

soul or *anima*—suggestions on the prospective or synthetic significance of Freud's *Irma* dream, as distinguished from its reductive interpretation—the importance of the manifest content.

Fees for each course—medical practitioners, £2 2s., medical students, £1 1s. Owing to limited accommodation it is particularly requested that tickets for the course be taken in advance from Miss A. O. Trotter, 18, Eaton Place, S.W. 1.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PSYCHO-ANALYSIS.

THE first number of this journal has recently been published, with Dr. Ernest Jones, President of the International Psycho-Analytical Association, as editor. The journal will rank equally with the *International Zeitschrift für ärztliche Psycho-analyse* as the official organ of the Association. The journal is to be devoted to psycho-analysis and kindred studies, but its scope is to extend beyond the clinical sphere, and will include the application of psycho-analysis to literature, education, mythology, philology, sociology and anthropology. The aims and purpose of the journal are indicated in an introductory editorial article, and it is made clear that its policy is the development and maintenance of the concepts of Freudian psychology, as distinct from "those disruptive and reactionary tendencies which necessarily accompany psycho-analysis."

Dr. Ernest Jones contributes a sympathetic obituary notice of Dr. James Jackson Putnam, the American neurologist, who, in his later years, was largely responsible for the development of the principles of the Freudian school in his own country. The most noteworthy contribution is that by Prof. Freud, a reprint of which is included in the present number of the *Journal of Mental Science*. Mr. Flugel writes an article on "The Character and Married Life of Henry VIII," and concludes his study by emphasising the value of the application of psycho-analytic theories for the understanding of historical personalities. Dr. Douglas Bryan furnishes an elementary didactic article on "Freud's Psychology," and it is proposed that each number shall contain a contribution of this kind. Dr. Stanford Read writes a review of the English and American literature during the last six years bearing upon psycho-analysis.

The journal is to be issued quarterly, and the subscription per volume is £1 10s.

UNCERTIFIABLE MENTAL CASES.

"HOMES OF RECOVERY."

A MEMORIAL signed by 104 Members of Parliament has been forwarded to the Minister of Health urging the provision of hostels or "homes of recovery" for uncertifiable mental cases, to be run by local authorities on a purely hospital footing and be kept wholly apart from any connection with the Lunacy Board or lunacy administration, so that these early cases may not be deterred from entering them voluntarily. The memorial adds: "We would urge the primary importance of dealing with the early and most curable stage of mental instability in a way which shall dissociate it from confirmed or dangerous insanity, and afford a reasonable prospect of speedy recovery under the appropriate influence of exhilarating and hopeful surroundings, combined with interesting and congenial forms of occupation. The immediate provision of such homes or hostels necessitates no proposal for change in legislation, since borough councils are already empowered by the Public Health Act, 1875, to run such hospitals (free from detention and without any claim for profit), and an extension of these powers to other county councils could be readily obtained. The inmates of such hostels would be controlled during their stay by the rules of the place, but be free to leave on giving a specified notice. Under no circumstances except those of extreme urgency should any inmate be certified while in a hostel; the patient's friends must be summoned to remove him first, and certification effected (if necessary) after his departure by an independent doctor. No form of detention by irregular means must be countenanced, so that the hostels may not come to be regarded as in any sense 'half-way houses' to licensed or public mental hospitals.

"The immediate adoption by the Health Ministry of measures to enable and encourage local authorities to supply or aid the supply of homes intended for uncertifiable mental cases and free from connection with lunacy would prove an enormous boom, not only to doctors and patients, but also to patients' friends and to the community at large, including especially those classes of ex-Service men whose nerves have been temporarily unhinged and shaken through the intense severity of the conflict in which they have recently been engaged. If all such patients, civilian or military, were intercepted on the downward track, the gain to the nation would be incalculable, not to speak of the gain to the overburdened taxpayer arising from an eventual material reduction in our ever-increasing and unproductive asylum expenditure."—*Daily Telegraph*, November 29th, 1920.

THE LATE DR. C. A. MERCIER.

THE testamentary dispositions of Dr. C. A. Mercier, who died on September 1st, 1919, contain an offer, when the sum has accumulated, of £20,000 in the first place to the University of London for the endowment of a professional chair of Rational Logic and Scientific Method. Dr. Mercier's scheme is as follows:

"The purpose of this foundation is that students may be taught, not what Aristotle or anyone else thought about reasoning, but how to think clearly and reason correctly; and to form opinions on rational grounds, the better to provide that the teaching shall be of this character, and shall not degenerate into the teaching of rigid formulæ and worn-out superstitions, I make the following conditions:

"The professor is to be chosen for his ability to think and reason and to teach, and not for his acquaintance with books on logic, or with the opinions of logicians or philosophers. Acquaintance with the Greek and German tongues is not to be an actual disqualification for the professorship, but in case the merits of the candidates appear in other respects approximately equal, preference is to be given first to him who knows neither Greek nor German; next, to him who knows Greek but not German; next to him who knows German but not Greek; and last of all, to a candidate who knows both Greek and German.

"The professor is not to devote more than one-twelfth of his course of instruction to the logic of Aristotle and the schools, nor more than one-twenty-fourth to the logic of Hegel and other Germans. He is to proceed upon the principle that the only way to acquire an art is by practising it under a competent instructor. Didactic inculcation is useless by itself. He is, therefore, to exercise his pupils in thinking, reasoning, and scientific method as applied to other studies that the students are pursuing concurrently, and to other topics of living interest.

"Epistemology and the rational grounds of opinion are to be taught. The students are to be practised in the arts of defining, classifying, and the detection of fallacies and inconsistencies.

"The principle of causation is to be taught as a process occurring in Nature and applicable to material things, and not as a notion in the minds of philosophers.

"Subject to these requirements, a wide discretion is to be allowed to the lecturer."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

SIRS,—I have read your Editorial comments upon my criticism elsewhere of the causes of the appalling death-rate among the patients in the asylums of this country, as published in the Report of the Board of Control, dated 1919, and which I attribute in the main to inadequacy and meagreness of the food, and therefore to insufficient vitamins.