

of the digital tendons is the most effective stimulus for the grasp. After complete deafferentation of the arm muscles, tension on the shoulder muscles evokes the grasp in an animal with the thalamic reflex pattern. When the shoulder muscles have also been deafferentated the grasp can be elicited by moving the animal rapidly through space. It is concluded that the grasp is an integral part of the body-righting reflex mechanism.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

## 2. Psychology and Psychopathology.

*Present Tendencies in Psychotherapy* [*Les tendances actuelles en psychothérapie*]. (*L'Encéphale*, vol. xxxiii, p. 105, Mar., 1938.) Malamud, W.

Psychotherapy has as its fundamental problem the individual maladapted to his milieu. This problem should be approached in a systematic manner. First the immediate precipitating situation is investigated. Next the personal and family history are examined for factors sensitizing the individual to such a reaction. Then a more detailed analysis of the immediate condition is undertaken, in order to determine what portions of the psyche are involved in the maladjustment and what portions, being left intact, may be utilized for readaptation. Regarding therapy, the writer, a follower of Meyer, strongly condemns an obstinate predilection on the part of the therapist for any one psychological theory. Each case must be treated on its merits, and the most suitable treatment for the particular individual decided upon. Physio-therapy, the various forms of analytic therapy, tutelary guidance, social service and the readjustment of the milieu, suggestion and persuasion all have their place. In a stubborn patient, it is suggested, the combined force of these methods may be brought into action. Finally, it is argued, psychotherapy is not only a science but an art. Human nature is infinite in its variations and no two psychopaths are identical. Theory and practice are not enough; the creative artist must adapt himself to the individual case and the new experience.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Some Palæobiological and Biopsychical Reflections.* (*Int. Journ. of Psycho-anal.*, vol. xix, p. 214, Apr., 1938.) Bonaparte, M.

From the very beginning of living matter, self-preservation has required that the protoplasm shall protect itself on the one hand from disintegration of its own substance, and on the other hand from penetration from without. In contradistinction to this, propagation of the species has required that certain diametrically opposite processes shall take place. The conjugation of two cells implies the penetration of one substance by another which remains active and alive and has not, as happens in nutrition, first been rendered innocuous by the digestive juices and its prior death. The act of fission involves a disintegration of the substance, which if continued would result in annihilation. It is suggested that the protoplasmic substance is biologically aware of these two dangers, that they are transmitted throughout the whole course of evolution down to man himself, and that they thus constitute the most primitive source both of the perforation complex and the castration complex which analysts discover at work in men and in women.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Adaptation to Reality in Early Infancy.* (*Psychoanal. Quart.*, vol. vii, p. 200, Apr., 1938.) Benedek, T.

According to the psycho-analytic theory the course of gratification of instinctual needs during the period immediately following birth is: instinctual need—crying—gratification. The next step is: need—hallucinated gratification—crying—real gratification—sleep. Later, following real gratification, the child does not immediately sleep; he sucks playfully at the nipple or plays with his hands. The libidinal satisfaction keeps the child awake, and being awake enables him to perceive the environment beyond the immediate satisfaction of the need.

The newborn reacts to every form of stimulus with an undifferentiated general motor discharge. By the fifth month the infant does not show his hunger by immediate crying; he has learnt to wait. During the period of expectation smiling and cooing are directed towards the mother. Confidence having been established, the child is able to direct the libido outwards.

Studies on children, during the second half-year of life, in institutions and afforded the so-called best hygienic conditions, show that their reactions are markedly different from those of children raised at home. The hospitalized infant exhibits an asocial attitude due to fear. It is the writer's thesis that confidence within the mother-child unit is the main defence against fear and anxiety. The objective world remains strange, distant and incomprehensible for him without a proper emotional relationship to a human being to help him to master it. This is not developed by the hospitalized child, who experiences lack of love and too much routine. Such a disturbance of the object-libidinal relationship inhibits the ego's learning capacity, which becomes narrowed by anxiety. The writer argues forcibly against the dogma of a rigid type of hygiene, and the conditioning of the child to factors which are not in harmony with his own physiological rhythm.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Types of Adolescence.* (*Psychoanal. Quart.*, vol. vii, p. 243, Apr., 1938.) Bernfeld, S.

Adolescence is defined as the adjustment or attempted adjustment of the child's personality to the considerable increase of libido arising suddenly at puberty. Among pubescent children two extreme types are isolated. The rebellious type without super-ego, for whom all prohibitions towards libidinal satisfaction are treated as a purely external hindrance, and the compliant adolescent, who rejects all sexual wishes by means of repression. Between these two extremes lie the vast majority, the mixed type. Here again division is made into an obstreperous and a dangerous group. The former is sexually compliant while in general behaviour he is naughty, rebellious and aggressive. Such a child is behaving compliantly towards later influences, while certain infantile wishes are no longer kept within limits by the super-ego. The latter is compliant in general conduct while indulging his sexual urges either in fantasy or in overt behaviour. Guilt complexes are in evidence, and psychopathic, suicidal or criminal reactions may result.

S. M. COLEMAN.

### 3. Psychiatry.

*Organization of Memory Traces in the Korsakoff Syndrome.* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxix, p. 482, Mar., 1938.) Bender, L., Curran, F. J., and Schilder, P.

The writers investigated various gestalt patterns in cases of Korsakoff's syndrome. They found that the dots of the original patterns might be replaced by confabulation in the shape of crosses, circles, numbers, vortices and letters. Patterns not only changed in orientation on the background, but might be completely reorganized. A tendency to curves instead of angles may appear. Figures may be contracted or expanded. Curves may be simplified, flattened or reorganized into staircase patterns. A tendency to closure may appear. Adjoining configurations may be completely separated from each other. These changes take place in perceptive as well as in memory patterns, and represent reversion to a primitive type of organization in the perceptive field. They are the expression of forces which have been liberated by the organic process.

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