The combination of metaphysical speculation and clinical observation is an intriguing, if hazardous, enterprise; Professor Faure's book is enlightening in this context.

The first section deals with the relationship of external and internal space in the hallucination. The theories of J. P. Sartre are summarized and considered unsatisfactory because unrelated to biological factors and clinical data. Those of the Gestalt school are invoked to elucidate both the mechanisms and content of hallucinations of which the distinguishing feature is taken to be their projection into the environmental spatial field.

The second part of the book deals with the content (the recurring religious and supernatural aspects and the ubiquitous phantom) and the 'plausibility' of hallucinatory material. There are random and unexpected references, e.g., Professor Eysenck and Comte de Redern who wrote in 1815 a monograph on the transmission of thought through magnetic fluid.

The final section introduces a new projective test in which patients are asked to construct a village from wooden units, some structured (houses, trees, bridges, etc.), others abstract, geometrical forms. The author derives from the examination of 800 protocols, themselves a rather insubstantial pageant as no quantitative data, scoring system, or tables are included, the pathognomonic sign of the pylon: hallucinated subjects tend to erect vertical geometrical forms. The symbolic and archetypal significance of this anomaly can be successfully predicted by the reader.

The book is probably of more interest to the physician with an analytical background and indeed to the meta-physician than to the neurologist, for whom sensory deprivation experiments may hold more clues to the problem than M. Sartre. However, there are observations of interest: that old memories may provide data for hallucinatory projections defined as 'les metamorphoses des enkystements perceptifs'.

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