

foreground of the picture. The author's attention was called to the complex by a small number of cases—five, among them being one psychasthenic with compulsory ideas and one case of compulsion neurosis. Four of these cases the author was able to observe during a long period. He found that invariably at stage of development there had been a comparison of the patient's own body with that of a male person, a father, an uncle or a brother, as the incident from which the wish to be a man originated. The desire was found to exist when the patients themselves were not conscious of it, at least not in the primitive form of a belief in the possibility of possessing a male organ. The expressions by which the presence of this tendency may be recognized, even when there is no definite consciousness of the real thing desired, became clear in the analysis, taking the form of ambition to exercise power, the desire to press forward, the inclination to assume an aggressive attitude instead of the passive one characteristic of the female sex. In one of his patients, a successful musician, the author traces the various characteristics in detail. In childhood she had exhibited morbid curiosity in regard to the relation of her father to her mother as well as abnormalities in regard to the performance of the urinary functions. In childhood she had often heard her parents regret that she was not a boy. She felt the injustice of this attitude keenly and the resulting bitterness was very evident in the analysis. She was brought into constant competition with her brothers, surpassing one of them in her attainments but falling behind the other. She was deeply impressed by the form of the body in males which she had opportunity to observe in the members of her family, in her brothers, her father, and an uncle with whom in later life she fell in love. This incestuous love affair, in fact, was the immediate cause of the neurosis which rendered treatment necessary. Her dominating idea was that she was not like other women and that a penis was growing out of her body, confirmation of which she found in a slight abnormality of growth. From his observation of this case, together with his study of the other four, the author comes to the conclusion that the conditions giving rise to this phantasy is the identification with the father or with the father substitute, based on a narcissistic foundation. Clitoris eroticism plays an important rôle and the phantasy finds a favorable soil where the bladder and urethral libido is intense. If no successful homosexual or heterosexual adjustment is formed there is regression to an autoerotic level. The author fears that the cases here cited are too few to permit him to claim conclusive value for his impressions, but he is nevertheless impelled to publish them in the hope that they may serve as an incentive to further research. [J.]

Tausk, V. *PSYCHOLOGY OF DESERTERS.* [Internat. Ztschft. f. a. Psychoanalyse, Vol. IV, Nos. 4-5.]

In forming opinions concerning deserters, military courts have a different point of departure from psychologists. The author is well aware that, at a time when others are making supreme sacrifices for their

country, a defense of deserters will meet with little favor. Nevertheless he ventures to set forth the real pathological conditions responsible for the conduct of a large majority of these persons. The law expresses very definite views on the subject of right and wrong, but at the same time recognizes by implication the existence of psychological compulsions, with the result that complete confusion reigns in the legal view of the question. Tausk indicates the manner in which psychoanalysis may be applied to bring some order out of chaos. Three points should first of all be noted: the great majority of deserters never belonged with the fighting forces at all and should have been assigned to occupations behind the lines; the motive for desertion is rarely the desire to escape service, for the fugitives often undergo sufferings far in excess of those they would have endured in the field; at least half of the deserters who came to the author's attention were so clearly weakminded and mentally defective, that their condition was apparent at the first glance. The effort of the psychoanalyst is not, the author states, to include all these conditions under one general head so that the same punishment may be meted out to them indiscriminately, but rather to resolve the phenomena into their various psychic elements and in this way distinguish the different types of deserters and the real motives for their conduct. In the first category of deserters may be placed hysterics and epileptics. Persons suffering from these diseases are likely at any time to wake up, as from a dream, in a strange place without being able to tell how they came there or why; they certainly cannot be said to have had conscious intention of evading their duty. The second category is composed of restless souls without confusion or memory blanks. To understand their condition it is necessary to take into consideration certain of the principles of psychoanalysis. The great discovery of Freud is that childhood is not merely a transitional or provisional stage, but that the dynamic elements of childhood continue to exist in the adult, in some instances remaining almost unchanged. The child's chief characteristic is the inability to put off or renounce the satisfaction of its cravings. The child lives wholly according to the pleasure principle. By discipline and education a sublimation of these cravings is brought about and in the psyche a new source of satisfaction is developed when the springs of infantile pleasure run dry. With a great many children, however, discipline and education is impossible. They cease to advance beyond a certain level of development and there is fixation upon some fundamental and primitive desire or craving of childhood. What these persisting affects are has been discovered from an unvarying uniformity in numberless cases; one of them revolt of the son against the father, closely connected with the *Œdipus* wish, or love for the mother, and allied to the fear of the father leading to the castration complex. Now in this second category of deserters the histories reveal that the desertion from the colors is not the first flight of this sort. It will be found that the impulse has always been to escape from restraint—from the father or teacher or any other

person or authority which may be considered as a substitute for the father. They are in the grasp of an infantile affect whose full and irresistible force is mobilized by the most trivial incidents. They are in constant flight from reality, from the things they can attain and in constant pursuit of the unattainable. Deserters of this class may, then, be regarded as afflicted with psychic infantilism. In the third category the author places those deserters who stand in constant and torturing fear of punishment, even when no crime or misdemeanor has been committed. Here again we have a situation revealing a wrong relation between son and father. The sons of the previous category are fugitives from the father; the sons of the present category have not become emancipated to the degree of revolt but have lived in ceaseless dread and overpowering fear of punishment from the father. Hence this infantile fear is set in activity whenever they imagine that they stand in danger of punishment from the authority representing the father. In the fourth category may be placed those deserters who take to flight in order to escape the demands of service, almost without exception illiterate peasants whose circle of interests is of the narrowest, who have no conception of the meaning of the state and of the obligations imposed by life in community. In deserting they merely obey the primitive law of self-preservation. The fifth class of deserters is very numerous. They are neurotics in the narrower sense of the word, persons who are suffering from various compulsory ideas springing from the unconscious sexual life. In illustration the author cites the case of a young man in whom impotence led to a state of anxious fear of encountering anything new. The appointment of a new commander furnished the impulse to desertion. Deserters of the sixth class, namely, those who abscond from homesickness are also very numerous. In fact homesickness is a factor in almost every form of desertion. The longing for home arises from a mother fixation which in a large number of persons persists longer than is necessary from a biological point of view. In the adult the nostalgia for the mother, or the substitute for the mother, the "mother country" for example, is allied to the fear of losing the mind in alien surroundings, or from loneliness, all impelling to flight to gain the home protection, and being characteristic of an infantile level of development. The seventh category, those who desert for political reasons, the author states have not been studied by him, though he believes they would present features of psychoanalytic interest. The eighth category is composed of those who give as a reason for their desertion their opposition to war on general principles. Without doubt, the author observes, there are many highly intelligent idealists who have sacrificed themselves to this pacifistic principle but the behavior of the few cases offering this explanation of their desertion who were brought to his attention was scarcely consistent with enlightened idealism. They were persons who, after having served for a time, tried to run away and when this attempt was frustrated they had fallen into a confused state which the author was obliged to regard

as pathological. He places deserters of this type in the dementia praecox group. The law affirms that to constitute desertion there must be an intention to permanently abandon the service. In very few of these cases could it be said that there was any such intention. These deserters are for the most part wholly engaged in the flight from their own intolerable feelings. If the law is to take into consideration unconscious purposes it would be difficult to bring this understanding of the matter into harmony with precedent and prevailing customs. The solution of a problem of this sort would have to be left to a psychology of justice—a science which does not as yet exist. These deserters under the domination of the infantile pleasure principle are asocial and are punished for what is really a pathological condition.

The author closes his observations with what he calls a "jest most earnestly meant" in reference to another class of "deserters," noxious to the community, who also act according to the pleasure principle amidst the general suffering but who go unpunished, namely, the profiteers. The deserters are asocial; the profiteers are antisocial. [J.]

Abraham, K. PRECOCIOUS EJACULATION. [Internat. Zeitsch. f. a. Psychoanalyse, Vol. IV, No. 4.]

Notwithstanding the fact that ejaculatio praecox is the disturbance of male potency which is most frequently met with, no fundamental work specially devoted to the subject has thus far made its appearance in psychoanalytic literature. The studies of Steiner and Ferenczi only treat the subject briefly and as part of a general discussion of impotence. From his own observation of a series of cases the author arrives at the view that ejaculatio praecox is due to the abnormal sensitiveness of the urethra and a fixation of the libido on the urethral functions. It may really be regarded as a combination of two processes, he states. As far as the voiding of material is concerned it is an ejaculation, but in regard to manner in which the process takes place it is a micturition; the semen is not expelled in rhythmic movements, but flows forth in an effortless manner, as the urine does; with one signal difference, however—under normal conditions, the emptying of the bladder is more or less under voluntary control; ejaculatio praecox, on the contrary, is always involuntary. But in abnormal bladder conditions there is absence of control just as in ejaculatio praecox, and the fact is significant that those who suffer from incontinence of urine, who react to every emotion with irresistible pressure of urine, and who have never gained voluntary control of the bladder, or have gained it late in life are just the persons who are inclined to ejaculatio praecox. Further, the free associations of neurotics of this type furnish supplementary evidence for the solution of the problem. If the anamnesis of such cases is followed without prejudice one fact is found to recur with astonishing uniformity; all these patients experience pleasure in the performance of the bladder functions, indicating that the libido has remained stationary at an incomplete differential level; the genital zone is not, in the strict sense of the word,