

Dreams and Their Relationship to Recent Impressions. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) Malamud, W., and Linder, F. E.

The authors exposed various pictures for 30 seconds to a number of psychotic and psychoneurotic patients, and investigated the influence of these on their dreams. Many features which were omitted from the patients' description of the picture soon after seeing it were given in the account of their dreams the next day. In many cases the results obtained were practically identical with those obtained tachistoscopically by Poetzl in normal people. The authors found the method of value in bringing to the surface conflicts instrumental in the precipitation or even causation of the mental disorder. The results emphasize that no matter how irrelevant or accidental psychic phenomena may appear, they are actually closely related to the functions and problems of the whole personality.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Blocking: A New Principle of Mental Fatigue. (*Amer. Journ. Psychol.*, April, 1931.) Bills, A. G.

The author found that in mental work involving considerable homogeneity and continuity there occur with almost rhythmic regularity blocks or pauses during which no response occurs. These blocks occupy the time of 2 to 6 responses, and have an average frequency of about 3 per minute. Whilst practice tends to reduce their frequency and size, fatigue tends to increase both the frequency and size. The responses between the blocks tend to bunch towards the centre, so that a regular wave-like effect of rarefaction and condensation is produced. This bunching is increased by fatigue. Individuals who respond rapidly tend to have fewer and shorter blocks than slow individuals. There is a constant tendency for errors to occur in conjunction with blocks, suggesting that the cause of errors lies in the recurrent low condition of neural functioning which the blocks reveal. The rests afforded by these blocks keep the individual's objective efficiency up to an average level, in spite of the changes which fatigue has brought about in his nervous system. The neural mechanism involved appears to be related to the refractory phase of neurology. The time-relations of these blocks are quite different to those of the attention wave.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

An Attempt to Isolate the Factor of Attention. (*Amer. Journ. Psychol.*, April, 1931.) Easley, H.

The author applied various tests of attention—cancellation, Woodrow, Munsterberg, etc.—to a group of psychological students. He found no evidence that the attention tests measured any factor which was not measured by the tests of "intelligence" used at the same time. The various tests of attention measure something; if this is attention, then the attention involved in one function is not the same as that involved in another. There was no evidence

of any group factor of attention involved in any combination of the attention tests. If attention is involved to any extent in all the measures, then the intelligence tests are at least as good measures of it as are the attention tests. The direct and indirect methods of measuring attention do not measure the same thing, even in the same function, namely reaction time.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Handedness and Ability. (*Amer. Journ. Psychol.*, April, 1931.)
Wilson, M. O., and Dolan, L. B.

The authors studied 975 pupils. The dextrals were found to be only slightly superior to the sinistrals in intelligence, achievement and teachers' ratings. Sinistral girls are slightly superior to sinistral boys. The authors are careful to emphasize that the differences are slight.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Pattern of Abilities among Adult and Juvenile Defectives. (*Univ. of California Publications in Psychology*, vol. v, No. 2, 1931.)
Jones, H. E.

The Stanford-Binet scale was given to 185 juvenile and 271 adult defectives. Tests exceptionally easy for adults are those involving everyday tasks and routine verbal comprehension; those which require rapid adjustment and ingenuity, and those presenting the most novel situations, are exceptionally difficult for adults. There is an absence of clearly-defined steps between the age-levels, for both adults and children; these inequalities are a possible source of fluctuation in I.Q. The custom of giving no tests below a basic age at which all tests are passed may result in a spurious raising of I.Q. Groups equivalent in mental age may present marked differences in the pattern of test success. The superiority of adults in certain tests is attributable to their advantage in length of environmental exposure.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Do Personality Types Exist? (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, March, 1931.) Kluwer, H.

The author considers the reasons which have been advanced against the existence of personality types. He concludes that these reasons are of no significance when we concern ourselves with "types" as defined in modern psychology. The interest in types indicates that behaviour units, comprising disparate variables, are the main concern of many psychologists. Such units certainly exist; and so a "typological psychology" must be developed.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Personality Testing in the Light of the Situational Approach. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, March, 1931.) Krout, M. H.

Personality is a system of persistent adjustments of an individual, evidenced in responses to given situations. The situational approach is to be preferred to the trait approach; the latter depends upon a