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Family Breakup Is A Cause Of Mental Illness In Children Today

Pete Surdock Jr.
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FAMILY BREAKUP IS A CAUSE OF
MENTAL ILLNESS IN CHILDREN TODAY

Thesis Presented to the
Department of Sociology
of
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Helena, Montana

For
Graduate Honors and Academic Credit
by
Pete W. Surdock Jr.

on
March 29, 1966
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I also extend my thanks to the Marquette State Hospital,
in particular Richard B. Watson, the psychiatric social worker;
and the director of the department of psychology A. L. Dunn, Ph.D., whose aid was a.
problem and a valuable source of information.

In general, I want to thank all those who have aided
me in gathering information or assisted in any way.
I would at this time like to express my gratitude to the following persons, whose help was so vital in my accomplishment, and gathering of information pertaining to this thesis.

My first recognition is Rev. Cornelius J. Kelly who enabled me to carry on my research at the Montana State Hospital for the Mentally-ill in Warm Springs, and whose guidance proved of infinite value.

Second is the Rev. Thomas M. O'Donnell who guided me on the ground floor and development of my thesis, and who is responsible for the development of interest in this field of human behavior.

Next is my advisor the Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor, Ph.D., whose guidance and permission allowed this topic to become my point of concentration.

I must also extend my thanks to the Helena Mental Health Clinic staff, and in particular Dr. Tobin, psychiatrist. Their aid was a source of inspiration and encouragement for my thesis.

I also extend my thanks to the Montana State Hospital, in particular Richard L. Watson, the psychiatric social worker; and the director of the department of psychology A. L. Jones, Ph.D., whose aid was a backbone and special insight to my problem and a valuable source of information.

In general I want to thank all those who have aided me in gathering information or securing of permission to
carry on various personal interviews.

I would like to dedicate this thesis to society, because it was developed not by myself, but with cooperative effort by many, therefore; it is only right that its results be for the benefit of all men.

Pete W. Surdock Jr.
INTRODUCTION*

As a way of introducing the problem to be presented in this work, I need only to ask the reader to pick up his daily paper, and turn to the vital statistics page and read within the column the ever enlarging number of persons who are obtaining divorces. But, a warning must be issued at this point of procedure; there is a hidden danger which lies behind this simple, yet somewhat complex legal act. This danger, if not checked soon, will not only result in the corruption of American society, but the failure on the part of Americans to maintain their freedom.

If these figures in the column do not alarm you, pause long enough to realize that not listed within is the abandonments, annulments, desertions, illegitimate children, physical loss of parents, "psychological divorce", and separations. We can group these terms under one heading of "Family Breakup", the subject of this work.

An explanation is warranted because throughout this paper divorce is the most emphasized; not due to prejudice on the author's part, but because of the lack of information on the other forms of family breakup.

A reminder for the reader is that the author has one intention as is indicated by the title of this work, to show that mental illness is associated with family breakup. There

* All footnotes are at the end of each chapter.
will be many points made in this work to which you will not agree, this in itself is good, for if with disagreement you will investigate further the problem of mental illness in children or even the effects of divorce or family breakup, I feel that my purpose has been more than accomplished, and that the importance of man is once again stressed.

By the very nature of man as a social being, the family is a stable social unit. Its stability is derived from the nature of marriage as a pact of perfect friendship between man and woman, which is entered into not only that two friends may live together, but also that they may bear children and so fulfill the important duty of continuing the human race and handing down to posterity the religious, moral, intellectual, and aesthetic culture of previous ages.

The family, therefore; must possess a certain stability:

1) In the first place because true friendship is eternal.
2) In the second, because the long period of human infancy and childhood demands the stability of the home for the mere physical needs of a family of children.
3) In the third, because the parents must prepare the child to receive the culture of previous ages, and equip the child to create a new family that in its turn will transmit the religious, moral, and aesthetic values that it received.

There were some 390,000 divorces in this country in 1962 (the latest year for which figures are complete) involving more than 460,000 children. And, it seems inevitable that the number of children of divorced parents will continue to increase.

What is the impact of divorce on children? There is evidence that it can be shattering, but that it need not be, that is where parents are able to keep their children's needs
in mind despite their own unhappiness, divorce need not be a destructive experience.\textsuperscript{2}

The real victims of divorce are the children, on whom their parent's sins are visited in all too literal a way. "Children of divorce have a greater incidence of divorce in their own marriage than those not affected by divorce," Fr. Dunan says, "Permissiveness in divorce doesn't stop, it goes on into another generation."

Fr. Dunan, S.J., is a professor at Boston College Law School.\textsuperscript{3}

One of the more powerful unconscious fears harbored by a child is that he will be deserted and abandoned by one or both parents. This frightening fantasy is made real through the threats of parents for divorce or separation in the presence of the child. A child finds abandonment by one parent or the other hard to accept and does so in cycle form for periods of time.\textsuperscript{4}

Fear is but one form of anxiety in this age labeled the "age of anxiety". This fear is expressed in this age by the youth of our nation through forms of suicide among children between ages of five to nineteen; forms of mental illness including our stero types of schizophrenia, manic depressive psychoses, paranoia, neuroses, and psychosomatic disorders; and forms of increasing juvenile delinquency which is a type of mental illness. All of these manifestations are on the increase in the nation today.

The proof of the increase of the above will appear in the statistical portions of this paper. These statistics
are gathered from various sources with one purpose: to prove increase is present. It is with the development of this work, I hope to achieve the goal which can be expressed in the words of Dr. Tobin, Psychiatrist of the Mental Health Clinic in Helena, in a recent interview on this question, "You know mental illness is caused by family breakup".

In the words of Edward H. Liston, Jr., M.D., Department of Psychiatry, UCLA Center for the Health Sciences, "That you have chosen this problem for your thesis work is commendable for there is ample room for further, hopefully clarifying investigation in this field," my problem is stated as an attempt to bring clarity from an abyss.

This work will use three sources of information: written works, statistics, and personal interviews or investigations. It will attempt to develop a theory, which will be backed by works of men skilled in this field. Statistics will be employed wherever they appear of benefit.


CHAPTER I
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Family Breakup is the term I have chosen to represent the following forms of family dissolution.

The term abandonment refers to an act on the part of one or both parents of leaving a child or children, and fleeing to another location to live. It is the complete separation from the responsibilities towards the parent's children. This term may also be called involuntary separation which is an act of desertion on the part of either husband or wife with the intent of not too return. It does not matter which term is used for both are the refusal to accept the responsibilities of family life.

A voluntary separation is the condition of the husband and wife agreeing to live separately and apart without going into court. The spouses live apart under certain conditions or circumstances which are entered into through respective counsels. Such an agreement may contain any terms agreed upon by the parties. If the contract is violated, the wife may bring the husband into court and have the agreement enforced. For the husband's refusal to pay the judgement, the wife cannot have him sent to jail as she can in a legal separation.

A legal separation (divorce) is the result of litigation in court brought by one spouse against the other. Its terms are embodied in the court's decree. For violation of those terms the husband may be committed to jail. Either party
may procure a separation upon showing just cause. Under such a separation, the husband, by court order, is usually under obligation to support the wife and children. Where the husband obtains the decree, since he is viewed as the "innocent" part, he is usually under no such obligation to support the wife, but is compelled to support the children until they attain their maturity. The husband, in fact, is always obliged to support the children, regardless of the fact that he or his wife obtained the separation or divorce.

Illegitimate children are those whom are borned out of the state of marriage. This is a condition where there was no marriage prior or after the pregnancy.

The loss of one or both parents because of an accident or death results in what is termed either a "father orphan", or "mother orphan", or just orphan. I do not think further explanation is necessary in this case.

Annulment is a term which applies to the separation of the spouses because of an invalid foundation in the marriage. By way of example this can be better expressed: such as the case of a spouse discovering after a marriage that the other spouse is a homosexual or that one spouse was previously and still married while married to that spouse simultaneously. The annulment is usually the decree that although a marriage took place no marriage exist at present, or existed.

Perhaps the most vague concept is the term which I apply to the condition of the parents being present in the family physically, but are not giving the children the emotional needs they require to develop normally to maturity. This
term is "psychological divorce". A child is very disturbed when the relationships between his parents are very disturbed.

"Emotional divorce" always precedes legal divorce, but is not always followed by legal divorce. Many a family is torn by disension between the parents throughout the course of a marriage, and there is no physical or legal divorce. On the other hand, whenever there is a divorce, we can be sure we shall find that emotional divorce (psychological) was there before.1

We can therefore say, that any form of family separation or dissolution is what we mean by family breakup. It need not pertain only to the physical, but also to the emotional or psychological dissolution.


CHAPTER II
DEFINITION OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illness is equated with the term maladjustment. Maladjustments are almost infinitely varied in kind and number, because each person is unique.¹

According to Fr. Royce, normal is defined as functioning according to the design of nature.² This would give us the criteria for being normal as what man should and could be in keeping with individual, social, and religious needs. Normalcy considers man to be of this society and influenced by his environment.

Having arrived at a definition of normal, we can then say that abnormal or maladjusted personality is the condition in which a person does not function according to the design of nature.

Law would define mental illness as insanity, that is, the state of being unsound or of derangement of mind, which results in the inability to manage one's affairs and perform one's social duties.

As can be seen from above, the definition of mental illness is extremely hard to obtain, and depends upon the way the individual wishes to stress the aspects of the condition. But, the majority of psychologist and psychiatrist define mental illness as two basic types.

Psychoneurosis or neurosis is a minor mental disorder, always primarily psychological in origin, characterized by more or less habitual personality maladjustment without loss
of contact with reality or incapacitation of the patient. This form is not usually found in the hospital and has a wide variety of range.\(^3\)

The second basic form of mental illness is referred to as psychosis. Psychosis is a grave mental disorder involving more or less, lost of contact with reality and usually requiring the patient to be institutionalized.

Included in these two basic forms of mental illness are also the following divisions of the condition. Psychosomatic disorders are the conditions in which the patient suffers from a genuine bodily ailment of some kind, but in which the ailment was originally provoked, in part at least, by chronic conflict or emotional disturbance. The patient lives with sufficient emotional stress so that his body economy becomes deranged and breaks down at some point. Chronic digestive disorders, ulcers, certain kinds of high blood pressure at times seem to have psychic causes.

Sociopathic disorders are the condition of a person taking out his troubles on the world either by activity which violates social codes and conventions, or by passively leading a disorganized, irresponsible, and useless life. We can include habitual criminals, chronic alcoholics, juvenile delinquents, and certain varieties of sexually abnormal people in this group.

Again, we can say that mental illness is deviant behavior on the part of the individual from the way he should be according to his social, physical, and religious needs. This would mean that a person who was mentally ill is a person
who is unadjusted in his personality.

We define personality as the unique organization of all man's habit systems whereby he is related to his environment. Here we are more concerned with the key to this definition which is habits, for it is with this that a person acts and thinks. We define habit as an acquired quality of any operative power which disposes that power to act with facility in a certain way.

Habit is not only the key to the personality of an individual, but also to the learning by the individual. Learning being any acquired change in mode of response through experience, and refers to the results as habits. Therefore, habit characterizes the personality and an adjusted personality is one that is capable of integration.

Integration is the state in which each of the operative powers in man's complex make-up is habitually ordered to its proper object and in proper proportion. Thus, we can again see that mental illness is a form of non-integration on the part of the personality of an individual.

In the original definition of personality, habit was the key, but habit was related to the individual's environment.

In history, we find men claiming that all of man's behavior was determined by environment and this school included men such as: John Locke, David Hume, and Pavlov. Included in a group called behaviorist, we have men like John Watson. It was with men like Freud, Adler, and Joseph Brewer that the psychic influence of mental illness was
stressed. The last three were more concerned with the treatment of mental illness which we will not take up here.

Environment can be described as two types: physical or heredity, and social or environment. The effect of inheritance ends with the conception while the effect of the environment continues until death. Both are equally important for one depends upon the other for existence and development of influence. It is with environment, that we are chiefly concerned in this work.

Environment is the sum total of stimulations received by the individual from conception until death. It is most important from conception until death for it acts on the individual as he grows. Given the heredity and environment the individual by his free choice produces his self-determination or that which makes him to be him. This develops the concept of self or ego concept which is important for the individual's security. It is this self-determination which leads to the individual's interpretation of a situation and reaction to it. This self-determination is highly influenced by environment.

At this point, we enter into a brief discussion of cause. We have two types: predisposing and exciting. Predisposing is a real cause or that which exerts pressure, but cannot bring about the illness itself. Included in this type is environment. This cause will determine the direction the illness will take.

Exciting cause is predominantly psychic and physical. It is more clearly defined as a single incident or long
continued emotional drain. This includes: failure of achievement of goals, separation from loved ones, death of loved ones, and threats to security.

The point to be stressed at this juncture is that neither predisposing or exciting cause can occur thus causing the illness unless both are present, for again as in the case of heredity and environment both are dependent upon the other in order to exert influence.

In this chapter we have attempted to cover a full year course in basic philosophical psychology. We began with a definition of mental illness which led to a discussion of personality and from there to the importance of environment, and ultimately of cause.

The basic points made in this chapter are important for later developments, and should be kept in mind throughout this work.

2 Ibid. p. 50.
3 Ibid. pp. 227-228.
4 Ibid. p. 43.
5 Ibid. p. 47.
CHAPTER III
INSTANCES OF MENTAL ILLNESS

In the previous chapter, we divided mental illness into two basic types of neuroses and psychoses. Under neuroses, we included: neurasthenia, anxiety reaction, hysteria, obsessive-compulsive reaction, and hypochondriasis. Under psychoses, we included: schizoprenias, manic depressive psychoses, and paranoia. Also included in the forms of mental illness are the forms of psychosomatic and sociopathic disorders mentioned in the previous chapter.

These mental illness forms should indicate why this 20th century has been coined the "Age of Anxiety".

The proof lies in the facts of mental illness. What are these?

In general mental illness is our nation's number one health problem today. The major disorders (psychoses) can only be measured by the cases that come to the attention of the professionals, and are actually hospitalized which are between 700,000 and 800,000 a year; and in reality there are more which have been estimated at 1,800,000 or one out of every hundred people. At the present rate today, officials maintain that one out of every two beds in the general hospitals are occupied by persons suffering from some form of psychoses.

Minor disorders (neuroses and other forms of mental illness) in this liberal sense we would include between 17 and 18 million people or one out of every ten persons is suffering from a minor disorder. Neuroses in the strict sense
of the term includes seven to eight million people.

This health problem cost the people of the United States about 1.8 billion dollars annually. But, when we consider both the direct and indirect effects we arrive at a figure of 3 billion dollars. Yet, even this later figure does not include anything about the lives and homes damaged because of these conditions and situations.¹

Is there an increase in mental disorder? According to the steady rise in the number of mental cases, and the rapid rise in the number of new patients admitted yearly to our mental hospitals we can say yes there is an increase.

The next question that comes to mind is: Is this an apparent rise or a real rise? Officials say it is real for the following reasons:

1) Evidence from states whose facilities for detection and care have been adequate for several decades, indicates that even they are experiencing an increase in commitments.

2) In World War II, draftees were more carefully screened for possible mental disorders than in World War I. Despite this elimination, there were approximately the same percentage of mental casualties in the armed forces as in the previous war, indicating a proportional increase among all those called up.

3) Moreover, we can point to sources which would seem to account for a real increase. Psychologists and educators are stating, the American children show signs of poor mental health as a result of the stresses of modern-day living.²

Of all the people who walk into a doctor's office, 35 to 75 percent of them are there for neurotic or psychosomatic ailments, according to various estimates, with even some of the more conservative averaging around 65 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>total patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>722,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>791,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1,002,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1,126,254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 2. Hospital Use: 1940 to 1963.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>General Hospital</th>
<th>Mental Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>74.3 per 1000 pop.</td>
<td>1.4 per 1000 pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>109.8 per 1000 pop.</td>
<td>2.0 per 1000 pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>136.3 per 1000 pop.</td>
<td>2.3 per 1000 pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>139.8 per 1000 pop.</td>
<td>2.6 per 1000 pop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>age</th>
<th>number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>3,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a survey conducted at Warm Springs, Montana involving approximately 2900 cases with a representative sample of 250 cases the following were the results:

1) 16 percent of the cases were those of children not including the organic causes, but rather only psychic causes.

2) 32.5 percent of this group of children had illness which were directly related to parental relationships. The average age was from two years three months to nineteen years of age.

According to the latest figures, those men turned down from draft for physical or mental unfitness are 2.5 million.
Graph 4. Suicide Among Youth: 1963.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>total under 1 to 5 yrs</th>
<th>5-9 yrs</th>
<th>10-14 yrs</th>
<th>15-19 yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>both</td>
<td>20,265</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>15,276</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>4,989</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the year 1962, we have an incident of 20,207 total suicides.9


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1963</th>
<th>1964</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>1963</th>
<th>1964</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>23,522</td>
<td>30,886</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>2,581</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,792</td>
<td>5,007</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the information stated above and from the evidence presented in the graphs, you can only conclude that mental illness is on the increase, not just because of increase in population, but really on the increase. We must keep in mind that not all the graphs are able to be brought up to date because of lack of information. Another fact to keep in mind is that not all forms of mental illness are represented in the graphs due to space and lack of need, and only the more evident and important are presented.


2 Ibid. pp. 8-9.


CHAPTER IV
DELINQUENCY

The first question that comes to mind is why talk about delinquency, and the most simple answer is because delinquency is one of the best examples to study. It is one of the best because it is one of the most intensely studied problems today and, therefore; the facts are most up to date. Juvenile delinquency trends can be considered to exemplify the other forms of sociopathic disorder trends today. Being a form of neurosis, it also provides us with a good opportunity to ascertain the causes. This particular subject is an involved study in itself which can not be treated here with due respect.

One of the first problems in dealing with delinquents, is to ascertain who is delinquent. Carr proves that it is not an easy matter, for he lists six possible meanings of the term juvenile delinquent. The definition given by the National Probation Association:

a) A child who has violated any law of the State or ordinance or regulation of a subdivision of the State;
b) A child who by reasons of being wayward or habitually disobedient is uncontrolled by his parents, guardian, or custodian;
c) A child who habitually so deports himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others.

In the past, it was customary to label as "delinquent" any child whose misconduct caused him to be dealt with by courts. However, it was largely a matter of chance and of family and social resources whether a child came into contact...
with the courts, or whether he was handled outside of the court, whether he was dismissed, probationed, or committed to institutional care.

The definition of delinquency being diluted, can most certainly be said to apply to the groups of youngsters who were committed to institutions, handled by juvenile courts, or turned over to clinics or other agencies by judges, the police, or worried parents and guardians.

Many different definitions of the term juvenile delinquency have been offered. The most popular or commonly stated is that juvenile delinquency constitutes any act which if committed by an adult would be a crime.

A psychiatrist suggests: "Juvenile delinquency is a pattern of behavior manifested by a youth below the age of 18 that is contrary to the laws of the land and the accepted mores, and that is antisocial in character. This may be brought about by environmental deprivation, conflict within the domestic situation or psychiatric difficulties in the youth or child".

A midwestern educator states: "Juvenile delinquency is an antisocial behavior, outside of the patterns of normal misbehavior, which is so extreme as to endanger society and the delinquent."

What does delinquency mean? New accounts and figures tell us that it means burglary, murder, drug addiction, vandalism, sexual promiscuity, and rape.²

Social workers refer to middle class delinquency as "hidden delinquency". This means that most, but at least much
Delinquency became a social rather than an individual problem when a large number of families found that they were unable to cope with it by themselves. Delinquency is defined according to the agencies that handled the problem, thus we are confronted with the following definitions of delinquency:

1) From the legal agency: Delinquency is behavior that conflicts with the law in the particular community. This would indicate that the agency maintains that those delinquents apprehended have characteristics that differ significantly from those of persons who are not apprehended.

2) From the mental hygiene agency: Delinquency is behavior not characterized by legal aspects of apprehending the offender, because this frequently obscures the real problem whose discovery and treatment is the goal. This means that the health agency does not have an official label of delinquent which they apply.

What are the causes of delinquency?

The "Containment Theory" was proposed by Walter C. Reckless, Ohio State University, to the American Society of Criminology on December 27, 1960. Containment is an outer and inner defense against deviation. Outer containment is supplied to the individual by his nuclear groups, principally the family. It provides limits, roles, status, belongingness, support, and alternates. Inner containment is supplied by the strength of the self concept, self control, high frustration tolerance, good morale, capacity for self direction, and well developed superego.

The two containments can be considered as "insulating cushions" against environmental pressures, pulls, and impulses. The pressures of environment include bad housing, unemployment,
property, and minority group status. The pulls include bad companions, moral hazards, delinquency subculture, street corner society, and advertising propaganda.

"Under the sphere of the pressures and pulls in the social environment is the insulating cushion or containing wall of nuclear group or groups, the so-called outer containment. Next comes the inner containment structure, the strength of the self. Finally, at the bottom of this vertical order come the impulses which thrust upward and threaten to break through the inner containing structure or wall and also the outer containing wall". A person who is insulated against delinquency by his inner and outer containing structure can handle most of his impulses, but if it is weakened through damage, disease, or faulty personality development, impulses may dominate.

This theory accounts for the "middle range" of deviant and delinquent behavior. It does not account for delinquency which results from an extreme form of socialization (slums). The individual here is acting in their expected way. 5

Seemingly a cause of the middle class delinquency is the indifference of the parents who seem to see, but not believe according to a police officer. This parent's first concern is the papers and the publicity, and secondly the child for as one officer stated, "I am willing to take an oath that the first question asked is, will this be in the papers?"

In words of teenagers themselves they feel as if they are employees of their parents, and need to buy their parent's love, or that parents, need to buy the child's love and affection.
As one psychiatrist put it, youths act wildly as a way of demanding the attention, standards, and discipline that their parents have failed to provide. And, often they seem to want to be caught, and stopped. In one such case, a high school boy went hitchhiking on a main highway carrying a cash register he had just taken from a gas station.

When asking the juveniles themselves as to why they commit the crimes, the following is a common response:

What lays behind your actions, why do you do it? I don't know, is the most common answer. For kicks, is the second most common answer. The third, often the most puzzling is "To get even," but with whom and what for, "I don't know."

Probation officers say that the worst outbreaks of juvenile crime can usually be traced to the influence of one or more very disturbed, but highly persuasive youths.

According to Dr. William A. Schonfeld, a psychiatrist, today's teen-age problem is generally different from that of the past because the adolescent rebellion is not against parental rigidity, but the absence of parental concern. According to Dr. Schonfeld, the disintegration of families is the cause while the delinquency a mere manifestation or symptom of it.

The family today is not that of the past for today's family is one of the loose affiliation of ties characterized by divorce, emotionally broken homes that can be even more catastrophic for youth.

Within the teen-age group itself, the youths are striving for a status and possessing of their parents. They seek a sense of stability and identity, and find that this is the one thing
their parent's have not provided.⁶

According to the Glueck study, five factors point to delinquency and are observable at the age of five to six, and are as follows:

1) discipline of the boy by the father  
2) supervision of the boy by the mother  
3) affection of the father for the boy  
4) affection of the mother for the boy  
5) the cohesion of the mother for the boy.

It might be well at this point to mention that the Glueck's prediction in the studies according to the above factors was 84.8 percent correct prediction of delinquency, and 97.1 percent correct in prediction of nondelinquency.⁷

As for the emotional life of the delinquent, it has been found by Healy and Bronner that no less than 91 percent of the delinquents gave clear evidence of being or having been very unhappy and discontented in their life circumstances, or extremely disturbed because of emotion provoking situations or experiences. We found similar evidence of inner stresses at the most in only 13 percent of the controls of our study.

Bronner is the school that holds the belief that delinquency is a form of rational behavior just as dependent on definite causation as is any other form of behavior.⁸

The U.S. Children's Bureau holds that the child's misconduct is his way of expressing his reaction to his inner urges, and the environmental pressures.

Today's theories include the facts from psychologist, psychiatrists, and sociologists.

We had stated earlier that emotional instability is one of the distinguishing characteristics and this is upheld by Healy and Bronner who state:
The modern conception of the emotional life as the great dynamic force, and of emotional experiences as the most significant conditioning factor in the production of behavior tendencies received full corroboration from our studies.

"Delinquency origins in every case unquestionably represent the expression of the desire and urge which are otherwise unsatisfied." 9

The case histories of the juveniles found in the literature on juvenile delinquency, shows the prevalent feeling of delinquents such as feelings of insecurity, of being discriminated against, and of jealousy.10

Sociologist have taken from the personal histories of the delinquents such factors as: economic insecurity, cultural clash, blighted areas, gang influence, and the tremendously important condition concerned with the family and home.11

Broken homes is one factor that merits a great deal of attention as a cause in the juvenile delinquency because as Taft studies show the broken home among delinquents appears in 30 to 50 percent of the cases. He follows this statement by saying, "it is obvious that a break in a home functioning as a socializing agency will tend towards delinquency."12

J. B. Biller used Shaw's data and found "convincing evidence of the marked association between broken homes and delinquency."

J. Edgar Hoover continually emphasizes that juvenile crime flourishes where home ties have been weakened by divorce, separation, the desertion of a parent or the ignorance, carelessness, or indifference of fathers and mothers.

Judge Roy Seth Burd of the Court of Common Pleas,
Cleveland said, "divorce with its train of broken homes, neglected, dependent, and delinquent children, is one of the greatest social evils of our day and a serious menace to our stability as a nation." 13

It would seem from this above evidence that the goals of the family, thus society, which is based upon the individual, has become those of a materialist seeking status, prestige, superiority rather than those of a common sense, God fearing and loving being seeking happiness, realizing that it does not come from complete possession of matter, but rather from good morals, education, and the basic needs of a child being fulfilled that is of love, security, affection, and recognition and the filling of these needs in the home.

Is delinquency on the increase?

There are 69,000,000 children in the United States under the age of 16, and of this number 12,000,000 live in absolute poverty which is defined as: just enough milk, bread, meat, clothing and shelter to keep from starving to death or freezing to death.

In America a vast number of children can not read because they do not feel there is a good reason to, while on the other hand a good vast committ crimes, and the reason is to tell America just how big a catastrophe is the intellectual and moral starvation today, as well as how sick they really are.

The F. B. I. reported in 1963 that 706,252 children were taken into custody, and this by no means, comes close to committers who were not apprehended. The sharpest increase
in delinquency has been in the serious crimes of murder, rape, assault, larceny, and theft.

The facilities of New York City are overcrowded from the past as well as the arrested 40,000 in 1963. Probation officers instead of 40 have 85 cases. Since the year of 1945, there has been a 500% increase in crime rate for children in New York City, and again the fact looms big that most crimes of delinquency do not result in arrest.14

Cost of juvenile delinquency to our nation's economy is 4 billion dollars a year.

Juveniles are estimated at having stolen 115 million dollars worth of goods.

Half of all arrests for burglary and larceny involve persons under 18 years of age.

The police deal with 2 million youths who are in trouble. Since 1950, arrests of persons under 18 have more than doubled.15

From 1960 through 1964, the percentage of young-age group arrests for homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft more than doubled the population increase percentage of the same group. Arrests of persons under 18 for simple assault rose 79 percent; drunkenness and related violations 52 percent; disorderly conduct 18 percent; and concealed weapons 17 percent during the same five years.16

A review of total arrests of persons under the age of 18 reveals a continued upswing in their involvement with police. The nationwide increase in all arrests, again excluding traffic,
for persons under 18 was 17 percent. In cities where volume is the highest, arrests of these young persons rose 17 percent. Suburban and rural areas recorded 21 percent and 22 percent increases each. Thirty percent of the total arrests in suburban areas were for persons under 18, 20 percent in cities, and in the rural areas young people made up 19 percent of arrests for all criminal acts. Regionally, the North Central and Western States recorded 21 percent increases in juvenile arrests, while the Northeastern States were up 13 percent, and the Southern States, 12 percent.

Nationally, males are arrested eight times more often than females for all criminal acts. The overall arrest trend for females for the serious crimes, however, showed a sharp 20 percent rise. Arrests of girls under 18 increased 27 percent. Sharpest increases for female arrests for these serious crimes were recorded in the burglary and auto theft categories. Girls under the age of 18 comprised over 45 percent of the runaways held for protective custody by police.

Both male and female arrests for narcotic drug violations rose sharply in 1964. Nationally, 49 percent of the narcotic drug arrests were opium derivatives, marijuana 26, synthetic narcotics 6, and nonnarcotic drugs such as barbiturates 19 percent. Gambling arrests were up for the first time in five years, almost one-third of which were for bookmaking and numbers.

Nationally, the number of arrests for the crimes of violence and crimes against property rose 30 percent, 1964 over 1960. When related to the population increase, the
arrest rate for homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft as a total was up 22 percent during this five year period. The young age group arrests for these crimes increased 49 percent in volume, and persons 18 years of age and older 15 percent.

In 1964 arrests of persons under 18 for burglary increased 29 percent over 1960, for larceny 61 percent, and auto theft 54 percent. Arrests of young people for murder rose 26 percent, forcible rape 23, aggravated assault 60, and robbery 35 percent. Adult arrests during the same period followed a similar but less marked trend with auto theft arrests up 26 percent and aggravated assault arrests 18 percent.17


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of Arrests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>34,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>163,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>284,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>788,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>961,132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 7. Total Arrest Trends, 1963 to 1964.21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total all ages</th>
<th>under 18 years of age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>3,917,966</td>
<td>697,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>4,107,392</td>
<td>818,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 8. Total Arrests of Persons Under 18, under 21, and under 25 years of age, 1964.22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of persons arrested</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>under 18</td>
<td>under 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,686,080</td>
<td>961,132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graph 9. Persons in Custody in Training Schools for Juvenile Delinquents and In Detention Homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Training Schools for Delinquents</th>
<th>Detention Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>34,742</td>
<td>2,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>44,001</td>
<td>9,186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


percent change over 1958

- Crime up 58%
- Crime rate up 41%
- Population up 10%

Crime - Index of crime offenses
Crime rate - Number of offenses per 100,000 population
As it was once said, that actions speak louder than words, so it can be said that facts are the bearers of truth. No person after having read the facts presented in the preceding paragraphs and in the tables can deny that juvenile
delinquency is on the increase. This does not appear to be gradual, but rather an immediate and dangerously sharp increase. Delinquency no longer seems to be confined to the less serious acts of anti-social behavior, but has become the acts of serious crimes such as forcible rape, auto theft, and such others.

Mr. Hoover also was to stress the most important factor in this chapter, that of the cause of juvenile delinquency. We have shown that family breakup is one of the most basic causes in delinquency, and it can be associated with this disorder in as many as 50 percent of the cases. This is not to say that family breakup is the only cause, but simply to say that it is a cause.

7 op. cit. Mihanovich. p. 15
8 Ibid. p. 33.
9 Ibid. p. 38.
10 Ibid. p. 40.
12 Ibid. p. 50.
13 Ibid. p. 51.
19 Ibid. p. 150.
21 Ibid. p. 110.
22 Ibid. p. 110.
24 op. cit. Hoover. p. 4.
CHAPTER V
FAMILY BREAKUP AND EFFECTS

As we had stated in the first chapter, family breakup refers to many forms. It is due to lack of information on most forms that we must concentrate on divorce. The term divorce was defined as a legal separation (for definition see chapter one page seven).

Yes, today marriage has a breakup rate of three times that of a half century ago.

Approximately one out of every four. This figure does not take into account the large number of married couples who are emotionally divorced, but who for one reason or another, prefer to remain legally wed.

More divorces occur in the second year of marriage than any other. More than six percent of those which do break, do so before the first anniversary, and nearly 10 percent before the second.¹

Graph 12. Marriage and Divorce Rates: 1950 to 1962. (Marriage rate per 1000 unmarried females, divorce rate per 1000 married females, 15 years old and over).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Divorce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 1,577,000 marriages in the United States in 1962, an increase of 1.9 percent over 1961. The marriage rate was 8.5 per 1000 population in 1962, the same as for the three previous years and among the lowest since 1920. The annual
marriage rate dropped below 8.5 only twice during the period, once in 1932 and again in 1958.

An estimated 413,000 divorces were granted in the United States in 1962. The divorce rate was 2.2 per 1000 population. This rate has shown little change in recent years. After reaching a peak in 1946 (4.3 per 1000), the divorce rate declined and gradually leveled off. For the years of 1955-1962 it was varied only slightly, from 2.1 to 2.3.

In 1962, there were 82,000 children reported on divorce records. Children were reported in 60 percent of all divorce cases. The 40 percent of the divorce cases not reporting children included both childless couples, and those that had children over 18 years of age. 3

Now, take and combine the figures in the previous paragraphs with those of the illegitimate births and the unknown figures of abandonments, etc., and the result is an alarming number, not capable of being known. We can multiply this by the number of families that also live together, but are psychologically divorced.

We must once again return to chapter two and continue on the point of discussion involving the types of causes. I have attempted throughout the preceding chapters to draw a picture of environment which is expressed in both the predisposing cause and the exciting cause.

We can call environment predisposing because it exerts pressure of the family condition upon the child, but also exciting for environment also includes the single incident or continued emotional drain on the person. Environment includes
separation from loved ones which in turn results in the more immediate exciting cause of traumatic experience.

James Royce, S.J. in his work *Personality and Mental Health* maintains that a child as well as all people have four basic needs:

1) recognition
2) love
3) affection
4) security.

It is of these four points we will be discussing in the remainder of this chapter.

By the very nature of man as a social being, the family is a stable social unit. Its stability derives from the nature of marriage as a pact of perfect friendship between man and woman, which is entered into not only that two friends may live together, but also that they may bear children and so fulfill the important duty of continuing the human race and handing down to posterity the religious, moral, intellectual, and aesthetic culture of previous ages.

The family therefore, must possess a certain stability:

1) because true friendship is eternal;
2) because the long period of human infancy and childhood demands the stability of the home for the mere physical needs of a family of children;
3) because the parents must prepare the child to receive the culture of previous ages and equip the child to create a new family that in its turn will transmit the religious, moral, and aesthetic values that it received.

The concept, therefore; of the permanence of the marriage tie and the generous resolution to take each other "for better or worse, until death do us part" is an element of fundamental importance in the mental hygiene of the home. When husband and
wife realize that marriage is no more trial of compatibility, but lifelong partnership of true and perfect friendship, each is much more likely to attempt to overcome the defects of his own personality and to bear patiently with the temperamental defects of the consort, than when divorce is regarded as the natural solution of more or less serious marital difficulties.

Lorine Pruette for example expresses the advantage of divorce by saying that it is better for the child to have "peace with one parent than strife with two" (The Parent and the Happy Child, New York, Holt, 1932, p. 11.). But, this is one of those euphemisms that cloud the issue by singling out one favorable aspect while many tragic possibilities lurk in the background.

Divorce is always a tragedy. It is the dissolution of a friendship, the marring of the lives of at least two individuals, and a profound disturbance in the emotional life of the child. Seldom does the child find emotional peace with one parent. Often he lives now with one, and now with the other, and while he loves both his father and his mother, each parent is competing for his love and trying to persuade him of the cruelty and iniquity of the other.

To prevent any such clamity to the child, the parents are bound to endure strain and bitterness and make all possible effort to soften it, and try their best not to let it appear before the child, and settle their difficulties by quietly talking over their problems when the children are not around.

Parents should realize a child is often deeply grieved when hearing them in dispute about even minor matters.
I remember being in one house when the father and mother were arguing some trivial point, and where a little 10 year old boy was nevertheless very deeply concerned and was doing all he could to make peace between them running first to one and then to the other to bestow an appealing hug and kiss, wrote Dom Moore in Personal Mental Health.¹

The family is the center of security for the child. When it breaks up, he is bound to worry about what will happen to him. He may not say so out loud, but every child whose parents separate or divorce wonders, "What will happen to me now?"

The small child may feel that in some way he is to blame for the trouble between his parents. ("I used to wish bad things at Daddy when I got mad at him," whispers a five year old, "but I didn't really want him to go away for good!") And, he is almost certain to feel abandoned. ("I am too little to get divorced. I don't know how to cook yet." "If you really loved me you wouldn't go away."). These are examples from Rita Kramer's article When Parents Divorce.

As Mrs. Beatman points out, divorces don't happen overnight. There is bound to have been tension and hostility in the home, perhaps open quarreling in front of the child. Children are very sensitive to what goes on between the people who matter most to them. Often a child may try to ward off the impending crisis he fears by trying extra hard to please in some way. He may try to be extra clean or quiet or to be an especially good student if he feels that's what is important to his parents.
The child straining beyond his capacity, whose anxiety shows itself in tension or even physical symptoms, can be helped, says Mrs. Beatman, if his parents try to make it clear that what is happening is something between the grownups.

One of the most powerful unconscious fears harbored by a child is that he will be deserted and abandoned by one or both parents. This frightening fantasy is made real through the threats of parents for divorce or separation in the presence of the child. A child finds abandonment by one parent or the other hard to accept and does so in a cycle form for periods of time.

According to Dr. Blaine, the impact of divorce does not have as great an effect upon children from birth to three years of age as it does on those from three to six for these need both parents more than at any other period. This is the period of intimate relationships being developed between the parent of the opposite sex and this must at this time be diluted by the other parent if the child is to develop a normal healthy frame of mind. From the period from six to twelve there is less need for the presence of both parents than earlier, and the shift of the adult figures in the child's life is tolerated better at this period. During this period, the imitation of the parent of the same sex becomes more evident and thus a greater attraction to the child of the same sex. Adolescents from twelve to eighteen can usually understand the necessity of divorce or separation and thus do not suffer as much. During this period the task is to develop independent and individual identity which requires the
presence of a strong and effective person of the same sex in the close emotional environment as absolutely essential. There are two factors crucial to normal development:

1) the presence of an adult man and woman in the home for relatively lengthy periods;
2) a place which can be felt as home.

We are concerned here not with the great majority of married people who manage somehow to face and surmount their crises together, but with those troubled parents and children who are emotionally severed from each other by deep and serious rifts.

We can be even more emphatic. The suffering of children where the divorce is emotional, but not openly expressed, is greater. Loyalties are as divided, security is as deeply shaken, and besides there is the anxiety about the uncertain, the unexpressed, and inexpressible.

The child of emotional divorce cannot ask to have his confusions clarified and his fears explained away. He does not know what he fears and has no words for what he does not understand. The unidentified situation between his parents is far more threatening to a child than a realistic situation, however painful which is squarely faced together with his parents.

This emotional divorce can lead the child to a fear of being abandoned as a form of ever-ready anxiety. He cannot help but leap ahead and even anticipate a break which the parents themselves may not have read in their own minds.

The most serious danger to children lies in depriving them of the emotional support they must have to grow on.
They can be derived of all material luxuries, yet grow to emotional maturity. This is true before divorce, during divorce, and after divorce. One reassurance which modern child psychiatry can offer to parents is that a child can absorb and survive almost any painful experience, if he is sure of his family's love.

During the stormy period of divorce, because of the stresses which have preceded, and the adjustments which must follow, and because by its very nature divorce threatens those symbols of security most vital to the child, it is all the more necessary to be aware of his fundamental needs and give them first importance.

Dr. Despert maintains that for a child there are emotional pitfalls, and hostility toward his parents is one of those most frequently encountered. Practically the first reaction of the child, especially of a very young child who has no way of understanding the subtleties of an adult relationship, is that the parent who has left the home has abandoned him, and so he is likely to be hostile toward that parent. Hostility may also be directed against the parent who remains. As in the case when divorce comes at that stage of a little girl's development when her father has a deep meaning for her, then it is her mother who usually becomes the main target for her hostile feelings.

Built in is another emotional pitfall. If parents can feel guilty so can children, and often they do. By steps mysterious to the adult but quite logical to him the child can arrive at the conclusion that he is responsible for the
separation of his parents. He remembers for example that he has been naughty in the past, these misdeeds are trivials in the eyes of the adults, but become ones of serious proportion in the eyes of the child. This is what rises to the surface, but the roots of his guilt spread deep into anxiety over unexpressed associations with "bad".

One must remember that behind all these feelings lies the paramount one of fear. The child, aware of his childish helplessness, is afraid, afraid of being left alone and uncared for.8

In any situation of discord between husband and wife, there is likely to be a period in which the possibility of divorce hangs in the air, and nothing is certain except that there is trouble. This is a difficult time for all concerned, and particularly for the children. To the child of almost any age, the vague threat of change, unfocused and unexplained, is a trigger for anxiety. A clear and definite prospect, even one which they don't like at all, is easier for most children to bear than a pervasive and, to them, sinister uncertainty.9

A child's anxiety turns on these points. What he needs to know especially, is that he is not to blame, and that his parents still love him. Whatever eventually he must face later, he can face better with your reassurance on these two counts, plus the acknowledgement that something is wrong, plus the maturing realization that his parents are not gods, but human beings who make mistakes.10

A case from Children of Divorce by Dr. Despert further
adds to our understanding of divorce effects. "leave Donnie out of this!" his father shouted. And then, he said that new word again: "divorce". Donnie did not know the meaning of the word, but from the way his father said it he knew it was something bad. And when, a few minutes later, the door of his room opened softly and his mother looked in, Donnie was in such a panic that he shrank together under his covers and pretended to be asleep.

Thus, coupled with the word divorce, Donnie has already experienced fear, experienced guilt ("If it weren't for Donnie..." and "Leave Donnie out of this!"). With it, he has already associated the unfocused, but swelling uncertainties of the weeks when his father was away and his mother was anxious and worried. And in the morning, when Donnie wakes up, his father has already gone again, neglecting in anger and distraction to think that Donnie might need just then to see him, to speak with him, to be reassured by him. And so, there is included in Donnie's feelings about divorce one more feeling, that of being rejected, of having lost his father's love.¹¹

Even if the strange word had not been mentioned, Donnie would have been inwardly shaken by the events transpiring between his parents, though he might have given no sign of it. This will be the emotional setting of Donnie's experience of divorce, unless his parents can stop in their headlong flight from each other to give heed to Donnie. In Donnie's case, as it happened, this was not to be until after several unhappy years had passed.

⁴60,000 Donnies a year. Your child, and Donnie, and
between three and four hundred thousand American children each year must deal somehow with the experience of divorce. No two of them can have precisely the same experience, not even two children of the same family, as we shall see. Yet, certain patterns, in broad outline recur again and again.

With such a child, the changes in his life may appear more revolutionary than they really are. The important core, his emotional state, is not profoundly shaken, though it is revised. He must still accept the fact that his parents no longer live together, but the acceptance is less difficult because his parents have been foresighted. By their careful and timely explanations, by their continuously loving behavior, by their wise plans for him, they have forestalled anxiety and given him security in their love.12

Sometimes a child who has had to go through the experience of divorce without emotional support from his parents finds it in another adult, a grandmother or other relative, a teacher, a friend of the family; or he must build his own defenses. These may enable him to function somewhat, but he may also carry into adult life some permanent scars. Or the child, may show by his behavior that he is distressed, and his parents eventually come to realize that he needs help. An awareness has been steadily growing in the public mind that a child who has suffered a serious emotional experience may need help from outside his family to set him again on a healthy path. Perhaps of their own volition, perhaps at the urging of relatives, friends, or school authorities, parents who have been unable to help the child
through the divorce itself not infrequently turn to a special social agency, clinic or psychiatrist to get help for him later.13

What about these defenses a child builds? We may call these defenses drives. Whatever part of a drive becomes conscious, be it idea, desire, or volition, as well as whatever part becomes manifest to the environment through words or action, may derive either directly from one or from more drives and can have undergone cultural changes, refinements, and specialization. This drive may also become inhibited in its expansion tendency through a barrier determined by culture or created by a second drive, and hence may not become manifest directly. In this event certain characteristic phenomena in consciousness correspond to drive inhibition in the unconscious, among which psychoanalysis reveals especially the following according to Alfred Adler:

1) Transformation of the drive into its opposite: unconscious drive to eat becomes the conscious refusal to eat;
2) Displacement of the drive to another goal: the unconscious love for the father becomes love for the teacher, the physician, the cousin, and others; or the repression may go so far that the sex drive manifest itself only in a preverted direction, in homosexuality;
3) Direction of drive to one's own person: the exhibitionism, and also, in further sequence the want of ideas of grand, of ideas of reference, grandeur, and persecution in paranoia and dementia praecox, illusion, hallucinations, and anxiety are examples of the unconscious drive to be looked at;
4) Displacement of the accent on a second strong drive: this often represses itself also in the form of transformation of the drive into its opposite.14

Among the externally observable psychological phenomena in children, the need for affection shows itself relatively early.
The strength of the affectional tendencies and the way in which he bears lack of satisfaction represents an essential part of the child's character. The original expression of the need for affection are sufficiently striking and well known. Children want to be fondled, loved, and praised.15

According to Adler the satisfaction of the need for affection depends on other people, and therefore, the need for social relationships is present from the start. The child turns upon himself in self-love only after satisfaction has been denied to the out-going seeking for affection.

Basic of this need for affection is its satisfaction by parents and only upon growth and age increase does this need become an essential part of the social feelings.16

A large part of the child's development depends on the proper guidance of this complex.

The derived purified social feelings wake in the soul of the child as soon as the goal permits substitute formations and the place of the father can be taken by the teacher, friend, or brother-in-arms.

When the child is cut of f from all objects of affection, he has only his own person as the goal of his desire. The social feelings remain rudimentary, and those tendencies toward satisfaction which have the various forms of self-love for their consent gain control.

The child may arrive at a position of aggression against the environment. This factor brings about a belief of understanding the delinquents of today.17
The previous persons have stressed the effects of the splitting of family life. They have given us a basic insight into what can happen, and that it does happen.


CHAPTER VI
PERSONAL CASES

This chapter has one purpose, to make the problem real.

I have chosen case histories presented by other authors which most definitely align with the studies I have made at Warm Springs' Institution for the Mentally Ill, Montana. These cases should indicate whether the question of family breakup is important, is real.

Michael was born to a fifteen year old mother with a case history of sexual delinquency. He was admitted to his first institution, a county hospital, when he was six months old because of malnutrition and neglect (psychic and physical). This is a classic example of the psychic or Dr. Despert's "emotional divorce". For the next three years, he was shunted from foster homes to his mother, to a great aunt, and then back to his mother and a new stepfather. By age of nine he was very disturbed, and although plans were made, he was not placed in an adoptive home.

In the next three years, he lived in nine different foster homes where he stayed and became sick with rheumatic fever and then illicitis, and finally was placed in a children's home where he stayed for three troubled years. In his teens, a record of crime begins and he comes before the juvenile court because of dangerous cruelty to younger children. Six months later he is picked up for stealing, and after spending some time in a home for boys which he ran away from, and later
confesses that he had attacked and almost killed a small boy; he is sent off to a school for delinquents.

Later psychiatric study of this boy finds him capable of repeated acts of the same type previously mentioned, and suffering from a defense mechanism which prevents him from forming relationships with anyone, the origin of this, of course seems to lie in the disturbed relationships with his mother.

Michael is paroled six months later to one of his stepfathers; within a few months he kills a women customer in a hold-up attempt. Now he is under a life sentence in the state penitentiary.

The case of the absent father: The explosive quarrel which precipitated the divorce of Donnie's parents brought to a climax Donnie's long though unexpressed anxiety. He was born into a home in which anxiety was already insidiously working.

Donnie's father was a journalist which required him to spend a large amount of time away from home. His father's absence can be accepted by his children if their mother out of her own inner security accepts it. But, Donnie's mother did not have this inner security. A girl from a modest small town, she was dazzled by her husband's glamorous life, and only later realized that it had grave dangers for her.

Any marriage requires adjustment, but this kind of marriage demands a good deal more than the average, and Donnie's mother was unprepared. Carried away by romantic love, she had not anticipated the loneliness, the frustrations
of such a life. Inevitably she felt rejected, hence resentful and turned to her baby for solace. With the consequence being that she gave him an overdose of motherly devotion.

Donnie was aware of the gradually widening breach between his parents although he was unable to ask about it. His father's returns were more and more often marred by quarrels, until the final explosion which confirmed this feeling that he was somehow to blame for his father's absence and his mother's unhappiness.

After the separation the mother moved to a smaller apartment and obtained a secretarial job in a newspaper office.

The first year after the divorce Donnie still groped for a reunion of his parents. He built a fantasy around the vacation he would spend with his father at home with his parents. He dreamed that his mother would come too, they would all be together. This was accompanied by the difficulties of continuing a relationship that has had the ties broken.

The second year Donnie's mother began to bring friends home to cocktails and dinner, men from the newspaper where she worked, men not unlike his father. He regarded them with conflicting emotions, hoping he would get a new daddy, fear that his own father might someday come back, and as a result he could not trust these men. They too might leave him as his father had done.

Toward his mother Donnie was increasingly hostile and
difficult. Needing to be close to her, he also blamed her for the separation from his father. And, he had the guilty fears of a boy who is too close to his mother, who has been kept in the mother-baby relationship past the time when he should have outgrown it.

Outside the home Donnie failed to make friends in his new neighborhoods and to do badly in school, and finally his disturbing, destructive behavior prompted the principal to call his mother and insist that the boy be taken to a psychiatric clinic for treatment. 2

Sidney was a very obedient boy. His parents violent quarreling about money and about him drove him cowering into a corner both literally and emotionally. Sidney made no trouble to distract his parents from their intense conflict with each other. Sidney was a "good" boy, so good that his parents were not aware of the deep trouble he was in until he was eleven, he made an attempt at suicide. Only then, shocked by such an extreme gesture of despair in a child, did they realize that Sidney had been pushed beyond his strength and must have help. 3

Janie on the other hand has had no help at all. She has been left to build her own defenses, for better or worse. Janie's mother went to a guidance counselor, but not for guidance of the child. Bitterly resentful at the failure of her marriage this headstrong young mother fought for Janie, less for Janie's sake than to take vengeance on her husband for not measuring up to her unrealistic standards.

Like so many divorces, the divorce of Janie's parents
was a climax of a multitude of small but cumulative frustrations which, if they could have been dealt with separately and in time might have been resolved.

These two young people married on the crest of an ardent love affair, and continued the carefree pleasure seeking of an attractive young couple until Janie was born. Then at one stroke they were confronted with a different facet of marriage, its mature responsibilities.

Janie's mother had not achieved the maturity of her emotions and wanted the baby to be a doll to take care of whenever she felt like playing with it.

On one final quarrel, the young mother left her husband and retreated to her mother. This was just another step in the retreat still further from her responsibilities. She was attempting to become a daughter again and no longer a mother. Janie became a constant troublesome reminder of her responsibility, of her defeat, and of her conflict.

Janie is a fighter, who has learned to behave out of sheer self-protection, but her somewhat better manners can only mask the story of emotions underneath which erupt with the departure of her father, into a frustrated rage, pounding of fists against her mother, until the mother drags her up the stairs and locks her in her room until she learns to behave herself.

Not knowing love, she can deal with life henceforth only by aggressiveness and hostility. Her native intelligence, her determination to reach a goal, especially in opposition to parents and parent figures, her toughness in the face of
challenge — all this suggest a familiar pattern. She may one
day become a successful career woman, an aggressive
business executive, but is not likely to make a life
yielding emotional satisfactions to herself or to others
around her.

The aftermath of desertion by Jack's father was felt
in the four children he left behind. Jack, the eldest, was
ten, and the youngest was five. His mother was faced with
a monstrous uncertainty. Any day, her husband might turn
up again, repentant. Meanwhile she had to find some way of
supporting herself and her children.

She took a job as a domestic worker, but then her
children were truly abandoned to the streets. Next she
tried staying at home, accepting crumbs from the city
welfare department and various social agencies until this
became intolerable to her self-respect. More and more she
leaned on her eldest boy. She tried not to burden him, thus
Jack became the nursemaid to sisters and little brother, when
his mother was forced to lean on him by the overwhelming
burden.

When his mother was not working, Jack got himself a
newspaper route. He saw homes more comfortable than his own,
women less burdened than his mother. He began to steal a
little here and there. He was caught once, twice, and at
sixteen he was sent away to a reform school.

Jack had not aimed for a criminal career. He wanted
to be a good man, the kind of man he used to think his
father was. Yet, if his father was a good man, why did he
leave his family without a worker, without a thought for the struggle they must face after his desertion? This is the question buried deep in Jack's unstable personality, the doubt at the bottom of his insecurity. He cannot find a satisfactory answer, anymore than he could find a satisfactory male figure to pattern himself upon.

At the age of twenty-five Jack no longer steals. He is a fair mechanic and a friendly, likeable fellow, and in times of ordinarily good employment he has no trouble getting a job. But, he is the kind of worker known as a floater. He can never stay on a job for long for trouble always develops and he quits. He'll marry, if any girl is foolish enough to take a chance on him. He'll have children, and he'll desert his wife and children. He is his "Fathers's son".

Hal is twenty-seven, and can be considered a successful man in an antique shop along with his partner, who is a former college classmate.

His parents were divorced when Hal was nine. His mother became interested in troubled children and was able to secure a job with an organization dealing with them.

His father was a gentle man, accepted the passive feminine role she carved out for him, taking refuge in literature and the arts, retreating to his bookshop. Incapable of making the trivial day to day assertions of himself, he allowed his discontent to mount and ended in abandonment of his family.

Hal became a member of the group his mother supervised at the institution for the troubled children. He became
subject to continuous frustrations of physical nearness and increased emotional separation. Sharing her with twenty other real boys was too much.

He attended college, where he distinguished himself in literary and dramatic activities, but did not date girls, rather he avoided them.

By graduation he had been introduced to homosexual practices by a more sophisticated friend who became the feminine member of the relationship. This friend, now his partner in business as well as private life, dominates him entirely holding him in a web like a heartless woman. When his present friend leaves him he will look for another, and one day he may find himself a seducer of young boys. 5

These cases call to mind a statement of Jesus in the Bible where he warns: "Behold you who harm these the least in my kingdom, for the wrath of God will fall upon you".

4 Ibid. p. 106.
5 Ibid. p. 130.
CONCLUSION

We began by presenting a problem which was to show that mental illness in children can be associated to family breakup. We did not say that family breakup was the sole cause, but rather an important cause. We found that family dissolution has many forms, but that the emotions of the people are involved, especially the children's.

We attempted to give a workable definition of mental illness and resulted in calling it a lack of integrated personality. This personality depended upon environment, which was shown to be two types of causes: predisposing, and exciting.

The intensity of mental illness was shown to be on the increase by various figures on the institutions, costs, and increase of illegitimate births.

Delinquency was also proven to be on the increase and was shown to be an expression of neurosis.

The family breakup among those of the United States was shown to be on the increase. With this increase, we also showed that there are definite effects of the dissolution related to the children through the works of Royce, Despert, and Adler.

The cases of Micheal, Donnie, Janie, and Hal are a few actual cases of what has happened to children who are the ill-fortuned victims of divorce or family breakup.

For me, there is not doubt in my mind that family
breakup is a related cause of mental illness in children. It
does not matter whether it is a primary or secondary cause
because the results of the emotional disturbance is still
real. I find no better summation of the facts presented here
in this paper than the words of Christ: "What God has joined
together, let no man put unsunder". What charity parents must
have, what kindness, what love, what egotism must they posses
to inflict upon an innocent victim who is supposedly a symbol
of their love the anguish of anxiety, of fear, and of abandon-
ment. No man has a right to subject a child to the most
infamous punishment or "beating" that man can give, those of
the destruction of security for a child. I again call to
mind the fact that society is based upon the family and
issue a warning, that freedom and nation depend upon the
acts of parents. Delinquency is the child calling: "Behold,
I speak and you do not hear."
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