

D. van Nuffel (1971). Schizofreniënfamilie. *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Psychiatrie*, 13, 377-388.
Summary op p. 385. Résumé op p. 386.

SUMMARY

More than twenty years ago intensive research started which aimed at a better understanding of schizophrenic patients and their families. This paper surveys some of the studies concerning this subject and limits itself to what we consider the three leading American research centers in this field (i.e. Yale University, the group at Palo Alto, the group at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda). The results of these groups are not considered separately but are incorporated into three main areas of disturbance, following closely the framework of T. Lidz.

1e - Deficiencies in parental nurturance: here we consider successively the mothers and fathers of schizophrenic children and try to bring together some characteristics of these parents indicating how and why they fail to exercise their nurturant role.

2e - Dysfunctioning of the family as a psychosocial institution: here we stress the failure to form a coalition (marital schism, marital skew) and the difficulties the parents have in adhering to appropriate sex and social roles, thus failing to give security in identification; 3e - Deficiencies in the transmission of adequate communicative tools: We discuss the 'Double Bind' in communication patterns; the 'Pseudo-mutuality' in relationships; the language considered as an instrument of communication, and the 'schizophrenic thought disorders' as a possible result of disturbed inter-personal relations. We think that by attributing a causal role to psychogenesis in the etiology of schizophrenia we do not preclude a causal role of biogenesis and we do not see any incompatibility of these two types of explanation.

RESUMÉ

Depuis une vingtaine d'années des études intensives sont en cours visant une meilleure compréhension des patients schizophréniques et de leur milieu familial. L'article présente survole les résultats obtenus par les trois principaux centres de recherche des Etats-Unis (c.à.d. l'université de Yale, le centre à Palo Alto et le centre du National Institute of Mental Health à Bethesda). Les résultats obtenus par ces centres de pointe ne sont pas examinés séparément mais sont incorporés dans les trois grandes zones où les perturbations du milieu familial semblent être les plus manifestes.

1 - Carence des parents: nous examinons les difficultés personnelles affectant les parents à un tel degré qu'ils ne fonctionnent plus comme éducateurs valables;

2e - Déficience du milieu familial en tant qu'institution psychosociale: l'impossibilité pour les parents de former une coalition véritable (marital schism, marital skew) et leurs difficultés de jouer leur rôle sexuel et social d'une manière appropriée constitue un obstacle important empêchant les enfants de trouver une sécurité existentielle et l'identification sans contradiction;

3e - Transmission défectueuse des instruments de communication: Nous discutons successivement le 'Double Bind' dans les communications, la 'Pseudo-mutuality' dans les relations et la langue comme instrument. Nous relient les perturbations 'schizophréniques' des fonctions cognitives aux perturbations des relations interpersonnelles.

Nous pensons que la psychogénèse est un facteur étiologique de la schizophrénie, mais nous n'excluons nullement l'importance du facteur biogénétique. Nous sommes persuadés qu'il n'y a pas d'incompatibilité entre les deux.

H.M. van Praag (1976). Over het onmogelijke begrip schizofrenie. *Tijdschrift voor Psychiatrie*, 18, 5-24.
Summary op p. 65.

SUMMARY

On the impossible concept schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is an impossible concept. It is used to summarize a group of psychoses which have in common that consciousness usually (not even always) remains unclouded during their course. No other common characteristics have been demonstrated in terms of symptomatology, aetiology or prognosis. There are therefore hardly any sound reasons to bring these syndromes under a single common denominator such as 'schizophrenia' or to refer to them as a 'group of schizophrenic psychoses'. It seems more likely that schizophrenic psychoses are separate entities - not variants of one basic form. What we need above all at this time is empirical research in an effort to chart the schizophrenia concept. Such a charting effort would have to start with carefully defined syndromes, and should then investigate whether, apart from symptoms, there are other features which characterize a particular syndrome, e.g. aetiology, pathogenetic factors, course or response to therapy. The more such characteristics can be found, the greater the chance that we are dealing with a separate entity. Pending such studies, and in order to avoid terminological chaos, it seems advisable for the time being to maintain the term 'schizophrenic psychoses' for practical purposes, provided that the designation in each actual case be supplemented with an accurate profile of the symptomatology, aetiological factors, and course.