40 pages are allotted to the treatment of the condition, in which as much attention is given to questions of prophylaxis and social hygiene as to purely medicinal methods. A final chapter investigates the somewhat difficult and at any rate undecided problems of the influence of surgical intervention in epileptic cases.

Two pages at the end of the book furnish the reader with an analysis of a large number of alleged 'epilepsy cures' of a proprietary character, for which the author deserves our thanks; stripped of their secret they are revealed in most instances as containing little else than potassium bromide.

S. A. K. W.


We should like to echo in this review the words of Professor Julian Huxley in his preface; the book is "written in the simplest language and presented in the most straightforward way." It deals with problems of perennial interest, some at least of which seem now to be taken up by those possessing a little knowledge and incapable of giving really deep consideration to their complexities. Questions, for instance, of the determination of sex and its artificial control exercise the minds and pens of some who, as far as may be judged, are not conversant with the facts; and it is refreshing to find a scientific author not hesitating to speak of "the sea of falsehood in which the editors of our periodical press delight that their readers should bathe."

Mr. Baker covers the ground of sex determination in a peculiarly lucid way, with an easy style that hides from the reader the difficulties he is in reality surmounting; and the cognate problems of parthenogenesis, hermaphroditism, and sex ratio are handled equally clearly. Only in the last chapter, that devoted to sex behaviour, does he leave the trodden paths of objective data for the alluring byways of conjecture. As a foundation of knowledge on which to erect theory no better work than this can be imagined; here is no facile recitation of the "undiluted nonsense" that passes for sex knowledge, but a sober review of the ascertained facts, offered for perusal by the intelligent lay reader as well as by the professional man in a modest and pleasantly impersonal garb.

Further Contributions to the Theory and Technique of Psychoanalysis.


All students of psychoanalysis will welcome unreservedly this literature written by an authority, who, after Freud, has perhaps done more original work on the subject than any other worker in the same field. His previous translated contributions were published in 1916 and though they only constituted a small volume, their content was and still remains of great value. Further
personal work is given us in these ninety disjointed papers (but not in chronological order) which have appeared since, mainly in the Zeitschrift. The contributions vary much in length—some only being a few lines long—but all are pregnant with interest and reflect the author’s remarkable knowledge and intuition.

Ferenczi’s special original trends have been directed to throwing analytical light derived from experience up on certain normal and pathological phenomena which have not previously been fully explained. In the field of technique, too, he has made the attempt in certain circumstances “to speed up the analytic technique by so-called ‘active’ measures,” which, however, as is pointed out, is not a technical innovation to replace the classical Freudian technique, but only to be occasionally applied as a reinforcing adjuvant.

The contents fall under the several headings of Nosology, Technique, Sexual theory, From the Nursery, Dreams, Symbolism, Applied psychoanalysis, Medical jurisprudence and religion. A bibliography of Ferenczi’s writings from 1899 to the end of 1926 concludes the volume. There is so much of value within these pages that the singling out of anything for special mention is mainly a personal reaction on the part of the reviewer. We feel, however, that the author’s work on the “Disease- or patho-neuroses” is particularly important because of its direct bearing on general medicine and surgery. It seems that only by the adoption of some such conceptions will light be thrown on much that hitherto has been quite obscure. His views on tic and his correlations of them with the motor expressions of catatonia are of great interest though the hypotheses put forward are acknowledged to be constructed rather speculatively. We note that in discussing a case of hysterical hypochondria it is stated that pure hypochondria is incurable. Enlightenment is sadly needed on this ill-understood condition and even psychoanalysts deal with it only in a fragmentary way. No student of the subject can afford to neglect the contents of this volume and we must be grateful to the compiler—Dr. John Rickman—for the part he has played.

C. S. R.


With one exception these eleven essays have previously appeared in various journals but they are distinctly welcome in book form. Though some amount of psychoanalytic knowledge will be helpful to their fuller appreciation, they should appeal to all who desire to widen their mental horizon. The author presents his material in a clear and interesting way and it is evident that he has thought deeply on his subjects. Any intelligent reader must certainly be stimulated to go further afield in a study of psychoanalytic discoveries. This was the writer’s aim and he seems to have amply succeeded.

C. S. R.