a funny feeling all over. They make me feel bad and if I wouldn't feel bad I think I wouldn't steal." It is over a year now since this boy for the first time revealed his inner mental life in its relation to his sensations and conduct. We lately have a report from his family, who brought him to us originally, that a wonderful change came over him at once and has been maintained. He has not stolen in all this time and he can now be trusted with money and is truthful and takes great pride in his honesty.

CASE 9.—The queer feelings, the tenseness and the worry were felt by one boy as a sort of an attack, something coming over him, connected with ideas which arose evidently like obsessions in his mind. This was also a bright boy of 10 years, thoughtful and imaginative, who with his perplexed expression and his high-pitched voice appeared to be decidedly nervous and high strung. He had been stealing for two years in spite of good discipline and often sympathetic treatment. Just before we saw him he had looted his father's strong box at his shop, taking \$118 in cash, checks and other papers. The checks, etc., he returned by mail and stayed away from home for a week, a rather desperate adventure for a very small boy.

Again, the boy's own words told the story we are here interested in. Although shortly given, they indicate a little of his really mature approach to his problem. "I get sore lots of times. Because that bothers me, see, about the boys. They tell me about the girls and robbing. They bother me, see, when they tell me about girls. Boys write things on the walls and they spell it out like this. It was on X place when I first heard it. I tried to forget it, but I couldn't. I can't leave go of it. I think and think and then I forget what I went to do. Sometimes I don't know what I'm doing, I'm so bothered. The worst is the bad things they say. That \$118, I don't know for what I done it myself." Some months after our examination the father reported with much gratitude that there had been no further trouble with this boy.

As we should naturally expect, the general feeling of irritability may be expressed objectively by exhibitions of crossness or mean behavior to others.

CASE 10.—A child of 8 years, who had been stealing much, setting fires dangerously several times, was mean to other children, quarrelsome and showed violent temper spells, said, "The words, I think of them, sometimes I say them to myself. When I think of them I get into mischief. The words make me

cross. I think of these words and of bad boys and I do everything I'm not supposed to. I feel mean when I do those bad things. I worry; I want to know what the words are."

CASE 10a.—A sullen and evasive boy of 9, called unmanageable at home as well as a little thief, wrote certain words for us and says, "When I think of these I feel like everything, I feel cross."

CASE 11.—Another pilfering boy of 11 years, active, restless, quarrelsome, domineering, did poorly under our observation for about a year, when our recommendations for placing him were not carried out. Then on further study of him we succeeded in getting facts that seemed to explain the causative background of his bad behavior, and since then the same observers report a great change for the better in his conduct under the same home circumstances. He blurted out, "Something is the matter with my mind. It's because I always have bad thoughts. They don't make me feel good. I feel cross. It's a word." "What is it?" "That's the trouble, I can't tell, I can't say the word because it's a mortal sin. The priest says I should say a prayer and sometimes it helps and sometimes it don't." The boy wrote an Italian bad word, refused to write it in English, but said it begins with "f."

CASE 12.—A still more specific example is that of a little girl of 11. About her temptation to steal she said, "I feel as if I was angry with them, some boy and girl, and then when I feel cross or angry I stretch out my hand and take it. I say to myself, 'If Johnny was stealing, I can take it if he could.' I feel angry before I take things, and then afterward I shake like everything." It would take pages to do justice to the mechanisms of this girl's associations as they were slowly developed in her self-revelation. She told how cross she became when boys or men tried to make up to her, she told of her irritations at certain phrases which suggested to her certain other bad things that she had heard boys say. She reiterated that it was her crossness aroused by either kind of experience that made her feel like stealing. The framework of this dynamic associative structure seemed to be as follows: Brought up in a home of great repression, she reacted, with extreme feeling and without confiding in anybody, to exhibitionism on the part of a boy whom we may call Albert. Some time later a second boy, Jimmy, said in her presence some obscene words to which she gave sex meaning. Then and ever since these words or other similar obscenities recalled this affair with Albert. Next in the associative structure was the fact that Johnny, who stole much, as she happened to know, was the chum of Jimmy. Without any other sex experience, the middle element, obscenity, or ideation concerning it, or casual contact with men or boys, or even their friendliness, recalled either or both of the other elements, ideation concerning exhibitionism or stealing. The crossness and anger that were aroused might then be relieved by stealing. "Now I think I can stop stealing," said this little girl a year ago, after a first day of resistance and a second day of unburdening. And she has.

CASE 13.—Another little boy, of 8 years, complained of for excessive petty stealing, told us that he was a member of a secret service club and in recounting the activities of that organization of youngsters said that the bad words he heard "Make me feel rotten, I want to fight everybody I meet, my little sister; I feel cross. I go about like crazy. My brains make me steal when I don't want to." The story of his misconduct quite bore out his own description of his inner mental life; at home and elsewhere he seemed uncontrollable. His teachers reported him bright, attractive, likeable and that if let alone he seemed to go into a dream.

CASE 14.—A nervous manifestation of great interest as evidently related to the causation of a really desperately developing criminal career was found in the case of a boy of 13, referred to us by the Boston City Hospital. The boy had engaged in systematic stealing for years; it had been indulged in with periods of intermission since he was 6 years old. At times it had amounted to an orgy of thieving. Placed in an institution for the second time, shortly before we saw him, he had jumped out of a second story window, but was not seriously injured. The signs of his nervousness were appreciated by his parents, the family physician and at the hospital, but no explanation was forthcoming. One doctor had thought offhand that he might be defective and he was sent to Dr. W. E. Fernald, who found that he was not feeble-minded.

The story of the boy's anomalous tendencies is long, but I give a short summary. He was quite honest at home, stealing elsewhere in spells. He was naturally very timid, not fond of athletics, and cried quite easily if hurt a little, yet in his stealing he had engaged in bold escapades. He was afraid of the dark, but had repeatedly slept out all night; once his father found him in a dog kennel. Sometimes he was gloomy and depressed though generally cheerful. He was reticent about himself, though talkative about exploits of other boys. He was generous, giving away anything, courteous and polite. He read many books superficially and had some artistic skill in painting and modeling. He had been nervous for years, biting his nails badly and biting his lips at times. He twirled his hair and picked at his hands constantly if his father took him to task. Sometimes at night in bed he shivered so that he shook the bed. Enuresis was present for a short time when he was 6 years old. (Careful inquiry brought out nothing that resembled epileptic attacks.)

He indulged in stealing strangely. He had taken many chances of being caught and being hurt and he had taken many things for which he had no use. For example, when he had a good bicycle of his own he stole several others, without attempting to sell them. He had done such things as breaking into a place to steal something he had seen through the window; he had made away with a package he saw in a carpenter's shop. He had taken money from school children and many things on many occasions.

It was the boy's own account of his behavior and experiences that was of main interest. At one period of our attempt to analyze with him his own career and reactive tendencies he said in response to our query whether he knew why he stole so excessively, "It's because of things I don't like to talk about." Concerning his ideas of stealing he said, "They come usually when I'm not busy, then I have to start jumping round and then I forget about it." Talking of his nervousness he said, "I see something and I shake till I take it." It was like the shaking he had in bed. Several times he told us he wished he could have some medicine that would cure his nerves. He thought he could stop stealing if he could get medicine so that he wouldn't shake. "It would keep me from planning these things. (When?) In the day time or at night. I mean if I am walking along and see something. Then something comes up. I have a nervous feeling and go and take it. I feel nervous all over. I would be looking all over and I would stand still and I don't know whether to take it or leave it there." In response to questions, he told us his heart beat hard then, he shook or shivered, and also had erections. And all this, which may be in front of a shop window, is the same sort of affair that goes on at night in bed. "And when I have that feeling in the toilet I get nervous too." And then he feels "like going out and stealing."

The shaking spells which were made so much of by the boy and his fairly intelligent father seemed most peculiar adjuncts to the situation. At the times when he has these spells he has in mind or has just had in mind, so he worked out the situation with us, a couple of boys who first taught him stealing. But even more vividly than his first experience in stealing with them at 5 years, which his father corroborated, for they were notorious youngsters, stood out in his mind his experiences with them when at about the same time on a couple of occasions in an old shed in a field they undressed him and initiated him in sex practices. They took off all their clothes together there. We hesitated much to suggest by direct questioning and he did not offer any statements of being cold and shivering on that occasion, which seems more than likely. He said that he was not hurt or frightened. He was not sure what time of year it was, but we have some intimation in the fact that it was about this time that he stole with them the first time, and the object was a snowshovel. It seems highly probable that his ideation concerning these other boys and the event in the shed in the field is also associated with subconscious memories of shivering, and the shivering recurs as well as thoughts about the boys.

At any rate, getting this whole affair clearly set forth and faced six months ago resulted immediately in complete cessation of stealing and of the shivering attacks. The father says, "He seems a changed boy."

CASE 15.—Peculiar dizziness and nausea were part of the reactions of Tom, a supernormal nail-biting boy, 9 years old, to a situation which involved his brother. Dan, this brother, is a couple of years older, also a bright boy, and we had the opportunity of studying him also and corroborating the facts. Dan had a friend Jim and Jim taught Dan to steal long before Tom knew about it. Dan for a time stole much. Jim also taught him bad words which he passed on to Tom. The latter said he wouldn't say them, he didn't ever say them, he thought them and they made him dizzy. He had never told anybody about them; they made him feel queer; they made him feel sick; they made him steal. When Dan was at the table the words came into his mind and made him sick at the stomach and he couldn't eat. He left the table sometimes.

There is much in the record of this case, too, but in short it may be said that the situation at home was so acute that we advised that this boy be placed elsewhere after this exploration. He did very well, even though his statements to us from time to time evidenced that his brother was much on his mind. We appealed to Dan concerning the use of bad words and then Tom went home and has done wonderfully well for a long time. No more stealing, no nausea is reported. He does not bite his nails so much.

The situation is especially interesting because of the different reactions in the two boys. Dan had stopped stealing before we knew him; he did not repress the words; he did not worry about them; he was altogether an objective little chap; he had no mental conflict.

OTHER PHENOMENA ASSOCIATED WITH CONDUCT DISORDER

There are other phenomena that deserve at least some mention: Occasionally tics must have significance for us as not fortuitously occurring in connection with delinquency, as in the instance in which a boy said that not only his impulses to steal but also his twitching of the face and half-shrug of the shoulders followed a miserable experience with an older delinquent. He said, exhibiting his tic, "Its when I

think of him that I do like this." Or it certainly indicates something when a wholesome-looking little girl, who repeatedly steals even directly after punishment, persistently looking at the ceiling when questioned, not answering although compressing and moving her lips, furiously wrings her hands. The latter action, indeed, had been rightly recognized by teachers and others as a sign of nervous or mental disturbance in her case.

A boy, reported nervous, says that he is so nervous that he shakes or gets hot and sweaty and has intestinal symptoms as he thinks of stealing and of the circumstances that surrounded his earliest acquaintance with stealing. The nervous symptoms peculiarly disappear in the act of stealing; there is no excitement and no fear afterward, as one would naturally expect. He is another boy that pleads for a chance for a quiet life.

Stuttering is so genetically related to character abnormalities in certain cases of delinquency that it has received special recognition by neurologists and psychologists. And the same is true of hysteria—we need not dwell on the protean manifestations of this condition as connected with delinquent careers.

IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL CONFLICT IN CONDUCT DISORDER

There is much that is of incidental interest in this whole discussion; for example, the peculiar perplexity and concern of these young people about their own mental affairs, the fact that so many of them are far above the average in mental ability, their frequent forgetfulness of the names of persons whose memory is bound up with their earliest experience with delinquency and unpleasant feelings, their great resistance to sex words, being willing, however, to write them or say the first letter, their own reaction to their own story—some have asked to be allowed to continue at another time because there is more to tell—the strong signs of repression with many, the emphasis which they place on their own feelings of queerness, so unusual in children. Only rarely have dreams seemed to be of value to us in getting at essential causations.

Thus, in connection even with a form of delinquency in which we should least expect it, we find many nervous phenomena—feelings of worry, of being bothered, of depression, of tenseness and general nervousness and excitement. And more definite symptoms—dizziness, headaches, nausea, nervous exhaustion—are reported. Plainly to be observed are biting of the nails, pulling out of hair, marked restlessness, shaking and shivering attacks. During analysis of the case all these are clearly stated by the subject to be specifically related to certain ideation recognized as undesirable. Perhaps there is nothing

any more remarkable in this than that physical or specifically nervous signs and sensations accompany other ideation with emotional context, events in sex life, thoughts accompanied by anger, fear, embarrassment, etc. At any rate it comes about that recognition of the significance of these nervous signs leads, in not a few instances of delinquency, to unearthing etiologic facts and experiences that are of prime importance for making over the individual, nervously and morally.

I have set forth elsewhere that just such a background as is depicted in the cases cited may lead to a prolonged career of misconduct, even of criminality. The establishment of habit, of a set of mind goes on here as elsewhere. Perhaps the nervous symptoms tend to decrease or cease during the course of years, while delinquencies persist, but we have seen numerous instances of their continuance well into adolescence and sometimes to young adult life. There is no escaping the fact that this type of a career, neurotic and delinquent, is a matter of grave concern, not only to the individual and the immediate family, but to society in general.

Intensive study of a large number of young delinquents has led to the conclusion that about 10 per cent. are sufferers from the inner turmoil that we call mental conflict. It is to the importance of this field and the remarkable possibilities of therapeutic accomplishment that I wish to call attention by stressing cases in which the essential disturbance for some reason has the above outward manifestations or indicators.