

[Krafft-Ebing, Psychopathia sexualis, translated by Dr. Wedeck - suite]

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be found to spring from the imperfect or perverse gratification of their sexual needs (onanism).

Certain it is that these persons are, as a rule, also abnormal so far as character is concerned. They are neither man nor woman, a mixture of both, with secondary psychical and physical characteristics of the one as well as the other sex, which grow out of the interfering influences of a bisexual predisposition and disturb the development of a well-defined and complete being. But this peculiarity is only found in fully developed cases. A psychical disease per se is not a necessary adjunct to antipathic sexual instinct. All nations and all eras have produced perverse men whose renown and greatness adorn the history of their mother country or that of the world.

This abnormality must not be looked upon as a pathological condition or as a crime, but the development of the *vita sexualis* with its reacting effects upon the mind and the moral sense; it may proceed with the same harmony and satisfying influence as in the normally disposed, a further argument in favor of the assumption that antipathic sexual instinct is an equivalent for heterosexuality. If ethical and intellectual defects are present, they may be looked upon merely as complicated anomalies resulting from the taint.

An important factor is precocity in sexual life, which together with its antithesis, *i.e.*, retarded puberty, is the distinguishing mark of a degenerated constitution. It is quite another thing when the *vita sexualis* takes an inverted course at an early period, particularly at a time when evil influences or bad examples cannot be at work. For instance, when little boys prefer male adults to their female relations, or show a predilection for girls' games and occupations or particular skill in sewing, knitting, embroidering, etc., or inclination for female toilet, find pleasure in wearing girls' clothing, choose girls' characters in private theatricals or in masquerades and betray great cleverness in impersonating the female character, etc.

Homosexual acts (mutual masturbation, etc.) previous to puberty are no proof of antipathic sexuality. They may

spring from hypersexuality, precocity or some external influences. They do not necessarily lead to inverted sexuality, only then when the individual is predisposed. It is at the time of puberty that the *vita sexualis* is developed and receives its direction for the rest of life. An unconscious desire for sexual union, often enough stimulated by individuals of the same sex, brings the playmates together; tickling and other tactile irritations—quite apart from the genuine sexual instinct—lead to acts of masturbation in the male body, but they are not coupled with psychical feelings in the sense of homosexual acts. The same analogous manifestations may be observed in young animals.

But rarely antipathic sexuality develops from these horse-plays. Puberty teaches the youthful sinner to know his true sex soon enough. From the sexual instinct, based upon a series of physical and psychical attractions, emanates the sexual leaning to persons of the opposite gender, and the earlier homosexual encounters are remembered with shame and confusion. But the homosexual act committed *after* puberty has set in, is *the decisive* step in the wrong direction. The stadium of sexual differentiation covers sometimes a long period and often reaches far beyond that of physical sexual development.

Of great value in diagnosing a case is to ascertain the dream-life and that of sleep in the patient. The true status of the sexual instinct is here often pitifully portrayed. Nocturnal pollutions are found to be colored (a) in cases of psychical hermaphroditism predominantly, (b) in all the other grades of the anomaly exclusively in the sense of homosexuality. In cases of effeminatio (viraginity) they are accompanied by dream-pictures delineating the passive (in man) or the active (in woman) role in the sexual act.

The presence of physical or psychical abnormal characteristics may aid diagnosis if they are coupled with other more distinctive signs. By themselves they prove nothing, as they are also found in individuals not tainted, for instance, in gynecomasts, bearded women, etc., etc.

In the well-pronounced cases of antipathic sexual instinct



