
Modern study of the psychoneuroses has demonstrated that maladaptations in the love life play a prominent part in their causation, and that the pathological seeds are sown in early years. Reconstruction of this side of our instinctive nature is no easy task, so that we see the greater necessity for education in scientific psychological factors in order that children may be guided aright in their emotions. Thus much future neurotic disease and unhappiness should be obviated. With this end in view Dr. Pfister has addressed this somewhat bulky volume to teachers and parents. The book "is intended to show the general relationships of the development of love, to explain how desirable ends can be obtained, and how necessary changes can be effected." The aim is "to induce parents to conceive their educational tasks in a very different way from that demanded of them by the exponents of the traditional science of education." His pages apply especially to abnormal pupils, for whom here new possibilities are opened up. The subject could hardly have been more adequately dealt with. In fact, we think that, in order to give his readers a very full survey of his subject, Dr. Pfister has gone too far, and might have left out his history of the problem of love from the year 1800 B.C. to modern times. Much condensation elsewhere also would not only materially reduce the size of the volume, but might render it more attractive and useful. Every theoretical point is dilated upon at length, and the wealth of human illustrative material is especially valuable. The training of love in children and the treatment of love's disorders conclude a delightful book. As is well known, the author is a Freudian, and his subject is dealt with from a psychoanalytic standpoint. The work is highly interesting and instructive, and it is certain "it will reflect the delight of giving help, and the hope of spreading truth without undue assertiveness."

C. S. R.


This work, which is mainly designed for educationists, was first published in French in 1917, and in its present form has been brought up to date in various respects. Its chapters constituted in the first instance the material of a course in moral psychology given by the author in the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute in Geneva. It is not regarded as a complete study of the fighting instinct, though the reader will find himself well orientated as to the most important factors. Childhood is first studied in relation to this instinct, and the subjects of quarrels, play, teasing, and cruelty are very interestingly dealt with. The evolution of the fighting instinct is then analyzed as to its various possible developments, alterations, and sublimation. How widely the writer has covered the ground is demonstrated by the fact that he also deals with this instinct in its relation to religion, vocations, human evolution, arrest and regression, and connected problems in education. It is interesting
Love in Children and its Aberrations

C. S. R.

*J Neurol Psychopathol* 1924 s1-5: 191
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-5.18.191

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/s1-5/18/19.1.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/