

Papers on Psycho-Analysis. By ERNEST JONES, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Lond. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1923. Royal 8vo.
Pp. x + 731. Price 25s. net.

We cannot pretend to review the subject-matter contained in a work of this kind owing to the extent of the field it covers. It comprises a collection of thirty-nine papers (or addresses) by the author, of various dates from 1908 to 1923, which, for the purpose of consecutive reading, are arranged in groups of chapters in the following order: General papers, including an introductory chapter, papers on dreams, papers on treatment, clinical papers, and papers on child-life and education.

Dr. Ernest Jones by this means builds up a work which covers a wide field of psycho-analytic theory and practice in relation to normal psychology, psycho-pathology and psycho-therapy. It is remarkable that the author has only in one instance found it necessary to make any extensive alteration in any one paper, but in this edition five papers have been withdrawn and five substituted, and the remainder revised and brought up to date.

Dr. Ernest Jones is a true disciple of Prof. Freud—indeed this book, practically a life's work, he dedicates to him, and nobody, certainly in this country, is more capable of presenting Freudian teaching in relation to psychological medicine. He preaches no diluted doctrines, but belongs to the orthodox school, and his unique knowledge of the subject entitles him to be always heard and read with respect.

He points out that the study of unconscious mentation is, bit by bit, building up a genetic theory of mind as a whole—a statement about which there can be no doubt. Its materialization in the practice of psychiatry is another matter, but if ever the Freudian school of thought becomes a valuable asset—and some would claim it is already—in the treatment of the psychoses and psychoneuroses, it will be due in no small measure to Dr. Ernest Jones's intense devotion to the subject both experimentally and clinically, and to his lectures and writings, and of which devotion this book is an undoubted evidence.

To those who desire to seek light upon Freudian teaching in relation to psychological medicine in its widest sense we can with confidence recommend these collected papers by Dr. Ernest Jones.

J. R. LORD.

Supernormal Faculties in Man: An Experimental Study. By Dr. EUGENE OSTY. Translated by STANLEY DE BRATH. London: Methuen & Co., 1923. Pp. xi + 245. Price 15s. net.

Mankind is, and has ever been, so prone, for the most part, to belief in the marvellous that the sceptic is usually looked upon askance. Even an attitude of mild philosophic doubt has not been without its dangers in the past. Rigid conformity with preposterous opinions has been supported by such persuasive arguments

as the stake and the faggot, the thumb-screw and the rack. Scepticism must needs be allied with its own share of obstinacy and fanaticism to refuse lip-service to the silliest superstition, or to hold out against such convincing proofs! To others—equally sceptical, but less obstinate—the position adopted by Erasmus is easily to be understood. No wonder he could write ironically in “Praise of Folly.” There is never any lack of material for such an essay.

As a result of prolonged training, civilized man is now able to assimilate all sorts of strange doctrines without much difficulty, and to reconcile contradictions with complete satisfaction. So we see those who are sceptical in many matters yet giving credence to the most unlikely suppositions. Nowhere is this seen more markedly than in the domain of psychology. To many the term “mind” connotes a vague mysterious “something”—which is found to be on investigation perilously near “nothing”! But if we accept the theory of a hypothetical mind—in contra-distinction to the application of the term to cerebral activity—there is nothing too amazing to be postulated in regard to its potentialities. Dr. Eugene Osty in this extremely interesting book takes us far into the empyrean, whence we can gaze upon the Freudians swarming in the depths of the unconscious! We have got a long way beyond the realms of sense—lest there should be the least suspicion of ambiguity I hasten to add that I refer to “sensation”—for he tells us of “supernormal faculties . . . of means of cognition other than those through the normal channels of sensation.” He expressly states that he is not dealing with knowledge obtained by means of “cryptesthesia,” for this “signifies a hidden sense, and therefore implies a sensory system registering vibrations unperceived by the normal senses. This may be correct for telepathy, vision at a distance, discovery of hidden water-springs, etc., for we naturally imagine these phenomena as resulting from sensations. But when a percipient reveals an event that happened yesterday or a hundred years ago, still more when that event has not yet taken place, it is no longer possible to suppose that his faculty is registering vibrations of any kind.” This faculty, “possessed by certain persons of revealing the sequences of individual lives independently of normal intelligence, of normal sensorial information, and also of the unavoidable obstacles which time and space place in the way of ordinary perceptions,” has been called by Dr. Osty “metagnomy.” Dr. Osty has conducted his investigations elaborately and extensively, and the results which he has had are certainly amazing. He gives examples of autoscopy—that is, the power some individuals have of taking momentary cognizance of the exterior form of the body as if they saw it before them (exterior autoscopy), and of the interior of their mind as if they saw into it (internal autoscopy). It is, he observes, “chiefly under hypnosis and in mental affections causing increased subconscious psychic activity that the most curious phenomena of supernormal cognition of the organism have been observed.” One of Dr. Sollier’s patients saw and described “her veins, heart, lungs, bronchia, down to the pulmonary vesicles, intestines, ovaries, Fallopian tubes, uterus

and appendages," etc. She had not, it is stated, any "(normal) knowledge of the outer forms of these organs nor of their structure, nor of the ovaries and the brain, of which she described the microscopic structure." Some observers have noted the same peculiar faculty, especially in hysterical subjects and under hypnosis. Certain individuals were able to describe disease processes taking place in their bodies. But still more remarkable phenomena are recorded. There is, for example, the fairly familiar one in which the sensitive person can read visiting-cards and printed papers or describe photographs by means of touching the objects with the finger-tips, or by applying them to the forehead or to the pit of the stomach—the eyes, of course, being blindfolded. Other percipients are said to transcend this. They are able "to take cognizance of the whole content of a life." One lady gave all the details of Dr. Osty's doings during the "previous ten months"—what awful possibilities this suggests!

It would take too much space to give a detailed description of the interesting phenomena described by Dr. Osty as a result of his own researches, or as arising from the experiments of other observers. What he states goes so far beyond ordinary scientific belief that one may be pardoned a moderate degree of scepticism, or, at any rate, a suspension of judgment. It is only right to note that Dr. Osty does not adopt a pontifical and uncompromising attitude, but very reasonably says that though his conclusions "should appear as the outcome of exact demonstration," it is with the reservation that "their soundness should be verified by repetition of the experimental investigations from which they are derived." Even the results of such experiments must, however, be weighed carefully. Not only must the person who conducts the experiments endeavour to free himself as much as possible from the "will to believe," but there is also to be remembered the subjective nature of the information derived from the person exhibiting the "metagnostic" faculty. The cleverness exhibited by professional "thought-readers," spiritualistic mediums, and various minor "prophets," show how much can be achieved by nimble wits, and how easily the simple-minded scientist may be deceived. In addition to these tricksters there are the neuropathic subjects, hysterics and others, who do exhibit abnormal mental symptoms; but here again one hesitates to admit that the abnormal is "supernormal."

The translation appears to be well done, but the same cannot be said of the proof-reading. Mr. De Brath uses "ultimate" as a verb. What is the authority for this?

It occurred to me that it would be interesting to have the opinion of my friend, Mr. William Marriott, who is well known for the work he has done in exposing the frauds and trickery of *soi-disants* mediums.

In the course of his letter he says: "I am not greatly impressed. . . . In spite of these seeming marvels I am left sceptical. My scepticism is not decreased when I find reliance placed on such a man as Bert Reese. This man was a conjurer pure and simple. The case quoted, which has had almost as much publicity as Katie

King, when analysed resolves itself into a good setting for one of the oldest of this class of trick. . . . The deceiving of the average scientist is so absurdly easy. And when you have a man like Zöllner with a theory to play with the marvel is that they are not supplied with more. Ochorowicz was very painstaking, but I know for a fact that all his reported marvels were due to trickery. Schrenck-Notzing is another case of a scientist who has not so much been gulled, as gulled himself. His case is on a par with Dr. Crawford's. . . . It seems to me that the point to be stressed is the absolute necessity for a single person being found who has any supernormal power. There are hundreds with these alleged powers, but that is not quite the same thing. The existence of any of this power has yet to be proved. Until it is, all the rest is simply red herrings dragged over the trail." H. J. NORMAN.

Opening Doors. By JOHN THOMSON, M.D. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1923. Crown 8vo. Pp. 20. Price: Cloth 1s. 6d.; paper, 6d.

In this brochure the author has put in plain and entirely non-technical language a number of simple rules by which mothers can discern in their children the earliest signs of retarded mental development.

The instructions are given in such a manner that they will easily be understood even by those of poor education, and at the same time irrelevant matter is excluded, so that the whole can be mastered in a minimum of time.

Methods of home treatment for the main types of mental deficients are described, and the mother is advised as to when medical aid should be summoned.

Those interested in "child welfare" should find this small book extremely useful as a handy method of giving advice to parents.

W. MOODIE.

Colonic and Duodenal Lavage. By Capt. J. T. AINSLIE WALKER. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., 1923. Crown 8vo. Pp. 12. Illustrations 2. Price 1s.

The author advocates the use of dimol as an intestinal antiseptic, and suggests that it be employed in colonic lavage, following the Plombières treatment, and also in duodenal lavage by the œsophageal tube.

He gives exact descriptions of the methods employed in each case, and ends his monograph with laboratory findings, which support his contention that dimol is a most efficient agent for the destruction of bacteria in the intestine.

W. MOODIE.