

Library is edited by Miss Angela Richards, who assisted James Strachey with the Standard Edition.

The present volume includes a good short sketch of Freud's life and ideas contributed by Strachey. I could find no date for this. Perhaps Strachey might have mentioned one or two additional sources of Freud's ideas and technique had he not died three years before the publication of Ellenberger's *The Discovery of the Unconscious* in 1970. I would have liked to see a reference to this work among Miss Richards' recommendations for further reading.

The book is well printed and compact.

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Hysterical Personality. Edited by MARDI J. HOROWITZ. New York: Jason Aronson. 1977. \$17.50.

Hysteria has outlived its obituaries, as Sir Aubrey Lewis predicted, and is alive and well and living in the University of California. This book is one of a series on classical psychoanalysis and its applications. Its authors, mostly analysts at that University, define hysterical personality broadly, combining description (the APA definition), dynamics (repression and denial), and cognitive style (following Shapiro's view that hysterical personalities have a global perceptual manner and poor memory). The contributors often fail to distinguish traits and symptoms to the extent that the book's title could equally be 'Hysteria'. There are reviews of the history of hysteria and its epidemiology, and of recent research on hysteria and hysterical personality, all adequate. The remainder of the book is made up of detailed case commentaries which may be of interest to other analysts. For the general reader it is dispiriting to find few original ideas and so little interest in the objective measurement of personality.

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Female Psychology: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Views. Edited by HAROLD P. BLUM. New York: International Universities Press. Pp 434. \$22.50.

Female Psychology is a collection of articles reprinted from recent issues of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. Three of the seventeen

articles, Stoller on 'Primary Femininity', Grossman and Stewart on 'Penis Envy', and Shafer on Freud's 'Psychology of Women', are in their very different ways important contributions to the subject. Beyond this it is difficult to be enthusiastic about the volume.

The arduous subject of female psychology would seem to compound a problem inherent within ego psychology. Roy Shafer writes:

'Ego psychology has established as the proper subject of psychoanalytic study the whole person developing and living in a complex world. No longer is ours a theory simply of instinct-ridden organisms, turbulent unconscious dynamics and the like . . . Ego psychology has helped establish lively two-way interchanges between psychoanalysis and modern biology, psychology, anthropology, history, linguistics, philosophy, aesthetics, and other disciplines'.

To me this expansion of the frontiers of psychoanalysis as claimed for ego psychology is not growth but diffusion. The specific subject of psychoanalysis—mankind's unconscious—has been lost. So what we have all too clearly reflected here is not the centre of psychoanalysis, namely clinical case histories garnered from the psychoanalytic setting and the theory derived therefrom, but its watery frontiers with sociology, biology, psychology, philosophy and the new politics of women's liberation. The similarities and differences in the masculine and feminine components of the unconscious are too little understood for the time to be ripe for this sort of obeisance to more fashionable disciplines.

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Bisexuality. A Study. By CHARLOTTE WOLFF. London: Quartet Books. 1977. Pp 246. £6.50.

This book is a protest against a conventional, narrow-minded concept of human sexuality and a defence of bisexuality. Though I sympathize with its intentions, I doubt its conclusions.

The author defines bisexuality as follows: 'Bisexuality is the root of human sexuality and the matrix of all bio-physical reactions, be they passive or active. Bisexuality is expressed first and foremost in bi-gender identity, which may or may not lead to bisexual orientation'. This statement the author tries to elucidate through interviewing 75 women and 75 men who have labelled themselves bisexual. Further these men and women have filled out a questionnaire and have written their autobiographies.

The book contains 30 statistical tables, but in my