Reviews.

London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.

The author in his introduction compares the discoveries of Freud in psychology with that of Harvey in physiology, and the present work is an attempt to recapitulate the occurrence of 'repressed emotions' in various phases of life. He first explains the meaning of repression and touches briefly on other criteria of the Freudian doctrine. Next he traces the influence of repressed feeling in determining certain customs and types of behaviour in primitive peoples, drawing his examples for the most part from the observations of Furlong on the Tierra del Fuegians. He then mentions various examples from literature of the analysis of repressed emotion. This is most common in Russian literature, and Goncharoff's "Oblamoff" is referred to at some length as an excellent description of the extreme introvert type.

The sublimation of the primitive feelings is referred to, and the way in which religion may afford a means of escaping from the reality of these primitive feelings is pointed out. Three short chapters at the end deal with the developments of psycho-analysis in the past and the hope of its greater utility in the future, with the correspondence between material at the lower unconscious levels and the thought processes of our primitive ancestors, and with the resemblance between dreams and fairy tales.

The book is readable, but a little inconsequent. To those sympathetic with, and well versed in, Freudian concepts, there would seem little new except perhaps the claim that analysis raises the ethical and cultural level of the unconscious material apart from its introduction to unconsciousness. The work of Alder is welcomed as giving an organic basis for the neuroses. Hostile critics will not be convinced by this work, as the statements are too dogmatic and the examples are sketched out without sufficient corroborative detail to bring conviction. The unbiased inquirer, if such exist, may easily be stimulated to further reading by the work, as he will not be satisfied by it alone.

R. G. Gordon.


A review of the relationship of psycho-analysis and sociology. The first part consists in an exposition of the correspondence between the foundations and structure of society as elucidated by Durkheim and others, and the foundations of the individual personality as elucidated by Freud.
Repressed Emotions

R. G. Gordon

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