REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

small work can only be of use to those who seek some added insight into the treatment of some neurotic war disorders.

C. Stanford Read.


Graphic expressionism is defined by the author as "subjective presentation accompanied by total or almost total distortion of nature to the point of unrecognizability, or by suppression of all external reality". The main bulk of the volume is devoted to the study of the dreams, phantasies, and drawings of an artist who came to Dr. Pfister to be treated by psychoanalysis for fits of depression. In much detail are demonstrated the various psychological factors involved in the analysis of the expressionistic pictures, and how these were correlated with his symptoms and biological strivings. The rest of the book is taken up with an endeavour to see how far the observations made in a single case applied to expressionistic art generally, followed by a discussion on its psychological and biological background. Infantile attributes, identification, and autism are seemingly frequent; there is an over-emphasis of the ego, so that reality is devaluated and the chaos in the pictures betrays the confusion of the expressionist himself. It is introversion-painting, and the artist paints from inner necessity to create an outlet for his distress and to satisfy his instincts. The expressionist's world is the expressionist himself as the world; but by addressing himself to the public with his pictures he endeavours to escape introversion and to maintain himself with reality. The danger of mental derangement in some of such artistic types is grave; but the non-psychopathic expressionists possess, besides their art, a sufficient number of bridges to span the abyss between the ego and the external world. The contents of this book are of decided interest, but a good deal of psychoanalytic knowledge is requisite for its understanding.

C. S. R.
Expressionism in Art: its Psychological and Biological Basis

C. S. R.

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