suggested psychotic disorientation for time rather than the belief that more than one time existed simultaneously. The cases reported here extend the range of psychotic reduplicative misidentifications to include not only person, place, and object, but also time.

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WEINSTEIN, E. A., KAHN, R. L., MALITZ, S. & RZANSKI, J. (1954) Delusional reduplication of parts of the body. *Brain*, **77**, 45–60.

SIR: The Capgras syndrome is the rare delusional belief that person(s) important to the patient have been replaced by identical doubles. Included in this is the belief in a double of the patient himself or herself masquerading as the patient but never actually perceived. Of the 133 cases of the Capgras syndrome reported in the English language literature since 1923 and reviewed by Berson (1983), eight cases showed this latter form of the syndrome and of these only three patients in the 50 years believed that they themselves were the double.

Case report: The patient, RS, was reviewed recently when the doctor involved was asked to cover another doctor's duties in a different hospital. RS and the doctor had not met for 10 years, and the patient gave no sign of recognition. After a few minutes, RS stated that this wasn't the RS that had been known previously. That RS had been replaced by a baby of 8 months, or perhaps 2 years, made in a big machine in the main hospital building and ironed out to the patient's size and made to look like the patient.

When seen a few days later the patient persisted in the same delusion but admitted remembering the doctor. How was this? The other RS had passed the information on. In the past, three or four people had masqueraded as RS. Two had since died, one may have been murdered and one married. RS said her father was coming to visit her, and that she sometimes felt an injection in her ear which meant she had to say "aaah" out loud. RS was well oriented and denied feeling depressed, although the nursing staff reported her to be weeping and sad at times. Her chief amusement was smoking. Did she like reading books? No, she couldn't read, being so young.

RS came of a large family and both parents were dead. She qualified professionally in England and had three psychiatric admissions before being admitted to this hospital in 1966 at the age of 25.

From the case notes, in which she was given a diagnosis of schizophrenia, her mental state had changed little over the years. Various paranoid, hypochondriacal and grandiose delusions predominated. She was also noted at times to show incongruity of affect, thought disorder, lack of concentration and insight, poor motivation, ideas of reference and occasional episodes of aggression. There were no reports of depression, disorientation, flight of ideas or overactivity of any sort. Occasional non-verbal hallucinations had been reported.

In 1980 RS had bilateral mastectomies and chemotherapy for lobular carcinoma of the breasts. In 1982, according to her case notes, she claimed not to be RS but a two year old male called Jonathan. She was surrounded by a large invisible plastic box. Another note, in 1983, showed that RS claimed to be a three month old baby in her father's womb. In 1985 a chest X-ray showed metastases in the ribs and sternum.

Current medication included analgesics, anti-emetics, haloperidol, trifluoperazine, fluspirilene and biperiden. The patient was up and about and rarely requested analgesia.

Although organic factors could be postulated, it is easy to understand the denial, the wishful and fearful concrete regressed thinking that has wrought a delusion of being her own facsimile in this woman now so sadly placed on the edge of life.

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BERSON, J. B. (1983) Capgras' syndrome. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, **140**, 969–978.

SIR: In contrast to the oldest patient with the Capgras syndrome (*Journal*, December 1985, **147**, 719–729), I would like to report a case of a 14 year-old adolescent female presenting with a 'delusion of doubles'.

Case report: The patient was admitted to an in-patient child psychiatry unit with a 12 month history of increasing irritability, weepiness and deteriorating school performance, becoming more evident six months prior to admission. Mental state examination revealed a delusional belief that her parents were imposters and that her real parents had had her adopted at the age of six. She identified her real father as being a well-known English rock musician. She maintained that the pictures of herself as an infant were those of her double with whom she had been swapped at the age of six and who was currently living in England in her place. She also manifested clear ideas of reference when listening to the musician's records. She