In 1900, a book "the interpretation of dreams" written by S.Freud (an famous Austrian doctor) stirred up the world of psychology by giving birth to psychoanalysis. The most important part of Freud's discovery was the *unconscious* which is, according to Freud, the place of repulsed but structured thought.

Freud, at first, split the human personality into three fundamental elements:

- **THE CONSCIOUS** which deals with reality, is tied to your perception of the external world. It operates on the reality principle (the *ego* derives from the *id* and tends to increase instinctive gratification while minimizing punishment and guile).

- **THE PRECONSCIOUS** which contains material that can easily be brought into consciousness. Its role is to keep repressed thoughts into the unconscious.

- **THE UNCONSCIOUS** which is the most important part of this system. It has six characteristics:

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- it is rooted in biology
- it is not organised (not logical)
- is the ultimate source of motivation
  (what you desire)
- is always in conflict with society
- is the basic premise called the pleasure principle
  (to increase instinctive gratification without regard to external reality)

- It contains all the urges which are repressed because they don't agree with society.

This way of thinking has been called the first topology (in 1920 Freud proposed a second topology). Freud used it to explain and treat many neuroses that hysteria belongs to.

Freud worked a lot with Josef BREUER, they both wrote a book upon hysteria with the famous case of ANNA.O, who is considered as the first psychoanalysis patient. Freud asserted the idea that hysteria was an inner neurosis dues to extreme excitation. In the book "Study of hysteria" (written with J. BREUER), the relationship between the psychological mechanism of hysterical phenomenon and the trauma neurosis was asserted: "the causes for the most of hysterical symptoms deserves to be qualified on psychological trauma"

The shock memory acts as a "foreign body" in the psychological; "Hysterical person suffers from reminiscence"

Indeed, the affect close to the causal event couldn't find verbal or somatic expression because of the blackout from the trauma's representation. The defence's mechanism which breeds hysterical symptoms is qualified as a "repression of an incompatible representation with the ego"

Freud asserts that a trauma is always close to a sexual early experience lived in displeasure (either for girls or for boys).
symptom is then a message which even goes unperceived by the patient himself.

One of the cases of hysteria treated by Freud is the case of "DORA" described in the book "five psychoanalyses" in the first chapter. Dora, an eighteen-year-old girl, suffered from strange symptoms since a child: depression, anxiety, unsociable behaviour, cough, aphasia. Any doctor wouldn't have managed to explain why she had those symptoms, but her father decided to call in Freud who said that she suffered from "une petite hystérie"

According to Freud, this disorder began when Dora refused to go on holiday in the" K's" family home. The "K's "were friends of Dora's parents and they didn't understand why she didn't want to go to their house. She would say , some days later, that Mr " K" had made a love declaration to her . She wanted her father to stop having relationships with the "K's" , but he answered her that he and Mrs" K" were really friends and he wouldn't stop seeing her . In fact they were lovers.

According to Freud, this declaration followed by the father's words was felt as a trauma which was the start of the girl's hysteria. Nevertheless this trauma wasn't the beginning of her disorder. Dora told to Freud an important event: when she was fourteen-, " K" had kissed her and she felt disgusted instead of being sexually aroused . So Freud would say that it wasn't a cause, but an effect of her hysteria.

Freud showed that the relationships between Dora and her father were important because Dora felt concerned about her father's affair with Mrs" K". She made a vehement denunciation of this fact because she understood that her father let Mr " K" seduce her in order to be able to carry on having an affair with Mrs K. Dora found this situation revolting.

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Freud thought that the symptoms were the result of this hidden affair because her cough was explained by the fantasy of an oral-genital sex act which Dora had imagined as having with Mr "K" (this shows an Oedipus love for her father).

The most important part of her cure was the telling of two dreams by Dora. On the first one; during a fire, her father stood in front of her bed to wake her while her mother tried to save her jewel box but the father managed to take them away. It echoes a recent memory in which Dora had seen Mr "K" near her bed when she slept. Freud shows that this dream is a wish by Dora never to be in this situation again. Moreover this dream echoes a period when Dora suffered from enuresis and when her father should have woken her in order to keep herself in a dry place. This dream constitutes a call for her father's protection and love.

The second dream, like the first one, shows love for Mr "K" and an Oedipus love for her father. According to Freud, dreams always echo repressed desires or repressed memories. The physician should find all the associations, all the links connected to recent events. It's the only way to interpret dreams.

Dora never ended her "talking-cure" because she gave it up after the analysis of the second dream. We'll never know if her hysteria could have been treated. What a pity!!