

ornaments the last remnant of the totem animal once worshipped by the Hebrews, and traces of an earlier cult.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

*The Dynamics of Stammering.* (*Psycho-analytic Quarterly*, vol. ii, p. 244, April, 1933.) Coriat, I. H.

All stammerers are narcissistic infants; transference is weak both in development and retention; therefore, like patients with other narcissistic organ neuroses, such as tics, they are extremely difficult to analyse. The writer finds evidence of regression to pregenital levels, oral, anal and sometimes urethral. The oral sucking stage is exhibited by the nursing movements of the lips in talking. Biting movements suggest an oral sadistic level of fixation and are explained as a punishment mechanism. When displacement of anal retention to the oral zone occurs there is dumbness, with compression of the lips and holding of the respiration, culminating in the final expulsion of the word. Analysis of the phantasies in such cases shows anal fixation. Many of the difficulties in breathing experienced by the stammerer when attempting to speak, particularly in the blowing out or retention of air, are unconscious equivalents for passing or retaining flatus.

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*The Psycho-analytic Theory of Play.* (*Psycho-analytic Quarterly*, vol. ii, p. 208, April, 1933.) Walder, R.

In play there is a temporary leave of absence from reality and from the super-ego, with phantasy formation about real objects. Though it is evident that the pleasure principle will account for many circumstances in children's play, it does not explain why unpleasant experiences so often constitute the material of games. It is particularly noticed that in play there is a transformation from passivity to activity towards some original situation. Play, it is suggested, may be a process like a repetition compulsion, by which excessive experiences are divided into small quantities, re-attempted and assimilated. In other words, it is a method of constantly working over and, as it were, absorbing piecemeal an experience that was too large to be assimilated instantly at one swoop.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

*Psycho-synthesis, or Evolution in the Light of Freudian Psychology.* (*Brit. Journ. Med. Psychol.*, vol. xiii, p. 119, Sept., 1933.) Fagg, C. C.

Evolution and civilization are discussed. It is pointed out that the most important characteristic of living organisms is phylogenetic mutability, and parallel with somatic compromises there are mental compromises. It is asked by the author which criteria of evolution will place man at the summit of the living scale, and enable us to recognize supermen. Bernard Shaw is quoted as being unable to give these criteria, but is emphatic that supermen will emerge. The interaction between organism and environment is an important element in the drama of evolution. It is suggested that it is possible to arrange all living organisms in three classes according to metabolism—anabolic, katabolic and normal. Evolutionary advances are made from the normal. In mental pathology similar classes are seen; depression is anabolic, excitement is katabolic. In sex psychology anal erotism is anabolic, urethral erotism is katabolic.

The author now digresses into a discussion of a deficiency in the psycho-analytic account of the pregenital development of libido, namely, the neglect of urethral erotic influences, and admits that this point deserves a separate paper.

He then returns to the previous discussion, and states that the sexual classification of animals shows metabolic polarity, females being anabolic and males katabolic. The opinion is expressed that sex determination is ultimately based on nutrition. The primary impulse of living organisms is striving for increased control over the environment. There are three modes of reaction to external danger; two betray anxiety, running away—that is katabolic; covering with defence mechanisms—that is anabolic; and thirdly, just taking one's chance.

The transition from Protozoa to Metazoa is briefly described.

He states that aversion to incest is not natural and does not exist amongst animals. Close in-breeding has always been existent in royal families. Marriages based more fundamentally on the œdipus principle would give rise to offspring of superior evolutionary quality. The œdipus complex is not primary, but is a secondary psychic formation.

The author believes that the super-ego tends to become phylogenetically incorporated in the id, and in this light he discusses the Mendelian theory. Tribute is paid to Freud's work on the unconscious mind, and it is suggested that inquiry should be made into the deeply-buried features of racial mind, which, according to Freud, lies outside the scope of psycho-analysis.

The discussion reverts to metabolic polarity, and an allelomorphic pair of human types are described, namely, the "Inspector" and the "Bohemian" types. These are so vividly described that one can see them in one's social contacts. The outstanding personalities in science and art usually present a combination of the two types. Two corresponding classes of supermen are postulated—"superhomo neuroticus" and "superhomo psychoticus". By a combination of the two classes there may result "vir supremus".

F. H. HEALEY.

*The Influence of the Cinema in the Aggravation of the Neuroses* [*A influência do cinema na agravação das neuroses*]. (*Rev. da Assoc. Paulista de Medicina*, vol. iii, p. 37, July, 1933.) Marcondes, D.

The author comments upon the case of one of his patients who suffered from anxiety hysteria. The patient had been relieved by psycho-analytic treatment, and then became suddenly worse while attending the exhibition of a cinema film. Psycho-analysis had revealed the existence of unconscious desires of adultery and of the death of the patient's husband; the patient was thus able to comprehend the action of the film, which was based upon this theme. The unconscious desires being stimulated by the film, the pathogenic conflict was revived. The author compares this case with one described by F. Wittels, in which the facts were similar. Any attempt at psycho-therapy by attendance at dramatic or cinematographic performances must be made with caution, and requires a psychological comprehension of the patient, and of the patient's association with the spectacle which is to be viewed.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Promethean Constellations*. (*Psychol. Clinic*, vol. xxii, p. 1, March-May, 1933.) Starr, H. E.

The adjective "Promethean" is derived from the legend of Hesiod, and does not draw upon recent mythological studies. The term "constellation" is preferred to that of "complex", as avoiding the pathological connotation of the latter. The expression "Promethean constellation" is used as a name for innate drives in the direction of an ideal above the level of the social group of the individual, and consequently repressed by social taboo. It must be distinguished from the super-ego and from the ego-ideal. These drives are implicit in the psychonomic scheme of Witmer, but have been overlooked by the psycho-analysts and the individual psychologists. Jung has come closest to the recognition of these constellations. Some correspondences with mysticism are suggested, but it is pointed out that the Promethean constellations are not necessarily mystical in character.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Father Casteñada in the Light of Pathological Psychology* [*El Padre Casteñada a la luz de la Psicología Patológica*]. (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xl, p. 1381, Nov. 2nd, 1933.) Loudet, O.

An interesting account of a singular personality who lived during the years 1776-1832, a stormy period in the history of South America. Commencing life as a Franciscan friar, he obtained renown as a pulpit orator. Later he left the