

### Case 3

an autocratic, rigid, meticulous individual, never made any serious attempt to establish an affectional relationship with the subject. The mother, who sought compensation for her marital dissatisfaction in an extremely active social life, was alternately overly protective and overly demanding. The subject was sadly “spoiled” by his adoring sisters. The family history is replete with maladjusted individuals. T. K. suffered from nocturnal enuresis until he was 11 or 12. All his life he has reacted to unpleasant situations by developing severe nausea. T. K. never did well in school (though he is undoubtedly of above average intelligence) but he did complete one year of college before he found the work too demanding. In his early adolescence, T. K. was caught by his mother while he was masturbating in company with another boy. He had his first heterosexual experience at life age 14, when he went to a local house of prostitution with some other high school boys. His sexual relations with his wife (a young lady as stable as he is unstable, whom he married “on the rebound” two years ago) have never been satisfactory to him. He states that now, as always, he finds it impossible to have satisfying coitus with a woman who is not considerably older than he. He was employed for only a few months before he enlisted in the Army. Although he was hospitalized several times for nervous stomach while he was in the service, he seems to have made a better adjustment to Army life than he ever made before or since, despite a good deal of rigorous combat duty. Shortly after his discharge from the Army, he was given employment (by a relative) in a position of great responsibility, a position demanding more initiative than he possesses. Recently he has developed many obsessive fears and anxieties and a number of somatic complaints for which no physical basis has been found. é Diagnosis: Psychoneurosis, mixed type; inadequate personality. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS I. Details House: (1) There is marked emphasis on the containing lines (self-control difficult, P2). (2) The detail sequence is definitely pathoformic: (a) the triangular roof over the right endwall was the seventh item drawn, but the wall below it was not drawn until almost all of the main portion of the House had been completed (fear of future, P2); (b) the last single item drawn was the dilapidated steps to the far right (fear of the future, P2). The progressive deterioration of detail quality is noteworthy (increasing emotionality—presumably due to associations aroused by the House—brought a definite depression of functional efficiency, P2). Tree: (1) The trunk has no baseline (subject shuns reality contact, P1). (2) There was pathoformic reinforcement of the branches (generalized anxiety, P2). Person: (1) The detail sequence was definitely pathoformic: (a) he drew the eyebrows, but not the eyes until three detail items later (he is sensitive about his mild strabismus, P2); (b) the ears were the 26th item drawn (criticism receptors, P2). (2) There was excessive general reinforcement (pathoformic indecision, P2). (3) The left arm and hand occasioned difficulty (sexual guilt, P1); the feet gave still more difficulty (subject feels responsibility bound, P2), (Note: Further explanation of these detail difficulties will be found under

postdrawing comments, q. v.) III. Perspective House: (1) The House is paper-chopped at both sides (the temporal aspects of “home” clash sharply, P3). (2) There is deep shading of the foundation to the right (anxiety as to future stability of present home, P2). (3) The quality of the spatial relationships deteriorates to the back and to the right (the subject appears less adequate the further one goes behind his facade and the greater the emphasis is placed on the future, the unknown, P2). Tree: (1) The subject began to draw a deciduous Tree in meticulous fashion, erased it quickly when his question as to whether or not he might be permitted to draw another type was answered affirmatively. He then drew a rigid, spike-like Tree using unshaded areas to indicate branch structure; then abandoned that to adopt his final plan (marked general indecisiveness; sexual conflict, P2). General: Each of the three wholes is slightly “down” on the form page (mild depression, Pl). Each whole is slightly to the left of center (the subject would like to flee into the past, P1). IV. Time House: Time consumption—11 minutes, 57 seconds—was pathoformic (“home” is of great importance to the subject, P2). V. Line Quality House: Motor control is rather surprisingly poor (emotional factors produced it, P2. The Tree and the Person are of much better calibre from this standpoint). Tree: There is deep shading of the trunk (the subject feels basically inadequate, Pl). (2) The lines of the upper portion of the trunk and the branch structure are relatively faint (indecision and mild free-floating anxiety, P1). General: There is marked vacillation throughout the three wholes (many conflicts are aroused by the stimuli, P2). VI. Criticality House: (1) No less than five transparencies are shown: each porch pillar and the porch roof (emotion has produced a sharp diminution of intellectual efficiency, P2). (2) Mr. K. cannot produce the House within the page’s lateral margins (there appears to be an almost crippling temporal spread, P3?). Tree: The subject made only halfhearted erasures of his first two attempts to produce a Tree (as he stated frankly later, he tends to follow the line of least resistance, P2). Person: The rather good attempt to show hands by implication, by placing them in pockets, is contaminated by the transparency of the left arm at the pocket’s edge (guilt over auto-erotic activities—see post drawing comments for other explanation, P1). VII, Attitude General: Each of the three wholes produced defeatistic, then frankly abandonistic tendencies (subject is rather badly maladjusted, P2). IX. Comments A. Drawing Phase. House: He announced quickly that this was his own House (in the country) that he was drawing, then from time to time made remarks indicating growing feelings of frustration and impotence (the subject does not find challenge stimulating, P1). Person: (1) His first comment, made while he was drawing the periphery of the head, was, “The cowboy is a person” (he is uncommonly snobbish, later spoke disparagingly of his wife’s family’s lack of social standing, P2). (2) Shortly after he had begun to draw the arms he remarked, “It must be a tendency to make a head and shoulders, because every time I drew one of these in school, that’s as far as I got—head and shoulders” (sexual conflict—avoidance of body pelvis, etc., Pl). (3) His last comment, “It’s a pretty good man, if I could put on the feet” (emphasizing his feeling of restricted mobility, P1). B. Post-Drawing. House: When he was asked whom he’d like

to have live in his House with him, he replied with deep emotion, “I’d rather not have anybody!” (He has never formed a lasting, mutually-sharing, affectional relationship, P32)

Tree: (1) In answer to T3 he said, “I’d say the Tree was 12 or 15 years old, though the trunk would look older’ (he, too, looks older, but he acts like a 12- or 15-year-old, Pl). (2) “I believe it’d be a woman. . . you might say they (Trees) are tender, beautiful—I believe

HISTORY This 25-year-old young man was the last of five children, the only boy. His youngest sister was 10 years his elder. His father and mother were not well adjusted in their marital relationship. Each was a dominant individual. The father, particularly all evergreens I’d think of as being female—I believe it’s the long hair (“long hair” meant mother: unresolved Oedipus, P3).

Person: (1) When the examiner queried the subject directly concerning what feet might mean to him, the patient countered with, “Go home you mean? I thought about my own’ (he returns to his parental home whenever opportunity allows, Pl). He then digressed to discuss his marriage which he termed a “rebound” affair ; he described vividly the anger that he had felt at his fiancée’s jilting him. He remarked that he felt that his present home was happy, but added wryly that such a feeling was without foundation (see Details!). (2) In reply to PlI, the patient replied with great emotion, “I can see the same face” (the “face” was his father’s in the coffin, P2). (3) When the examiner questioned Mr. K. concerning his spontaneous comment about his Person’s feet, the subject explained that recently he had been forced to stay away from a funeral’ because he had heard someone remark that they had had to cut the feet off the corpse to get it in the coffin; he had since been unable to rid himself of this thought for any length of time (obsessive thinking, P3).

General: The weather about the House was spring-like, warm, sunshiny (“home” is a place of warmth) ; the sun was shining about the Tree, but, “The Tree makes you think of snow” (fear of the future, loss of his present centre-of-the-stage role in which he receives adulation from his wife and his doting sisters, Pl); the weather was cloudy in the picture of the Person (inter-personal relationships, particularly with males, are difficult for him ; his inability to refrain from viewing business superiors as father-substitutes has been seriously handicapping, P2).

C. Associations. Person: (1) His Person first reminded him of a brother-in-law of whom he is very much afraid (pseudo-brother rivalry, P2). (2) He later said, “I want to say Daddy—he had a deformed left arm” (unresolved Oedipus, P3). He then went into a rather long spontaneous discussion arguing that his father was not his ideal as his sister insisted (attempt at independence, P1), that he wished his father were alive (guilt, P1), so that his father could give him financial assistance, in which case he could have a new car often (dependence, Ply: X.

Concepts House: It is a recognizable reproduction of his own House. He complains bitterly and at extreme length about its inade- quacies. He disparages it by comparison with his paternal home (his longing to return to the irresponsible role of childhood is patent, P2).

Tree: It is at one time a Tree in the yard of his parents home (past); at another time a Tree in the country near his own home (present) ; and at still another time a Tree that he would move to his own yard (future—the temporal vacillation is marked, P2).

Person: The

multiplicity of identities for the drawn Person is pathoformic. The Person is: (1) a stereotype from childhood (easy to draw) ; (2) Tom Mix (a hero-figure; publicly prominent) ; (3) a brother-in-law (rival for a sister's affection) ; (4) father (rival for the mother's affection) ; (5) "It could be myself" (as a cowboy he could rid himself of responsibility, act out certain of his childhood phantasies—P2).

SUMMARY At examination the patient exhibited many of the ordinary overt symptoms of stress: restlessness, onychophagy, and the like. He had obviously screwed up his courage to come to the examiner and had equally obviously regretted it; he spent much of his time attempting to persuade the examiner that there was actually nothing wrong with him. Quantitative analysis shows a tremendous disparity between: (1) the Net Weighted Score IQ and the Per Cent of Raw G IQ, and the Weighted Good IQ and the Weighted Flaw IQ which seems to indicate the depressing effect on intellectual efficiency of his present disturbance. It is apparent that potentially he is of above average to superior intelligence; that at this time he is functioning at a much lower level. Analysis of the raw factors shows, however, that all but one of the D factors are D1s; and at least half of them are accountable for on the grounds of aprosexia. The depression of score, therefore, does not appear to be irreversible. There is marked lowering of the perspective score with retention of very high proportion and detail scores; the disturbance is apparently to be regarded as functional only, and of not too serious a character. Of the scores for the three wholes, those for the House and the Person are the most affected, which suggests the presence of strong conflicts in the areas of home, and interpersonal relationships both specific and general. Qualitative analysis reveals that: (1) the subject has an unresolved Oedipus Complex (with all the crippling effects usually resulting therefrom) ; (2) an inability to make a fully responsible, sharing, affectional relationship with anyone ; (3) his over-concern about both the psychological past and the psychological future has a deleterious effect upon his functional efficiency in the psychological present; (4) he has responded to his many conflicts by developing generalized anxiety, and indecisiveness, specific fears and obsessions, and somatic complaints which tend to restrict his activities greatly. Impression: Psychoneurosis, mixed type; basic intelligence level, above average to superior; present functional level, average. The subject is an essentially immature, inadequate individual. Psychiatric treatment is recommended; the subject's lack of desire to change may prove an insurmountable obstacle to therapy.