

BILOCATION PHENOMENA IN NEUROPATHOLOGY

JEAN LHERMITTE (*France*)

Certain recent psychopathological investigations in the field of bilocation, using mainly as source material the work of E. Bozzano, are cited as of interest to both parapsychologists and neuropathologists. Hallucinations of the presence of amputated limbs are discussed. Cases are cited in which pain is sensed in illusory limbs as though they were normal ones. In one case, a patient could feel a violent pain when the flame reached the farthest extremity, the hand, and followed the fingers. The success of the experiment was independent of whether the subject's eyes were open or closed. Because the patient has a very exact notion of the limb's position and can sense the warmth with other parts of his body, this experiment cannot shatter the classical explanation.

In heautoscopy, the vision of one's own double, the subject sees his bodily image and at the same time feels his mind occupies this image. Neurologists see this as only a phenomenal appearance which finds its place in the structure of those hallucinations in which the image of the body is the foundation. But parapsychologists think this phenomenon would imply the probable exteriorization of sensibility and therefore the existence of an "odic" or fluidic body.

Cases are cited in which the subjects observed their own bodies travel about, going through solid objects and are "sucked" into the original body. Sometimes these experiences are accompanied by ecstasy and pseudo-mystical

phenomena. Although accounts from those associated with spiritualism always must be taken with some legitimate distrust, the facts chosen by E. Bozzano may be reckoned as true, for many such facts are known in orthodox scientific literature.

In cataplexy, bilocation is accompanied by the loss of all voluntary movement, the mind remaining awake. When the attack is over, the subject tells of the anxieties and hallucinations connected with it. It is maintained that there are no grounds apart from a few exceptional cases, for connecting this process with a manifestation of supernatural origin.