

2. Psychology and Psychopathology.

The Psychoneuroses and Neuroses. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. cxiii, p. 107, July, 1936.) Yarkin, J. C.

The writer studied 100 cases of anxiety neurosis, conversion hysteria, anxiety hysteria, compulsive-obsessive reactions and neurasthenia.

He found a neuropathic family history in 44%, and a psychopathic in 16%. The personality was neurotic in 75% and psychopathic in 2%. In general, the complexity of the causes increased in the following order: anxiety neurosis, conversion hysteria, anxiety hysteria and compulsive-obsessive reactions.

Attempts at compromise formation and partial analysis seemed to be the most effective methods of influencing underlying ætiological factors, especially in anxiety hysteria and in compulsive-obsessive reactions. In the latter group, partial analysis is the only method found to possess worth-while value.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Reality and the Unconscious. (*Psychoanal. Quart.*, vol. vi, p. 23, Jan., 1937.) French, T. M.

Neuroses and psychoses are not able to ignore pain. Dreams are able to ignore unpleasant reality only in so far as the state of sleep itself in proportion to its depth is able to absorb the pain. If a dream or symptom is unable to provide reassurance by reference to the actual experiences of the patient, distortions of reality in the direction of wish-fulfilment will be followed by a compensatory tendency to correct the distortion in subsequent material.

The fundamental differences that distinguish rational waking behaviour from neuroses and dreams are based upon the quantitative relationship between the synthetic capacity of the ego and the intensity of the conflict. Due to the ego's inadequate synthetic capacity neuroses and dreams are usually able to deal with the conflict only in a fragmentary way, and tend to repeat in a stereotyped manner reactions to previous traumatic experiences. Rational behaviour requires an ego span sufficient not only to view one's situation as a whole, but also to enable one to pay attention to differential criteria so as to be able to learn from past mistakes instead of repeating them.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

Three Criminal Types as Seen by the Psycho-analyst. (*Psychoanal. Rev.*, vol. xxiv, p. 113, April, 1937.) Alexander, F., and Saul, L. J.

The first case presented concerns a youth of 19, who committed a double murder. In the course of a trivial quarrel he shot his younger brother and also his brother's friend. The psychological problem consists fundamentally in how this weak, introverted, not especially aggressive youth with a constant feeling of inferiority committed a deed of which no one who knew him believed him capable. Analysis revealed a fundamental split in his character—a struggle between masculine demands and the passive infantile need for dependence. His brother, through his physical superiority, had intensified this conflict, and in him he had killed the stronger person whom he envied because of his own masculine ambitions. In the friend he killed the person whose place with his brother he envied because of his own passive feminine feelings. The crime was a desperate effort to resolve the conflict between the two opposing instinct-demands of his personality by an action.

The second case describes a 21-year-old youth, who during the previous five years had a court record of four arrests. The charges were successively—indecent exposure, larceny of a car, disorderly conduct (peeping into windows), and burglary. Analysis revealed him to be what Alexander calls the "tough on the outside, soft on the inside type", and the trend towards criminality developed out of the need to show his toughness and superiority, which he felt he could not do in normal

competition because of his infantile receptive dependent demands; the surface show of strength and independence was in reality a flight away from these.

For reasons of discretion the third case presentation is not published.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

Scopophilic Instinct and Identification. (*Int. Journ. of Psycho-analysis*, vol. xviii, p. 6, Jan., 1937.) Fenichel, O.

For the unconscious to look at an object may mean to devour it, to grow like it (be forced to imitate it) or, conversely, to force it to grow like oneself. The goal of the scopophilic instinct is determined by two tendencies: (a) the impulse to injure the object seen, and (b) the desire to share by means of empathy in its experience. Scopophilia is a pregenital component of the sexual instinct, and the object relation at this level is one of incorporation, a precursor of love and hate. The underlying tendency may be formulated as follows: "I wish what I see to enter me." This process of ocular introjection is strongly tinged with oral sadism, and is an example of the most primitive form of identification.

The magic glance is a fixed and rigid stare (snake, basilisk, evil eye, hypnotist). Here the eye is a phallic symbol and the fixed gaze stands for the penis in erection. The punishment for libidinal looking is to be turned rigid or into stone (moon-struck, Lot's wife, head of Medusa, etc.). The rigidity of a person turned into stone stands for the fixed gaze and the rigidity of the whole muscular system of a person fascinated by something he sees and signifies erection or (death and) castration. Ultimately the terrible objects of the scopophilic instinct, identification with which takes place by means of a look and upon which are projected one's peculiar bodily sensations, are the parents in the primal scene and above all their genitals.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

3. Psychiatry.

Neurocirculatory Reactions in the Psychoneuroses Studied by the Schneider Method. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. cxiii, p. 567, Nov., 1936.) McFarland, R. A., and Huddleson, J. H.

The writers investigated the Schneider index in 503 psychoneurotic patients, 83 schizophrenics, 71 manic-depressives, 90 organic neurologic patients, 134 athletes, and 191 unselected control subjects.

The mean score for the psychoneurotics was 7.9, the manic-depressives 8.2, the schizophrenics 8.7, the organic patients 10.2, the unselected controls 12.6, the athletes 14.8. If a mean score of 9 or below is taken as indicative of cardiovascular unfitness, more than 50% of the psychoneurotic and psychotic patients come within this category, while only 18% of the controls and 5% of the athletes do so. The pulse-rates for the patients were on the average higher than in the control groups. The mean systolic and diastolic blood-pressures of the patients did not differ greatly from those of the controls, except that a large percentage of the patients showed a fall in systolic pressure on standing, while the controls generally showed a small increase with little deviation. Cases of conversion hysteria scored higher than the other psychoneurotics, whilst anxiety states and neurasthenia scored lowest.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Functional Changes in the Patellar Reflex as Seen in the Psychoses. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. cxiii, p. 546, Nov., 1936.) Strecker, E. A., and Hughes, J.

The writers, bearing in mind the recent work of Sherrington *et al.* on summation of excitation on the surfaces of anterior horn cells and in internuncial neurones, investigated the effects of mental illness on the excitability of the reflex pathways or synapses of the spinal cord. The knee-jerk and its reinforcement in unselected psychotic patients were studied. A control group of 30 normals was also investigated. Manic-depressive depressed and involuntal patients showing symptoms