

is centred upon the determination in detail of the cerebral effects of the noxious substances. Psycho-analysis, on the contrary, begins with the recognition of the fact that it is not the toxic agent, but the impulse to use it, that makes an addict of a given individual.

In his outline of the clinical picture, the writer stresses the presence of an "initial depression" preceding the taking of the drug, and sensitizing the individual for the pharmacogenic pleasure effect. In the period of elation following, the ego regains its original infantile narcissistic stature, with heightened self-regard, elevated mood and loss of respect for reality. A cyclic course is then evolved. There is a return of the depression with renewed craving for the drug. Gradually tolerance is developed; the desired elation becomes increasingly more undependable and finally threatens to disappear altogether. When the condition has progressed so far that an elation can no longer be provided to combat the misery of the depression, the individual is confronted with the phenomena of the pharmacothymic crisis. There are three possible reactions to this crisis: flight into a free interval (voluntary submission to withdrawal therapy), suicide and psychosis.

Meanwhile, crucial alterations have occurred in the sexual life. After a transient augmentation of sexual libido, there is diminished potency with a turning away from sexual activity. The pharmacogenic pleasure effect gradually comes to be the dominant sexual aim, *i.e.*, there is regression to an artificial sexual organization which is auto-erotic and modelled on infantile masturbation. In opium-pharmacothymia, especially, this auto-eroticism is associated with a rich fantasy life. The ego responds to this devaluation of the natural sexual aim by a fear of castration, with resultant dismembering and masochistic fantasies. It is the pronounced masochism of the male addict that is responsible for his homosexual object choice.

Pharmacothymia is not always bound to this basic course with its terminal crisis. The alcoholic, particularly, can combat the recurrent depression by overlapping doses, so living in a state of "subdued continuous elation". This modified course leads through a progressive reduction of the ego to the terminal state of pharmacogenic stupor.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

*Psychologic Considerations in Alcoholic Hallucinoses.* (*Int. Journ. of Psycho-Analysis*, vol. xiv, Part 2, 1933.) Bromberg, W., and Schilder, P.

In ten cases of alcoholic hallucinosis and in one case of a psychosis due to drugs, castration and dismembering motives were in the foreground of the clinical picture. These motives were closely connected with homosexual and anal trends, which appeared overtly or as thinly disguised symbolism in the manifest content of the psychosis. The voices in the hallucinosis were found to represent the super-ego, and to be based specifically on homosexual identification. Several of the cases had made a suicidal attempt, which was regarded as the expression of a tendency to self-castration and self-dismembering. The majority of the alcoholics investigated showed evidence of sexual maladjustment prior to the psychosis, though in no case was there a history of actual homosexuality.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

*A Psychological and Pedagogical Consideration of the Fairy-tale* [*Eine psychologisch-pädagogische Betrachtung des Kindermärchens*]. (*Internat. Zeits. f. Individ. Psychol.*, Jan.-Feb., 1933.) Vinski-Hollonger, M.

The writer discusses whether children so much want fairy-tales as have fairy-tales thrust upon them, and is of opinion that children would disregard a considerable mass of fairy-tale lore if given free and intelligent access to other literature, real life stories, the wonder of science, etc.

JANE SUTTIE.

*The Aptitude for Mathematics* (*Zur Frage der mathematischen Begabung*). (*Internat. Zeits. f. Individ. Psychol.*, Jan.-Feb., 1933.) Vogt, W.

The author asks how far a child may have an unconscious understanding—an intuitive perception—of abstract mathematical ideas such as the simpler