
Under average conditions in state hospitals it is possible to increase paroles to hitherto unrealized numbers, with benefit to all concerned. The need for institutional care occurs only under circumstances which give rise to serious social maladjustment. Through inertia and other factors, patients are often held for years or life in the absence of external initiative. In the New York State Hospital service the growth of the parole system has been marked during the last decade. In 1911 the average daily number on parole was 2.5 per cent, in 1918 5.4 per cent, while in the Manhattan State Hospital it was then 8 per cent. In another state hospital a special survey to seek out those suitable for parole resulted, in 1920, in an increase there to 10.7 per cent. The authors see no reason why a percentage of 20 should not be reached and maintained. Active opposition is met with from physicians, nurses, and attendants to the parole of working patients. Extramural employment should be found for these cases, and they should be visited regularly by social workers. It is found that the removal of working patients resulted in the others receiving better oversight. Occupational therapy is then discussed. The important question of the selection of patients for parole is dwelt on, and it is stated that it seems impossible to predict for certain whether a given patient will get along well outside or not, and an actual trial of parole affords the most trustworthy means of judging. Other details of the system, including the essential factor of a well-organized social-service department, conclude a suggestive article.

C. Stanford Read.


The article is a critical appreciation of the various attempts to identify the instincts with the emotions. After a brief discussion of the character of that identity as outlined by James, Sherrington, Cannon, and McDougall, the writer concludes that it is not possible to demonstrate by physiological methods upon animals the connection between emotions and bodily activities. Watson's work is favourably quoted as obviating the philosophic difficulties involved in earlier theories.

The author passes to a criticism of McDougall's attempt to classify the activities of life as developed from seven primary instincts. He points out the inadequacy of his two criteria of the primary instincts, but commends McDougall's analysis as an attempt to account for the dynamic nature of instinct by means of the emotive forces, the failure of their classification not impairing their validity as factors in the energy of behaviour.

He concludes by deprecating attempts to identify instincts with arbitrary groups of emotions, and emphasizes the highly speculative character of the conclusions drawn in this department of work.

R. Dansie.

The author distrusts the psychology of Freud in regard to the anthropomorphical nature of the wish; he feels that the necessity for calling in an innumerable number of disconnected phenomena should not arise, and that it should be possible to reduce these apparently distinct entities to a more simple form. This, he thinks, can be accomplished by taking into consideration the mechanism of the conditioned reflex, and he demonstrates by several examples how the complicated conditioning of what at first was a simple response may give rise to a number of apparently quite diverse dissatisfactions, all of which, however, are to be expressed ultimately as the non-fulfilment of the original response. He sums up with the following: By simultaneous concurrence there are set up systems of interconnected conditioned reflexes, the reaction to the combined stimuli of which constitutes the Freudian wish. The constituent reflexes come to condition each other as well as the joint reaction, and so, when some are excited and others not, the whole mass is thrown into a condition of stress, the effect of which upon the organism depends upon the nature and driving force of the system disturbed. Thus is born the wish as the ordinary man understands it, which is a mild form of conflict, the discomfort of which in the pathological cases as well as in the milder form is due to the partial excitation of a system of reflexes.

Thomas Beaton.


In this interesting paper the author extracts from all conscious experience a definite variable which he terms the affective intensity at any moment, positive magnitudes of this variable corresponding to pleasant states of consciousness, and negative to unpleasant states. The physiological correlate to this psychological variable he regards as the rate of change of conductance in the synapses in the cortical paths whose functioning is at the base of the consciousness at the moment; so an inhibition or a diminishing conductance in a synapse in any particular cortical path would be appreciated in consciousness as a state of unpleasant affection, and would be represented by a negative value of the variable, and vice versa.

The cortex being the organ of the process of learning, it is necessary that its initiative should be controlled in some way by the practical effects of experience, and this is provided for by the action of the (Sherrington’s) bene- and noci-receptors. The stimulation of a bene-receptor system at the time of the activity of certain cortical paths causes a facilitation of those paths—in other words, an increase in the conductivity of their synapses; inhibitions result from the activity of the noci-receptors, while both these processes must leave a permanent effect on the state of conductivity of the synapses concerned. Again, it is clearly not necessary for the actual noci- or bene-receptors to be always stimulated; the original cortical process may become conditioned, and so may in itself set up a facilitation or an inhibition.
ABSTRACTS

From an examination of the mathematical capacities of the selected variable it is clear that the tendency of cortical activities is along the lines of a physiological hedonism in which there can be no reference to the future or even to the present, but only to the past. The conditioning, as regards its association with one or other of the receptor systems of Sherrington, of a cortical process, is to be regarded as the basis of the psychological complex, a primarily neutral idea or stimulus having acquired an affective value; while the conditioning of one cortical process with both a nociceptive and a bene-receptor system represents the formation of psychological conflict. The application of this line of treatment to the question of instinct shows the necessity of dealing with the instincts from the affective rather than the efferent side, and the author is very doubtful whether any instinctive responses are mediated through connections in the cerebral cortex.

Thomas Beaton.


The author uses the term expression as the correlative to impression on the understanding that impression is normally provocative of behaviour in the organism which receives it. The utility of expression arises from the impression it produces. Most of the examples are taken from bird life, where the phenomena of sexual selection afford excellent illustrations of the psychical nature of impression. In sexual selection two factors may be distinguished: (1) Those which are not primarily dependent on the impression they make on the mate, e.g., those which determine victory in combat with rivals; (2) Those which are thus dependent, since they allure or excite an individual of the other sex. It is with the second of these that the author is concerned, for it is they which indicate 'choice', even if choice be no more than unconscious preference. When this expression evokes response while that does not, we infer from the response that the female chooses this male in preference to that one. All that is implied is that expression produces such impression as leads to responsive behaviour.

The author shows how both Darwin and Wallace agree that certain features of structure and behaviour appeal to the mind, and that in the absence of this appeal these features would not be what or as they are. "Their evolution depends on a psychical factor—on some impression which they produce." Taking the analogy of hunger: it does not follow that the hungry animal will eat anything. Notwithstanding the condition of hunger there is generally a preference for this over that, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that even when the wave of pairing sex-hunger comes over the female the display—expression—of this male may make an adequate impression while the advances of that male do not. Lloyd Morgan seeks to demonstrate the intimate connection of biological and psychological values, and protests against an undue sundering of 'natural' and psychical selection. They are but diverse aspects of that which is found in the given nature of one reality. The former works by elimination from below upwards; the latter by preferential appeal works from above downwards. The net result in either case is the preservation of efficiency.

Alfred Carver.
PSYCHIATRY


Asserting his unworthiness, as a mere disciple, to assume the rôle of apostle to the greatest psychologist who has ever lived, Dr. Stoddart indicates the objections to the Freudian doctrine which are likely to arise owing to the repressions existing in the minds of those to whom the psychoanalytic methods are unfamiliar, and pleads that "they may not be led away from the path of scientific investigation by sentimental objections based upon their own psychical make-up".

He briefly outlines some of the more prominent Freudian mechanisms, and then proceeds to indicate the importance of the part played by the repressed sexual perversion in modern social life. It is his opinion that, in regard to the total ban placed by social convention upon any mention of the one fundamental biological reason for existence, that of reproduction, while at the same time contemplation of and indulgence in the other, that of self-preservation, was permitted, the explanation is to be found in the data concerning the sexual perversions. He computes that homosexuality, which is only one of the perversions, was present in 25 per cent of the population, and he is led to the conclusion of Freud that no one is quite normal sexually; it follows, therefore, "since very few people are willing to acknowledge any abnormality, sexual matters in general become taboo to such a degree that the repression acquires the force of an inborn instinct".

Dr. Stoddart refutes the idea that suggestion plays any part in the results obtained by the psycho-analytic method; the true analyst should avoid both guiding the patient in his thoughts and advising him as to any line of conduct. He considers that, of the psychoses, manic-depressive states are the most hopeful of cure by the Freudian method, while paranoid and paranoid states might be treated, but only in the earliest phases. He feels very doubtful as to the possibility of psycho-analytic treatment ever finding a place in asylum work, because of the fatal interruption of the work by administrative duties.

THOMAS BEATON.


This extremely important paper was read before the Psychological Society in January, 1920, and is also published in the International Journal of Psycho-analysis, vol. i, part 2. The matter of it is so highly condensed as to render any useful abstraction practically impossible, and all those interested in psycho-analysis will do well to consult the original. As might be anticipated in a subject in which Freud remains as ever the pioneer, most of the recent advances emanate from him. The two most striking sections of the paper are those relating to narcissism and metapsychology. The interpolation of a narcissistic stage between the stages of auto-eroticism and object love has carried the libido theory much farther than previously seemed possible, and may be expected to yield still greater results in future researches. Narcissism plays a paramount part in the

ALFRED CARVER.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY.

[38] A PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL STUDY OF EDGAR ALLAN POE.—LOVINE PRUETTE.


AN INTERESTING HISTORY OF POE'S LIFE EXPERIENCES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN, THOUGH THE DATA CONCERNING HIS EARLY LIFE ARE SOMEWHAT SCANTY AND CONFlicting. THE FAMILY HEREDITY SHOWED MUCH TAINT, WHILE A DECIDED ORGAN INFERIORITY AND THE BRAIN LESION HE SUFFERED FROM IN LATER LIFE MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF SYPHILITIC INFECTION OR APoplexy, OR CAUSED BY AN INHERITED INFERIOR BRAIN FOR WHICH HIS GENIUS MAY HAVE BEEN AN OVERCOMPENSATION. AN EARLY EVENT HAD A POWERFUL EFFECT UPON HIS IMAGINATION, SO THAT AT AN EARLY AGE THE SUBJECTS OF DEATH, LOVE, AND BEAUTY, WHICH POSSESSED HIS MIND SO MUCH IN AFTER YEARS, DAWNED UPON HIM. NEUROTIC TRAITS WERE NOT LONG IN BEING SHOWN. HE EVINCED MUCH INTROVERSION, AND BECAME ADDICTED TO ALCOHOL, WHILE HIS BEING AN ONLY CHILD, AND BEING ADOPTED ON THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS AND HAVING A HARD STRUGGLE FOR THE BARE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, ALL ENHANCED HIS INHIBITIONS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO REALITY. HIS POEMS REVEAL HIS WANT OF SATISFACTION WITH HIS WORLD AND HIS REGRESSIVE TENDENCIES. HIS LOVE LIFE DEMONSTRATED A MOTHER FIXATION, AND HE ALWAYS WISHED TO BE LOVED RATHER THAN TO LOVE. THE HEROES HE PORTRAYS ARE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, ARE MELANCHOLY, NEUROTIC, HYPochondRIAC, AND MONOMANIAc, AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD SOME INSIGHT INTO HIS ABNORMAL NATURE. THROUGH HIS EXPERIENCES, SEXUAL AND OTHERWISE, THE BASIS THEMES IN HIS WRITINGS CAN BE TRACED: THE DEATH OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, THE LINKING OF DEATH WITH SEX, THE GRAVE OR TOMB, AND SADISTIC DELIGHT IN TORTURE. AN OBVIOUS DEATH-WISH IS SEEN IN MANY OF HIS STORIES, AND ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT THE DETAILED SETTING FORTH OF LACK OF REASON GIVEN FOR A MURDER INDICATES A DEFENCE MECHANISM AGAINST THE UNCONSCIOUS WISHES. THE FEELING THAT THE DEAD ARE NOT WHOLLY DEAD CAN BE TRACED TO A PROJECTION OF HIS FEELINGS OF REMORSE FOR HIS DEATH-WISH. SYMBOLS OF DEATH AND SEX ARE ALSO FOUND IN THE COLOURS HE FREELY USES IN HIS TEXT. A MASOCHISTIC TENDENCY IS WELL DISPLAYED BY POE IN A FEW STORIES. THE TALE OF "THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM" BEST OF ALL ILLUSTRATES THIS, BUT IN THE "GOLD BUG" THE SOLVING OF THE CIPHER REPRESENTS THE DELIGHT OF A MIND WHICH LOVED TO TORTURE ITSELF.

C. STANFORD READ.