

2. Psychology and Psychopathology.

Ability to Influence One's Score on a Typical Pencil-and-Paper Test of Personality. (Char. and Personality, vol. iv, p. 206, Mar., 1936.) Kelly, E. L., Miles, C. C., and Terman, L. M.

The writers undertook an investigation to determine the ability of subjects to influence their scores by conscious effort to do so. The Stanford M.-F. test was used, and it was found that subjects of both sexes were able to shift their scores enormously in either the masculine or feminine direction as the result of directions to do so. Male subjects were able to shift their scores more in the feminine direction than in the masculine direction and *vice versa*. There was no correlation with age, intelligence, or scholastic achievement. It is suggested that such ability may be related to the subject's level of social adjustment. The writers suggest that the susceptibility of other "paper-and-pencil" tests to intentional faking should be investigated.

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Remarks on the Psycho-Physiology of the Skin. (Psycho-Anal. Rev., vol. xxiii, p. 274, July, 1936.) Schilder, P.

A psycho-analytical study of various psychogenic sensations and manifestations of the skin leads to the general formulation that such lesions always have a meaning. This may be conscious, or may lie in the symbolic and instinctive sphere. The localization and character of the manifestation will largely depend, therefore, upon the individual's libidinous structure in connection with past and present life situations. Such psychogenic skin diseases are conversion symptoms, and an early somatic skin disease offers the best basis for such symptoms in later life. The final borderline between the so-called psychogenic and organic case is diffuse, and in the former group, cases of itching, blushing, sweating, hæmorrhages, impetigo, urticaria, alopecia, psoriasis, eczema, herpes, acne and warts have been reported.

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August Strindberg: The Autobiographies. (Psycho-Anal. Rev., vol. xxiii, p. 248, July, 1936.) Coleman, S. M.

It is concluded that Strindberg was a schizothymic personality, and maintained his hold on reality only in reacting to external stress by the mechanism of projection. During one period of his life even this defence reaction broke down, revealing a schizophrenic psychosis. Regarding libido development there was evidence of a failure of genital primacy with fixation at every level between homosexuality and oral-eroticism. (Edipus fixation was marked, and he never really broke away from the bondage to the parents. All subsequent love-objects were parent-surrogates.

The psychotic episode showed evidence of narcissism, pre-logical thinking and megalomania. There was a regression particularly to the anal-erotic level. In the persecutors, persecuting machine and the double there was found evidence of the introjected super-ego, of the over-libidinized organs and of the bowel content.

In the post-psychotic period, adjustment was re-established by the adoption of a passive homosexual attitude towards the father-surrogate (Swedenborg). This necessitated a renunciation of anal-eroticism, over-compensated for by the defence mechanisms of the anal character. This renunciation was also responsible for a still deeper regression to the oral level.

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