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2. *Psychological Retrospect.*

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*The Life-History of a Case of Double or Multiple Personality.*

In the last September number of the "Archives de Neurologie," M. Jules Voisin, of the Hôpital Bicêtre, has published an interesting account of "A case of hysteria major in a man with Double Personality." The patient had before that attracted some notice in France for the same symptoms, and M. Camuset (of the Bonneval Asylum) has published a description of his very unusual state in 1880 and 1881 (*Annales Médico-Psych.*, 1882, p. 75). Some important additions to our knowledge have been made by MM. Bourru and Burot (of Rochefort), of which the chief have been published in the "Revue Philosophique," Oct., 1885, and "Arch. de Neurol." Nov., 1885, and we may expect to see more in the "Annales Médico-Psychologiques." They have very kindly allowed us to use some recent observations which they have privately sent us, and it has seemed a good opportunity for a brief retrospect of the whole case.

Louis V.— was born at Paris in 1863. He was an illegitimate child, and his mother of bad character, and probably hysterical temperament. As a boy he lived chiefly in the country, at Luysan and Chartres; was ill-treated by his mother, quite uneducated, a waif and stray. When he was ten years old he was convicted of theft, and sent to the Reformatory of Saint Urbain in 1873, where he stayed nearly seven years, till March 22, 1880. During these years he was employed at first in the fields and vineyards, and given a good primary education. He was obedient and intelligent, and did good work both out of doors and at his books. His health seems to have been good, except that he showed his nervous temperament as early as at five years old,

when he had some convulsions, and again when seven and eight. Whilst living at St. Urbain in 1879 (or more probably in 1877, as the most recent researches of MM. Bourru and Burot seem to show) he was much frightened when at work in the fields by a viper, which wound itself round his left arm, but did him no serious mischief. The same evening he began a long series of convulsions and hysterical attacks, which left him in a state of hysterical paraplegia. After some time he was not judged fit to remain at St. Urbain, but was sent to the asylum at Bonneval, on March 23, 1880, with the medical report that he had had epileptiform attacks, which came on periodically and were growing more severe; both legs were paralysed and stiff. His intelligence was not affected. At Bonneval he came under the notice of M. Camuset, who reported that on admission both legs were much contracted and atrophied from disuse. He was a quiet boy of 17, grateful for any kindness shown him, ashamed of his thefts seven years before, and with a good memory of his previous life. He told the story of his fright at seeing the viper, and how he lost consciousness on coming home very soon afterwards, and when he recovered, he stated that he had had a nervous attack, and that he had had afterwards several others which gradually made his legs too weak to walk, and drew them up into a condition of contracture. He had almost entirely forgotten how to read and write. A tailor's work was thought suitable to his paraplegia, and he was set to that and worked well at it for two months. However, in May, 1880, whilst still at Bonneval, he had a severe hystero-epileptic attack, beginning with short tonic spasms and going on for a night and a day with clonic convulsions, with a few short intervals of coma; the aura started from the epigastrium, the legs moved as readily as any other part; no local pressure had any good effect in stopping the attack. Next day he passed into an ecstatic phase and lay on his back smiling and staring upwards. After about fifty hours altogether, he fell into a quiet sleep, and when he woke from that felt no paraplegia apparently, asked for his clothes and got up under the impression he was going to work in the fields as he used to do at St. Urbain more than three years ago. He could walk easily, though his step was a little shaky from the atrophy of his legs; he explained that by saying he was rather tired. He was quite persuaded he was at St. Urbain, recognised no one about him, asked for those he had known previously, and remembered having been frightened at the viper, but nothing after that. At first M. Camuset was inclined to believe that this was a hoax; but after various tests, such as suddenly taking him into the tailor's shop and finding him entirely ignorant of it and unable to handle a needle, the idea of dissimulation was given up, and his condition was accepted as one of double personality analogous to Dr. Azam's case of Félicité X—. His character was very much changed; he had been quiet, industrious, and orderly; he became what he had not been known to be before, at least for the last seven years that he had been under observation,

quarrelsome, greedy and violent. He was once caught committing theft, as he had done before in 1873. He often completely lost his temper, but not even then could any trace of memory of his life between the accident with the viper and the long crisis in May, 1880, be proved. He had a slight hysterical attack, and for a day some hysterical paraplegia, and some variable cutaneous anæsthesiæ, but for the next 13 months which he spent at Bonneval no material change took place, and he left on June 14, 1881, when he was just eighteen. For the next two years his history is more difficult to trace. He spent a short time near Chartres with his mother; then went as an agricultural labourer to Macon, where he fell ill, and was in hospital, and on Sept. 9, 1881, less than three months after leaving Bonneval, was taken in at the Bourg Asylum for 18 months, under the care of M. Lacuire. He left in April, 1883, and found his way somehow to Paris, where he visited the Hôpital Ste. Anne for a short time, and finally, after a short spell of four months at most of freedom, was arrested again for theft, condemned, and sent on Aug. 31, 1883, to the Bicêtre, with the certificate of unsound mind and epilepsy. There he remained under the observation of M. Jules Voisin for 16 months, and of this period M. Voisin has given us some very interesting particulars ("Arch. de Neurol.," Sept., 1885, p. 212-225). He was put among the patients capable of work, and took up the occupation of tailor, which he had pursued for two months three years and a half ago at Bonneval. After nearly five months, on Jan. 17, 1884, he had a violent attack of hystero-epilepsy, and for the week following it some very anomalous, and at times alarming, symptoms, at first of pulmonary congestion and hæmoptysis, without sign of tubercle or fever, and probably of nervous origin, and also of occasional attacks of very rapid breathing, with some complete pauses, from which he could only be roused by artificial respiration; the pulse, too, was at times nearly imperceptible, and ether was injected to revive him. He got amblyopia of the left eye, cutaneous hemianæsthesia of the left side, and increasing pain under the left axilla. Pressure over this painful region brought on a second violent attack of hystero-epilepsy on Jan. 24, a week after the first. He went through the emotional posturing, the opisthotonus, the attitude of crucifixion, which are so familiar at the Salpêtrière, and sank finally to sleep, awaking shortly with an altered memory, and developing, two days later, right hemiplegia with contracture. He remembered then the later part of his stay at Bonneval, under M. Camuset, when he had been disorderly and non-paralytic, but not the earlier part when he had been quiet, had had paraplegia and contracture and had begun to learn to be a tailor, nor anything of the last five months at the Bicêtre, when he had been going on with his tailoring. He remembered also something of his earlier healthy life at St. Urbain, and his work in the fields, but nothing of his invalid time there after his accident with the viper. He was quiet and orderly in his habits,

as he had been in the latter part of his stay at St. Urbain, and first two months at Bonneval, where he had had paralysis and contracture before. After due consideration, M. Jules Voisin came to the conclusion, in which M. Camuset and Prof. Ribot agreed, that this might be explained as a case of double personality, or at least as of the same class as Dr. Azam's case of Félicité X—. The patient might be considered to be in his "*état prime*," to use Dr. Azam's phrase, when he came to the Bicêtre, and now to have lapsed again into his "*état second*," of which he had had previous experience after the accident with the viper. These two periods of his second state had been characterised by the cardinal feature of hysterical paralysis with contracture, though it had been differently distributed, for in the first he was paraplegic, in the second hemiplegic. The condition as regards memory had not been the same as in Dr. Azam's case. Félicité X—, when in her second state, remembered all her previous life; when in her first state, remembered all except the parts passed in her second state. M. Voisin's patient in his second state remembered comparatively little of his previous life, and nothing at all of the previous period in his second state; in his first state remembered more of his previous life, but again nothing at all of his previous second state; the memory of which, in fact, seemed completely gone. This latter period of "second state," spent at the Bicêtre under M. Voisin, lasted nearly three months, and went off quite unexpectedly after a slight hystero-epileptic attack, of which at that time he had many, on April 17, 1884. He was found in tranquil sleep after the convulsions, with no contracture, and his hands clasped behind his head. When he woke in the morning he was astonished not to find his clothes at the foot of his bed, and thought they must have been hidden for a practical joke, for he imagined it was Jan. 26, and that he must get up early and go to work as he had been used to do three months ago. He had no recollection of right hemiplegia or contracture, or anything that had happened in the last three months, and was surprised to see leaves on the trees and new faces in the wards. His right arm and leg were not used quite freely for the first few days, but seemed afterwards normal; the right hemianæsthesia, however, persisted. His manner reverted to that of the noisy quarrelsome thief he had been at Bonneval in the latter part of his stay there. He had many more epileptiform attacks, but none led to any further access of his second state except on June 10, 1884, when he had right hemiplegia and contracture and their accompanying mental symptoms, but for a few hours only.

During all his stay at the Bicêtre, it was found very easy to induce a hypnotic condition, and many experiments were tried. As soon as he became hypnotised he always lost his right hemiplegia and contracture completely, and moved quite normally, but had no recollection of this when his hypnotism had passed off. In the first stage of hypnotism, both eyes were shut

normally; on opening either of them the corresponding side of the body became cataleptic; on opening both, the whole body. If he was talking or reciting in the hypnotic state, and his right eye was opened, he would not only become cataleptic on the right side, but also aphasic. M. Voisin attributes to this opening of the right eye an inhibitory influence on the left hemisphere, and consequently on the normal centre of speech. When the eye was closed again, he resumed his reading or speaking where he had left off. The opening of the left eye in the *état prime* had no effect on speech; but in the *état second* his words and fashion of talk were very childish, almost like those of a baby; he used phrases like "me want drink" (*moi vouloir boire*); and in that condition the opening of the *left* eye, and not of the right, stopped speech; for, as M. Voisin suggests, the infantine imperfect character of the speech, joined with the paralysis of the right side, tend to show that in this *état second* very possibly the left hemisphere was out of work, and the right hemisphere was taking the lead in this childish speech as well as in motion, and the right hemisphere would naturally be the one influenced by the left eye. Several attempts, too, were made to change the contracture from the right side to the left, by injecting pilocarpin on the right side. These were only partially successful; the left side became hemianæsthetic and contracted, but only the right arm became relaxed, the right leg remaining contracted. The speech centre, however, seemed to have shifted sides, for then it was affected by shutting the right eye and not the left; that is to say, it had become normal instead of abnormal, as it was before the pilocarpin was used. The frequency of the convulsive attacks made all attempts at stopping them important, and it was accidentally discovered that, as a rule, strong tension of the patellar tendons stopped a crisis; and sharp pinching of the tendo Achillis when tried gave equally good results. When he was not in a fit, however, a tap on the patellar tendon was apt to bring one on. No other point of pressure or other action was found to be of any use. When hypnotised, he sometimes had a confused memory of his early childhood, and talked and acted as if working in the fields at St. Urbain, without any memory of Bonneval or Bicêtre; showing a third state, in fact, not strictly included in either the *état prime* or the *état second*.

After about 16 months at the Bicêtre, on Jan. 2, 1885, he stole some money and clothes from a hospital attendant, and made his escape. He came to Rochefort, and on Jan. 30 enlisted in the Marines for the Tonquin war. He could not refrain from stealing again, and was arrested for it on Feb. 23. At the trial by court-martial he was convicted, but, being considered of unsound mind, was handed over, on March 27, to the asylum authorities, and there came under the observation of MM. Bourru and Burot. On the evening of the day of admission to the Rochefort Asylum he had a violent hystero-epileptic attack, lasting nearly 48 hours, and emerged from it in a state of right

hemiplegia and anæsthesia. That remained his ordinary physical state at Rochefort. The sight of the right eye was indistinct, and it made some mistakes with colours, which were not shared by the left eye. His mental condition was one of excitement; he was arrogant, violent, coarse in his language, but intelligent and observant. His speech was indistinct, from his clipping the ends of his words; he could read and learn by heart easily, but could not write, owing to paralysis of his right hand. His memory included only the second part of his stay at Bonneval, after the paraplegia had passed off, and the latter part of his stay at the Bicêtre; between these there was a gap of about four years, of which he knew nothing, and of the earlier part of his life (about 17 years) before Bonneval, he was equally forgetful. MM. Bourru and Burot then began the trial of metallotherapy on his obviously hysterical right hemiplegia. By laying a steel bar on the paralysed right arm, it was very soon found that the paralysis shifted from the right side to the left. That was not an uncommon phenomenon and not unexpected; but what surprised the experimenters was a sudden and complete change in the mental condition accompanying it. The violence and excitement were gone; V— was now shy, quiet and respectful, speaking easily, courteously, and clearly. He read well and wrote fairly well. He knew nothing of the place where he was, or of the people round him, but imagined that it was Jan. 2, 1884, and that he was back again at the Bicêtre, Salle Cabanis, No. 11. He was sure he had seen M. Voisin the day before, and that he was coming again very soon. Of the intervening 15 months, he remembered nothing; he had never been at Rochefort, never heard of the Marines or the war at Tonquin. All he could remember was that he had been at the Hôpital Ste. Anne, ever since a child as he supposed, for he would recall nothing before it, and then had come on to the Bicêtre.

A second experiment was made on him in his chronic state of right hemiplegia and violence. The right arm was touched by a magnet (and afterwards it was found that the application of nitrate of mercury or chloride of gold was followed by the same symptoms), and a third state was induced in some respects different from the last. The hemiplegia changed to the left side, but did not affect the face as it had done before; the manner was quiet, and the speech clear and courteous as before, but the memory different. He fancied he was in the Bourg Asylum in August, 1882, and could only remember some part of the previous year spent at Macon. Of external affairs all that he knew was that France was at war with Tunis.

A fourth modification was produced by putting a magnet on the back of his neck. Both his legs became paralysed in a state of rigid extension, and there was anæsthesia of the legs and the lower half of the body as well. He was very well behaved, but shy and timid. There was no clipping of the words, but his phrases and manner of speech were childish. He could not read or write or add up figures.

He thought he was at Bonneval, in his old paraplegic state of 1880, and expected to see M. Camuset and others whom he had known there. His business he said was that of a tailor, and he could sew well. He could remember being paralysed at St. Urbain a few months back, but not the accident with the serpent, or anything before it. He had never heard of Victor Hugo, or Chartres, or Macon, or Bourg, or the Bicêtre, or Rochefort.

These artificial conditions of consciousness were not kept up more than half-an-hour or so; no attempt was made to keep them up; but further means were tried with a view of curing him entirely of the right hemiplegia and violence, which was the constant condition to which he returned after these interludes.

After various unsuccessful attempts, he was put in an electric bath and all paralysis and anæsthesia disappeared, and he reverted to the condition and memory he had had at St. Urbain, 22nd of March, 1877, when he was only fourteen; his manner was child-like, he knew nothing about paralysis, but could tell the story of his life up to fourteen. The same condition—a fifth state—could be produced by a magnet on the top of his head. McMahon, he said, was President of the Republic, and Pius IX. was Pope, as in 1877. All that had happened for the last eight years he had forgotten. When the accident with the viper was mentioned, he went into a hystero-epileptic fit.

Finally, the application of soft iron to the right thigh was followed by much convulsive disturbance, contortions, opisthotonus, and chronic movement, and after that was past, he was left in a sixth state, a figure very unlike the timid child of the last tableau. He thought it was March 6, 1885, and that he was a soldier in the Marines, with easy manners and no paralysis. He remembered most of his past life; but with some important exceptions, viz.: the period of paraplegia at St. Urbain and Bonneval under M. Camuset, and the period of three months (Jan. 17 to April 17, 1884) of right hemiplegia under M. Voisin at Bicêtre, and some of the other crises which are less perfectly known.

In hope of rendering this somewhat complicated story a little clearer, we have endeavoured to put it into tabular form (see pp. 604-605), which we are very glad to find has been approved by MM. Bourru and Burot. The six states of the patient are represented by six vertical columns, and the memories attaching to them by thick black lines on their left-hand borders. To make it absolutely accurate may perhaps be beyond the care and industry even of MM. Bourru and Burot, or indeed beyond the possibilities of the case, but a roughly-drawn bird's-eye view may be of use.

The operators lay great stress on their observations that not only are these past and forgotten mental states recalled by physical impressions, but also conversely, if a past and forgotten mental state is suggested to the patient as his actual and present condition he accepts the belief, and with it comes back his past physical condition; for

example, if V— was told positively and authoritatively that he was at Bonneval in March, 1880, with M. Camuset, he would not only lose memory both of his subsequent and early life, and take up the boyish manners and tailor's habits of that period, but would also show the paraplegia and contracture of the legs, and anæsthesia of the lower half of the body; and in the same way other suggestions of time and place and mental state brought with them their historically appropriate physical accompaniments.

It is important also to note that the first experiments with metals were made when the experimenters had no knowledge of what had, as a matter of fact, been the history of the past paralyses of their patient; they recovered his history from him page by page as it were, and have been lately taking the greatest pains to ascertain how fully and exactly it represents his real life; and they are fairly well satisfied that though there may be a page or two of memory hopelessly lost at his times of crisis, yet that on the whole his glimpses into the past and his temporary rejuvenescences, represent historical realities; the "*personalités provoquées*" all bring him before us as he once was. That there had been so much careful observation of his previous life is fortunate, but it was a life particularly hard to trace, and some points appear in his recollections of which the contemporary records give no account.

MM. Bourru and Burot do not feel M. Voisin's or indeed any theory of double personality sufficient to cover the facts of the case as they have shown them; they consider it a case of multiple personality, but they regard any exact interpretation as at present hazardous. They are inclined, however, to believe in a dual action of the brain, and in the probably unstable predominance of either hemisphere in a case such as this; and they point to the imperfect speech and violent character associated with the right hemiplegia at Bicêtre and Rochefort, in contrast with the clear speech and self-controlled manners which went along with left hemiplegia at Ste. Anne, and Bourg, and Macon, as showing the different tendencies of the supremacy of the right and left hemispheres. But the facts to the best of our knowledge are unique, or nearly unique, and are worth some study as bearing on some very difficult questions, and that can be our only excuse for putting them forward, as we have done, at some length. The patient is still under observation at the asylum at La Rochelle, under charge of M. Mabile, and there are ample opportunities for further elucidation.



TABLE OF LOUIS V—'s SIX STATES AT ROCHEFORT, 1885.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Paralysis ... ..	Right hemiplegia.	Left hemiplegia, affecting face.	Left hemiplegia, not affecting face.	Paraplegia.	Paresis of left leg.	No paralysis.
Anæsthesia ... ..	Right side.	Left side.	Left side.	Of lower half.	Of left leg.	Hyperæsthesia of left leg.
Character ... ..	Violent.	Quiet.	Quiet.	Shy, speech childish; tailor.	Obedient; boyish.	Respectable.
Education ... ..	Fair.	Good.	Good.	Bad.	Good.	Moderate.
<i>Esthésiogènes</i> ... ..		Steel on right arm.	Magnet, &c., on right arm.	Magnet on back of neck.	Magnet on top of head.	Soft iron on right thigh.
Dynamometer. ... ..	Rt.=0 Lt.=80lbs.	Rt.=80lbs. Lt.=0	Rt.=80lbs. Lt.=0	Rt.=45lbs. Lt.=44lbs.	Rt.=40lbs. Lt.=44lbs.	Rt.=66lbs. Lt.=70lbs.

DATE.	ATTACKS.	HISTORY.					
1863, Feb.		Born at Paris.					
1863-1873.		Lived at Luysan and Chartres; ill-treated by mother.					
1873, Sept.		Sent to St. Urbain; employed in fields and vineyards; well taught.					
1877, March.	Severe after fright from a viper.	Paraplegic at St. Urbain.					
1880, March.		Went to Bonneval (M. Camuset) learnt tailoring.					

1880, May.	Severe for 50 hours.	Lost paraplegia and memory of all his paraplegic life.					
1880, May 1881, June.		Did gardening work at Bonneval.					
1881, June 14.		Left Bonneval and lived at Chartres, Macon, &c.					
1881, Aug.	Several.	Taken into Hospital at Macon.					
1881, Sept, 1882.	4 attacks.	Transferred to Bourg Asylum, where he stayed 18 months under care of M. Lacuire.					
1883, April.		Left Bourg.					
		Lived in Paris.					
1883, July?	? Further attacks.	Visited Asile Ste. Anne.					
1883, Aug. 30.		Entered Bicêtre (M. Jules Voisin.)					
1884, Jan. 17 to April 17.	Many violent attacks.	Condition of right hemiplegia.					
1884.		Recovery after hemiplegia.					
1885, Jan. 2.		Escaped from Bicêtre.					
1885, Jan. 30. 1885, Feb. 23.		Came to Rochefort and enlisted in Marines. Convicted of theft.					
1885, March 27.		Received in Rochefort Asylum.					
1885, March 28.	Violent attack.	State of right hemiplegia.					