

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

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*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.

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*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.