Occasional Note.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF MENTAL DISORDERS.

THE Clinical Psychiatry Sub-Committee have compiled the following brief notes, etc., on the Classification. These notes, etc., have been adopted by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. It was felt that some guide to medical officers and others using the official Classification was necessary.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A. OLIGOPHRENIA.

Mental Deficiency—a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind, whether arising from inherent causes or induced by disease or injury.

B. PSYCHONEUROSES.

No differentiation is here made between neuroses and psychoneuroses.

(*a*) This should designate abnormal mental states characterized essentially by mental or motor fatigability and irritability.

(*b*) This includes the symptoms commonly exhibited by generalized fear.

(*c*) In this group should be included phobias where the anxiety is attached to some definite object or situation.

(*d*) Is a faulty reaction to environment characterized by a variety of

(1) Motor symptoms.

(2) Sensory symptoms.

(3) Mental symptoms.

C. SCHIZOPHRENIC PSYCHOSES.

This syndrome includes cases which show remissions and even recoveries in addition to cases which show progressive deterioration.

(*a*) *Dementia præcox.*

(i) *Simple.*—Cases characterized by defects of interest, gradual development of an apathetic state often with peculiar behaviour, but without expression of delusions or hallucinations.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.80.329.409 Published online by Cambridge University Press

(ii) *Hebephrenic.*—Cases showing prominently a tendency to silly laughter, grimaces, mannerisms, together with grotesque ideas and erratic behaviour.

(iii) *Katatonic.*—Cases in which there is a prominence of negativistic reaction or peculiarity of conduct, with phases of stupor or excitement, sometimes characterized by impulsive or stereotyped behaviour, and usually hallucinations.

(iv) *Paranoid.*—Cases characterized by unsystematized delusions, usually of persecution or grandeur. Hallucinations in various fields and a tendency to early dementia.

(*b*) *Paraphrenia.*—Cases in which emotional and volitional disorder is slight. Delusions and hallucinations generally grandiose and phantastic, but with little effect on ordinary conduct.

D. PSYCHOPATHIC CONSTITUTION.

This group includes a large group of pathological personalities, such as may be found amongst criminals, tramps, sex perverts, drug addicts, mattoids, agitators, etc. The prison psychoses should be included in this group.

Paranoia.—A delusional syndrome of insidious development. Hallucinations are absent and there is no deterioration.

E. AFFECTIVE PSYCHOSES.

(*b*) Involutional melancholia comprises the slowly developing depressions of middle and later years, characterized by worry, insomnia, uneasiness and agitation. States of depressions in arterio-sclerosis should be excluded.

G. EPILEPTIC PSYCHOSES.

This group includes only what is known as essential or idiopathic epilepsy. Cases of organic brain disease with seizures of any kind are not to be included.

H. GENERAL PARALYSIS.

Cases of cerebral syphilis are excluded.

J. DEMENTIA.

This group does not include the dementias where the original condition is known. The arterio-sclerotic and pre-senile dementias are to be included in Group I.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING,
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https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.80.329.409 Published online by Cambridge University Press