
After a brief discussion of the problem of delinquency and of the great changes which have taken place in recent years regarding our knowledge of the psychological factors involved, and, in consequence, the methods of treating delinquents, the author passes on to what is perhaps the main purpose of this small volume, namely, an account of the Ohio Bureau of Juvenile Research, of which he is the director. The details given are too meagre to be of any practical value to the psychologist or psychiatrist, and this fact, together with its rather popular style, suggests that the book is primarily intended for the layman rather than the physician. The purpose of the bureau is to make a psychological examination, and give advice, and where possible treatment, in cases presenting abnormality of conduct, and in the cases admitted this varied from 'unmanageable' to murder. A considerable proportion of the cases are referred from the courts, but others are brought voluntarily by parents. The total number examined in the institution during a period of two years was 3578, ranging in age from four months to nineteen years. Of this number it may be stated that roughly about one-third were mentally defective, another third were psychopathic, about 17 per cent were of deferred development, 8 per cent syphilitic, whilst less than 5 per cent could be regarded as normal. Although Dr. Goddard's final words are, "juvenile delinquency can be largely eradicated", and although there can be no doubt, as he points out, that better methods of education and upbringing would materially contribute towards this result, yet it is quite clear, as the author recognizes, that this cannot be the case with a very large proportion of the mentally defective and psychopathic, for whom the only solution is permanent care in an institution.

A. F. Tredgold.


The contents of this book are taken from lectures given at an elementary course at the New York University Department of Pedagogics, and are therefore not very technical, but give a more or less superficial survey of Freudian principles. Dr. Brill, from his large practical experience, however, gives the reader many observations and deductions of his own. After a brief history of the scientific origin of psycho-analysis, which leads to the exposition of the nature and function of the neurotic symptom, chapters follow on the psychology of forgetting, the psychopathology of everyday life, the technique of wit, the function and motive of the dream, types of dream, common forms of insanity, the only child, fairy tales, and, lastly, the selection of vocations. Nothing novel is found in the author's treatment of the subject, but we have a very comprehensive and readable presentation of psycho-analytic doctrines with their practical applications. We
think it would have been better had the common forms of insanity not been dealt with in such a volume. Their clinical description with details which can mean but little to the laity seems somewhat out of place here, though if touched upon in a broader way some useful purpose might have been served. Where there is such an opportunity of enlightening the public on a subject of such vital importance, it is a pity that Dr. Brill should be so misleading and even inaccurate as to say (page 27) that a neurosis (including a psychoneurosis) is a nervous disease or a nervous disturbance, in contradiction to a psychosis, which is a mental disorder. Surely a psycho-neurosis is just as much mental, and may be more so, and it is essential that such euphemisms as 'nervous breakdown' should no longer be used. It is also questionable whether the lay reader should be told (page 49) that a patient who is trying hard to talk but cannot is suffering from mental retardation; and also that 'we can tell at once that the patient who suffers of this mental retardation, and has nothing organically wrong with him, will recover'. Experienced psychiatrists know that no such lightning diagnoses and prognoses can be made, and it is a pity that in a popular book such statements should be made, though Dr. Brill probably does not mean what he seems to convey. These criticisms, however, do not detract in any appreciable degree from a book which amply fulfils its purpose, and since it is written by such an authority, it can be cordially recommended to the general reader.

C. Stanford Read.


The third edition of Dr. Stoddart's text-book differed radically from its predecessors in that the author announced therein his acceptance of the theory of psycho-analysis, and boldly endeavoured to incorporate this new point of view with the more conventional treatment of the subject contained in the earlier editions. Dr. Stoddart was himself keenly aware of the difficulties of this task, and had hoped in a future edition to make radical changes in the whole scheme of the book. Owing to the speedy demand for a new issue, however, he has not been able to carry out his intention, and the present fourth edition, although it has been revised and contains a certain amount of new matter, is in all essential respects similar to its predecessor.


A previous translation of these lectures was reviewed in Vol. I, No. 3, of this journal. Therein, however, there were many serious errors in translation which greatly militated against its value. Dr. Ernest Jones' assurance that this present volume is a faithful rendering of the original
Fundamental Conceptions of Psycho-analysis

C. Stanford Read

J Neurol Psychopathol 1922 s1-3: 306-307
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-3.11.306-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/s1-3/11/306.2.citation

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/