resistances offered by reality. These resistances force the individual continually to try new paths, and thus impel him to change and experiment. The tendency of life processes is to lead to a stability, a relaxation of tension to pleasure, and so to death; but the process of conjugation introduces a new stimulus mass, and so leads to increase of tension, i.e., to life.

Admittedly in this study he leaves many loose ends to be followed in the future; but it is a remarkable development from the narrow and cramped standpoint of the past. Psycho-analytic investigation, if followed out on these lines, which permit of a much more biological interpretation than has ever before been possible to the strict Freudian, is likely to lead to much more general acceptance and a wider range of utility. The author is inclined to over-emphasize his apology for a change of view; but most will agree that this is a sign of grace rather than a reason for censure.

R. G. Gordon.

Suggestion and Common Sense. By R. Allan Bennett, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. Pp. 105. 1922. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 6s. net.

A cynical remark made by the late Dr. Mercier twenty years ago has affected the author to such a degree that he regards psychology as a ‘strange doctrine’ and has shunned it ever since. This is perhaps not the ideal attitude in which to approach the subject of suggestion, and within these pages there is little which is worthy of perusal. In the first chapter, on "Psychology and Organic Life", a broad and rational viewpoint is taken on the conception of mind. The organism is viewed as an integrated mass of differentiated cells in which special groups have their own psychological possibilities. When, however, suggestion (all suggestion being regarded as self-suggestion) is dealt with, the lines of Baudouin are more or less strictly followed, and we cannot see that ‘common sense’ dissociated from well-established modern scientific knowledge will aid any psychotherapeutic advance. Psycho-analysis for Dr. Bennett is anathema, so that he thinks that patients requiring such a form of treatment were ‘better dead’! The trend of the book is somewhat retrogressive, and it can hardly be considered useful either from the theoretical or practical standpoint.

C. S. R.


Herein nine dramatic plays which have been presented upon the stage in recent years are analytically examined. Such a study vividly illustrates the various unconscious conflicts and solutions to such conflicts which the drama portrays, and renders such human problems clearer. The drama is looked upon as a useful and ready outlet for too severely restrained emotions, and also as allowing a constructive representation of these. Theatre attendance therefore acts as a relief to mental repression, and helps in the recognition of vital factors within. The authors regard stage art...
Suggestion and Common Sense

C. S. R.

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