

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! This is the third number of our journal *Parce que ce n'est pas ca*. This issue concerns civilization and its discontents. Not, to be sure, the book by Freud of the same name. Although his analysis of civilizational discontentment looms behind everything that is said here. Instead this is an issue on the nature of civilizational discontents today, in what Gerard Haddad calls a world dominated by nihilism and others see as a world dominated by addiction, science, and technology.

Gerard Haddad has written a beautiful piece where he expounds on the Cain complex, the subject of a recent book. In this article, he describes the history of the West for the last three hundred year as being a history of nihilism. And states: "This nihilism, for me, is rooted in the Cain complex. To overcome nihilism, to achieve the hoped-for rebirth, is to overcome this complex."

Catherine Vanier, taking a more clinical approach, has written two essays drawn from her very vital work with premature babies in hospitals in Paris. In "Baby's Of the Modern World" she discusses the role machines play in the affective distancing of mother, staff, and baby and how she works to overcome it in the service of life.

Catherine Vanier next discusses in "Connected Babies" how all these devices come between us and our new born babies when: "There is no longer any need to understand the baby, to imagine what the child is trying to tell us, to transform their call into a demand. The machine tells us what to do." Obviously, she writes, subjectivity suffers. And she explores how this effects the life of a premature baby named Nora

Patrick Pouyaud, also clinical in focus, describes working with addictions from a psychoanalytic perspective. This means above all treating the subject of the addiction where "it is not so much the product that "makes the addict" but the encounter of a subject with a product."

Andrew Stein has written a paper on "The Analyst's Work In The Adult Home." An Adult Home is an institution where people who formally lived in State Institutions now live in mostly poor neighborhoods. In two vignettes, Stein shows how analytic work can proceed in spite the institutional limitations.

Veronique Baverstock offers a personal account of working at *La Borde* in the seventies, the revolutionary anti-psychiatric hospital, as a *stagiaire*.

Andrew Stein provided a transcription of a talk he gave to a group of non-analyst who, nevertheless, have been reading Freud and Lacan for three years, called "Eros And The Death Drive In the Adult Home". It concerns Freud's death drive and discusses a moment in an analysis when the dualism 'death drive and Eros' was at stake.

Our next, upcoming issue will focus on transmission and will include a long essay by Andre Michel.