useful and practical purpose has been served by this presentment of current knowledge, gleaned from a wide literature and rendered the more valuable by the authors' criticisms and personal conclusions. S. A. K. W.

De l’Angoisse à l’Extase; Études sur les Croyances et les Sentiments.


All those who are admirers of the clinical and analytical genius of Professor Janet will enjoy his latest volume, which in its format is identical with his classical Névroses et Idées Fixes of a quarter of a century ago. Taking as his basis the mysticism and ecstasy of the patient known as Madeleine (whose case is described at length in a preceding volume of which we have received no copy for review), the veteran psychologist enters on a long and minute examination of the influence of a profound sense of joy (“ce bonheur perpétuel et quelquefois sublime”) in modifying thought and intellectual processes. By natural stages the reader is taken to a discussion of the sentiments and to an examination of those common clinical cases in which alternations of affect predominate, to manic-depressive psychosis and other forms. The four elementary sentiments of effort, fatigue, sadness and happiness are subjected to a similar minute investigation. A third section is devoted to the interrelation and organisation of emotions, beatitudes, and sentiments.

It is perhaps a little remarkable that comparatively slight attention is directed to the religious sentiment, especially since the clinical material of mysticism and ecstasy exhibits frequently a definite religious aspect, but Professor Janet takes the line that religion influences only external forms; in the case of Madeleine the religious setting is at once apparent, yet similar psychopathological phenomena occur independently of any religious background. The beatitudes of morphia-taking are analogous clinical data but have nothing to do with that particular sentiment. “No confessor, no convent directrix, is responsible for diseased conditions which can appear in exactly the same guise in individuals who profess no religion at all.”

As with all of Professor Janet’s work, it is lucidly and charmingly written, and is well documented. Of references to Freud’s psychological work there are comparatively few; the author justly criticises the limitations and systematisations of the latter’s view of angoisse and by a few well-chosen clinical instances underlines its essential incompleteness. A good index adds to the usefulness of the volume. S. A. K. W.


Dr. Campbell Garnett’s book adapts and modifies McDougall’s views on instinct, but is disappointingly reticent and vague, as all academic studies of the subject tend to be, on ‘personality.’ The author takes a monistic view of mind-body relationship, and robs the instincts of any
energy of their own, finding the common source of energy in the 'life-urge' or 'horm.' On this view repression as a separate activity is an unnecessary hypothesis; the phenomena of the so-called unconscious are explicable on the basis of what is equivalent to a 'drainage-theory' of psychological inhibition. Processes of behaviour more or less instinctive work themselves out in so far as expectations of ends are created; these expectations upon which so much weight is placed as stimuli to activity (and which may apparently be also physiological, on the monistic hypothesis), are when conscious the psychical correlates of the 'life-urge.'

The book is clearly written and makes easy reading if the numerous assumptions are placidly accepted. It does some service in calling attention to difficulties in the present position of the theory of the unconscious and of repression. Although utilising data from abnormal psychology it shows no acquaintance with recent contributions from the latter to the problems under Dr. Garnett's consideration. Like all works of its kind, the book suffers by comparison with work derived from first-hand observation of human material, normal and abnormal; and it displays abundantly the academic habits of taking data from conscious experience at their face value, and of easy-going translations of theoretically-derived concepts into psychological entities with a real existence and sometimes a quantitative expression.

R. D. G.


A new volume in the 'Recent Advances' series published by Messrs. Churchill deals with neurology in a pleasantly informative fashion, embodying a wide survey of recent additions to neurological doctrine, whose subjects range from the cerebrospinal fluid to sleep. "Une étude scientifique n'est jamais terminée," as Janet once said: the task of maintaining up-to-dateness, never easy, is more than a little difficult in the case of the nervous system, for it continues to evoke more research than many other divisions of the medical field. We think the authors have acquitted themselves remarkably well, and produced an eminently practical and serviceable multum in parvo that is sure of appreciation. Nor does it form a mere précis of the work of others; opinions and conclusions are not slavishly set down, but subjected to criticism and modification in the light of the authors' own experiences and studies.


Taking the conception of feeblemindedness as being constituted by stationary mental defect, and excluding combinations with organic nervous affections and with epilepsy, the author of this monograph bases his conclusions on the study
Instinct and Personality

R. D. G.

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