discovery of the eternal return into the occurrence of everyday life:

"If one has character, one also has one's typical experience which returns repeatedly" (Nietzsche, 1966).

Correspondingly, in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, the major paper on repetition compulsion, Freud describes this phenomenon:

"as essential character-trait which always remains the same and which is compelled to find expression in a repetition of the same experiences" (Freud, 1955*a*).

Nowhere does the compulsion to repeat manifest itself greater than in the transference, the cornerstone of psychoanalytic therapy. Repetition compulsion serves the patient's ambivalent wish to both cling on to the hidden impulse and to keep it away from consciousness. It also functions as a mirror of a mysterious drama, drama that forms the essence of the patient's unconscious being. It is not difficult to recognise here the mask of Zarathustra, a Nietzschean demon of eternal return:

"I come again, with this sun, with this earth, with this eagle, with this serpent – not to a new life or a better life or a similar life; I come back eternally to this same, selfsame life, in what is greatest as in what is smallest, to teach again the eternal recurrence of all things . . ." (Nietzche, 1954).

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E. CYBULSKA

Thameslink Healthcare Services
Dartford
Kent, DA2 6AU

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Accommodation for imbeciles

There can be no doubt that the treatment of imbeciles, especially those of the juvenile class, is totally different from that required for the insane, and nothing can be worse for them than to be kept in a workhouse where no education of any sort is given them. Mr. Jenner-Fust, Local Government Board inspector, has made some important remarks on this interesting subject. He found in the course of his visits that the Toxteth Board of Guardians had 82 imbeciles crowded into a space only capable of properly accommodating 61, and that nothing could at present be done to relieve this pressure. He considers it highly desirable that more adequate provision should be made for this afflicted class, since they are not fitting subjects for lunatic asylums, and recommends that a number of boards of guardians should combine in making common provision for them. The first thing to be done is to separate the children from the adults, and to place the former in an institution where they can be educated and trained. To neglect this duty is a short-sighted policy, for not only are the untrained imbecile children of no use in the world, but there is always a fear that they may be led away and develop criminal propensities. If the boards and guardians do not care personally to undertake this duty, then the county council of Lancashire, which has already done so much in providing for the insane, should take steps to erect an institution fitted with appliances for the education and training of the children. With regard to the adults, it is advisable that they should be placed together in one establishment. This has already been done in the metropolitan district with great success; and surely the public spirited men of the north will do everything in their power to provide for this afflicted class in Lancashire.

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Researched by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey

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