"symptoms arising in an atmosphere associated with discomfort in the broadest sense in any part of the body" are defined as characterizing secondary hysteria. So also the sub-groups under the progressive heading are classified according to the 'atmosphere' in which the symptoms develop.

We have no very clear idea of what Dr. Core means by the word 'atmosphere' in this sense, nor does he subsequently succeed in elucidating the point for us. It becomes obvious that in order to understand his book we must first set ourselves to learn the language in which he writes, and this in itself is a formidable task. When we have at times penetrated his meaning we have found that his views upon psychological problems are in many ways original and interesting; he has made an earnest attempt to contribute from his own store of knowledge to the advancement of psychological science. We may, however, ask ourselves whether at this stage of our experience there is room for so much theory. Have we not rather need for much patient recording, analysis, and correlation of facts, in the form of careful life-histories of individual patients, before we can be in a position to enunciate general rules?

In the opinion of the author the disorders of his progressive group lead to involutional changes in the heart, brain, and kidneys, and thus form the starting-points for organic disease. In this connection it is of interest to note that, in the chapter on diagnosis, disseminated sclerosis is mentioned as a possible complication of hysteria, where the statement is made: "This is, I think, recognized by modern clinicians, who are accustomed to bear the idea of disseminated sclerosis in mind as a possible, if relatively rare, development in any case diagnosed as hysterical". Such a view is, of course, entirely opposed to the growing body of evidence which suggests that disseminated sclerosis is a specific infection of the central nervous system. Nor can we accept the simple explanation of the pain occasionally experienced in a phantom limb, that this occurs only in men whose "egos are peripherally determined".

On the whole the chapter dealing with methods of treatment is of greatest interest, and is certainly of most practical value. It is clearly written from the author's own experience, and is free from the bias of any particular cult of psychotherapy.

C. P. S.

The Psycho-analytic Study of the Family. By J. C. Flügel, B.A.,
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Psychology,
London: The International Psycho-analytical Press. 10s. 6d. net.

One of the most important and interesting of the many problems presented to us by psycho-analysis is the influence of early family life in shaping character. Though this question must in the nature of things rank second to that of the still earlier influences which determine character itself, a psycho-analytic study of the family necessarily deals with matters which go deep in explaining and accounting for temperament and behaviour in adults. The subject has received much attention since Freud first discovered and described the main facts, and a fairly complete under-
standing of the problems involved has now been reached. Unfortunately the facts have never before been brought together, and much of the material is still inaccessible to the English-speaking public. It is therefore a great satisfaction to find that both these disadvantages have now been removed, thanks to the labours of Mr. Flügel.

The preparation of a book of this kind entails a vast amount of work—collecting the material, sorting it, criticizing and explaining it, and adding original applications to complete the whole. Mr. Flügel has done all this thoroughly and well. His nineteen chapters comprise roughly three main divisions: first, the influence of the family on the child personality; next, the consequences of this in adult love-life; and lastly, the ethical and practical applications of the foregoing. Throughout, the various topics are discussed fully, concisely, and clearly, with ample references to original sources of information.

It will be seen that the author set himself a task of considerable magnitude and of a particular kind in which he had no example to follow in any language. It must be said that he has carried it through in a manner which commands nothing but praise. *The Psycho-analytic Study of the Family* is a complete and authoritative exposition of the subject, and is likely to hold the field against all comers for many years.

D. F.


This volume is the third of a series by the same author; the other two, *The Beloved Ego* and *The Depths of the Soul*, were reviewed in a former number of this Journal. In the nineteen chapters comprising the book, we have everyday psychopathological material dealt with in the same attractive style. The themes discoursed upon are as varied as ever, and in them all Dr. Stekel is happy, instructive, and entertaining. If we wished to be very critical, some of the author's statements might be doubted; but it would seem out of place for us to say anything which would in any way needlessly belittle a book which is so artistic and engaging. As an aid to self-knowledge it can be warmly advocated, and it is just the form of literature which could be safely placed in the hands of intelligent neurotic individuals and only benefit would accrue. The field of circulation should be very wide, for it should appeal to both lay and medical readers alike, and can only tend to render psycho-analytical principles more popular.

C. Stanford Read.


Notwithstanding the profuse literature dealing with psycho-analysis which has been in evidence of late years, with the exception of a monograph
The Psycho-analytic Study of the Family

D. F.

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