to normal dogs, and to dogs with cerebral lesions; where sexual activity is lessened, the hypophysis is rich in secretion. From this he infers that the action of the pituitary is in direct opposition to that of the sexual glands.

R. G. G.

[23] The influence of the intake of certain waters on bodily growth and on the genesis of goitres and thyroid dysfunction (Influenza dell’alimentazione idrica sull’accrescimento corporeo e sulla genesis del gozzo e delle disfunzioni tiroidee).—R. Corella. Riv. di pat. nerv. e ment., 1931, xxxvii, 355.

As a result of numerous experimental researches conducted for several years on different kinds of animals with regard to the intake of chemically imperfect waters, and from the result of clinical studies on 512 cases of typical and non-typical forms of exophthalmic goitre during more than 25 years, the author has reached the following main conclusions:—

1) Goitres, increase of weight, and imperfect thyroid function are directly connected with the use of certain goitre-producing waters.

2) If certain mammals, cats, dogs, etc., drink such waters from birth for a long period goitres are produced.

3) At the same time the whole organism is injured especially during the growth period.

4) If human beings, especially women, drink these waters habitually, a goitre is almost certainly produced.

5) Such persons may show any degree of thyroid dysfunction up to typical forms of exophthalmic goitre, the latter being simply the last link in a chain of thyroid affections.

6) The author thinks that this water contains specific germs or toxins which have a special affinity for the thyroid gland.

R. G. G.

Psychopathology.

Psychology.


It appears that the attempt to find the foundation of group behaviour in instinctive tendencies fails, as does the psychoanalytic ‘libido’ theory. The reason is that the group arises on account of the organizing tendency there is in the mind, and analysis, while finding the mental elements, breaks down, in the process, that for which it is seeking. Animals which have the capacity for organization—the sentiment-formation tendency—form more or less
permanent sentiments round suitable objects. These have a determining influence on their behaviour. If such animals come together, either fortuitously or through some common interest, they are liable to form sentiments round each other, and a 'herd' or group will be the outcome. The 'herd' may just as well consist of a boy, a dog, and a lamb as of animals of the same species. When sentiments are formed round ideals altruistic behaviour is possible and probable.

One of the most pressing of psychological problems is the study of the conditions which are most conducive to the formation of sentiments and the application of such knowledge to the world problems of to-day. For these problems are largely due to the existence of sentiments which have in their progress lagged behind the progress in other fields. Such lack of balance is fraught with grave dangers.

C. S. R.


Civilization is seen in the capacity of man to live in organized groups. To this end natural impulses become modified for social gains. The family, the first human group, became consolidated by the acceptance of incest barriers. These barriers were not consciously formulated, but arose, not specifically to check the lust of the paterfamilias, but in the production of a harmonious family group, and actually changed it from a natural to a social group. The sanction for the incest barrier is primarily the persistence through childhood of the infant's belief in the omnipotence of the parents, later developed into a religious attitude and consolidated by rites expressive of ancestor worship. The persisting family is a social group with such survival value that other societies which may have ignored the incest barrier have died out. The family group is the pattern on which all other groups are formed. With the formation of the clan and the classificatory system of relationship the rules of incest became extended. Descent is reckoned not on two conventional principles, but by seven methods; when these are recognized all marriage prohibitions can be seen as extensions of the two primary incest prohibitions, that between parent and child and that between brother and sister, and investigation shows that the latter is the more important in savage society. The restrictions on marriage can thus be looked upon in each society as a reflection of its people's fear of incest. The solution of the familial conflict is influenced by social conditions, and savage life leaves the brother-sister relationship so unsolved that it is a matter of conscious concern, while the parent-child type, especially that between mother and son, usually presents no social problem.

C. S. R.

From the authors’ experiments, they conclude that in general the injection of adrenalin is not sufficient to produce an emotion. A 'cold' emotion may be aroused, but the lack of any object or reason for the emotion usually deprives it of its genuineness. In a few cases, however, the injection with its subsequent bodily symptoms is adequate to produce a genuine emotion; the mere bodily concomitants are sufficient for an emotional state without the presence of any object or reason.

A few theoretical implications are ventured upon. An analysis of the conscious emotional state reveals its dependence upon the following possible factors: (1) A primary autonomic reaction centred in the autonomic nervous system and involving changes in the vasomotor system, the respiratory system, the viscera, and certain peripheral changes such as sweating and muscular tremor. (2) Secondary behavioural reaction patterns, both instinctive and acquired, dependent upon the cerebrospinal nervous system. This includes such reactions as flight, attack, facial expression, and vocalization. (3) An intellectual content. By this is meant the presence in consciousness of some object or situation to which the emotion is directed and round which the emotion is intellectually organized. This involves the active participation of the higher logical processes, probably centred in the cerebral cortex. The usual emotional state seems to involve a combination of the first and third of these. However, as the only criterion we have of a conscious emotional state is the subject’s acceptance of it as such, the writers believe, on the basis of their results, that the first is the only sine qua non for an emotion, for it may in some cases suffice to produce the emotional state. Such cases, nevertheless, are rare.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOSES.


A statistical study in 1,009 cases of manic-depressive psychoses, with 1,408 cases of schizophrenia and 496 cases of general paresis as controls leads to the following conclusions.

Delusions are absent in 43 per cent. of the males and 41 per cent. of the females in the manic-depressive group as compared with 10 per cent. of the males and 7 per cent. of the females in schizophrenia, and 39 per cent. of the males and 42 per cent. of the females in general paresis. The most common type of delusion in the manic-depressive is the persecutory type,