

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

cloister and adopted a political and literary career. He was distinguished for boundless generosity. His writings were voluminous. Specimens of his verses are given, and show a marked tendency to the use of neologisms. His psychotic state was more than suspected by his contemporaries, but no power then existed by which he could be legally restrained. The author of the article considers that it provides a good illustration of the value of estimating the character of an historical personage in the light of modern psychiatric knowledge. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*On Pathological Lying. (Character and Personality, vol. ii, p. 48, Sept., 1933.) Wiersma, D.*

Delbrück first published cases of this syndrome, which is called "pseudologia phantastica" in French literature and "mythomania" in English literature.

The author presents the histories of three male patients, one of whom he regards as typical, while the other two lack one of the characteristics of the condition.

A psychological explanation of the syndrome is given, and the author discusses whether the primary anomaly is to be sought in intellectual defects, or in special peculiarities of temperament or character. It is demonstrated by an analysis of 2,532 normals that there is a marked correlation between untruthfulness and the nervous temperament. Disagreement is expressed at the statements of Kahn, Dupré, etc., that pseudologia phantastica is only a form of hysteria. The author regards the syndrome as a partial infantilism of the character.

F. H. HEALEY.

*Next Steps in Personality Measurement. (Character and Personality, vol. ii, p. 66, Sept., 1933.) Watson, G.*

The author remarks that there have been over a thousand studies concerned with personality measurement, yet he is thoroughly dissatisfied with the present line of development in these tests. He thinks that the easy acceptance of intelligence tests in the last twenty years in America is a hindrance to the task of finding the individual differences in intellect. He gives two reasons why specificity in character appears to be the usual outcome of American tests. Firstly, the situations have not been psychologically controlled, and secondly the poor choice of unit to be tested. He deplors the tendency to collect data and work out theories therefrom, and states that profuse correlations are no substitute for insight. He resents the collection of detailed data, and suggests that thought should be directed to the points in which unity in the personality is to be expected, and then tests should be created to correspond to psychological reality. The maintenance of his standard would throw out practically all the work that has been so far performed in the creation of personality tests by American psychologists. He would like to see a symptom *questionnaire* of a better type than the Woodworth-Thurstone-Bernreuter series. Another improvement would be an attempt to bridge the gap between character objective and character tests. One should choose units which fit the true patterns of human behaviour. He would encourage the creation of tests which help in diagnosis as well as in symptom description. He deplors the making of tests merely as a method of obtaining degrees in philosophy. The hope is expressed that we are at the beginning of an era of quality rather than quantity in personality and character measurement.

F. H. HEALEY.

*The Study of Heredity as Applied to Psychic Properties. (Character and Personality, vol. ii, p. 41, Sept., 1933.) Verschuer, O. V.*

This paper gives details of heredity study, accounting the mass of experience bearing on the influence of environment and dealing with two main methods, the study of twins and the study of families. It is demonstrated that dispositions towards normality, as well as to morbidity, are hereditary. References to the literature are given, and it is pointed out that Lange is the only worker to have written on psychopathic and criminal twins.

F. H. HEALEY.