

Part II.—Reviews.

The Relativity of Reality. By RENE LAFORGUE, M.D. New York: The Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co., 1940. Pp. 92. Price \$2.50.

According to the author ego-development is paralleled by corresponding attitudes towards reality. At the anal stage of development the attitude is largely magical and animistic. Only where the genital level has been fully reached can the ego obtain a truly causal or scientific appreciation of reality. Polytheistic and monotheistic beliefs represent stages between anal and complete genital predominance.

It is the thesis of this book that the great majority of savants who, having accumulated degrees and academic honours, consequently hold professorships or important appointments in science, art, law or in fact any other branch of learning, are of the anal type. At best they belong to one of the intermediate types, where genitality modifies the anal predominance. A large portion of the book is an invective against these unfortunate people, who are not only told that their intellects are sterile and incapable of appreciating a new idea, but are also accused of having a frustrated sexual life, manifesting itself in character anomalies and such perversions as sadism and homosexuality.

Psycho-analysts themselves can perhaps best explain why a fervent apostle of a new creed, still looked on askance by orthodox science, should direct his hostility towards such a large section of society. It would, however, be interesting to know whether in France any psycho-analyst has received a professorship or important university or hospital appointment.

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An Investigation of the Technique of Psycho-Analysis. Edited by EDWARD GLOVER, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1940. Pp. ix + 188. Price 10s. 6d.

This report is a digest of replies from 24 practising psycho-analysts to a questionnaire on problems of technique. The report is divided into sections each including a summary of replies with editorial comments, together with a brief résumé of subsequent discussions and papers having reference to the point at issue. Some of the subjects dealt with are interpretation, transference, termination of analysis, and the analysis of the psychoses.

The report is illuminating in that it shows the wide divergence of opinion on many fundamental matters even within psycho-analytic circles. On the question of length of analysis most preferred not to be specific. Of the few figures given the mean was 3½ years. One analyst, after years of experience, stated that she "had never analysed a case to a finish, but hoped to do so one day." While the report is of more especial interest to psycho-analysts, all psycho-therapists may obtain useful information from it.

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