

whether it is not an 'almost magical expectation to have the patient in analysis change back into the prepsychological, undifferentiated, and unstructured state, in which no divisions exist between body and mind or self and object' (pp. 40-41). Although some analysts have stressed the parallels between the analyst-patient relationship and the mother-infant relationship, she emphasizes the differences. Among the theoretical assumptions implied in extending the use of transference to these early pre-verbal states is the assumption that whatever is acquired is reversible. Anna Freud feels that this is by no means proved.

In the third part of her book, Anna Freud discusses in detail the problems besetting analysts themselves. Of particular importance is the matter of creativity in the profession. Here she emphasizes that 'the analysts' task is not to create, i.e. to invent anything, but to observe, to explore, to understand, and to explain' (p. 48). She goes on to discuss that the *sine qua non* of psychoanalytic thinking essentially should be metapsychological, that every clinical fact should be approached (1) *genetically* as to its origin; (2) *dynamically* as to the interplay of forces of which it is a result; (3) *economically* with regard to its energy charge; (4) *topographically* (later *structurally*) concerning its localization within the mental apparatus; and last (5) *adaptively*. She states that although dynamic considerations have to a great extent achieved widespread acceptance, most of the progress has been along genetic lines. She feels it essential that the other aspects of metapsychology regain their former status, and that further progress in psychoanalysis will ultimately be along these lines.

Anna Freud's highly condensed book is important in that she wisely introduces a cautious warning concerning the scientific validity of some of the recent trends in psychoanalysis. Her re-emphasis of the merits of a total metapsychological approach point an important direction for psychoanalytic investigation to take in the future.

Difficulties in the Path of Psychoanalysis is a most important book worthy of careful and meticulous study.

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OXFORD BRAIN INJURY STUDIES

Missile Wounds of the Brain; A Study of Psychological Deficits. By FRED A. NEWCOMBE. Oxford University Press (Oxford Neurological Monographs). 1969. Pp. 145, Price 42s.

Neuropsychology would at first sight appear to have a relatively straightforward task in exploring the relationships between focal lesions of the brain and

disturbances of cognitive function. Cognitive processes can be measured more reliably than most other mental functions, and a great number of psychometric tests have been evolved and standardized for such purposes. In practice, however, the situation is far from simple. This monograph from the Department of Neurology of the United Oxford Hospitals is an excellent example both of the scrupulous care which is necessary and of the complexities which emerge.

Beginning in the last century with observations on dysphasia, the search to relate focal psychological deficits to focal brain lesions has extended through more detailed particularization of speech functions, arithmetical, constructional, and visuospatial functions. In this British psychologists have played an important part. Disputes have involved the validity of the areas of cognitive function demarcated for study, their meaning in relation to other accompanying defects, the relevance of testing procedures, and the reliability with which naturally occurring brain lesions may be regarded as circumscribed and grouped according to location. Questions of sampling and of the special selection of populations under investigation have produced further difficulties, since inevitably large numbers of patients are required if universal relationships are to be demonstrated.

Dr. Newcombe's study has been conceived with all of these difficulties in mind. She has taken as subjects 153 men who suffered focal brain injuries in World War II and has examined them some twenty or more years later. The population, therefore, is almost unique, and could not be better suited to demonstrate the enduring effects of non-progressive focal brain lesions. The men were invited to return to Oxford and submit to many hours of psychological examination carried out personally by the author. This they did willingly, we are told even cheerfully! The result is a very great deal of information, clearly set out, well argued and intelligently compared with the findings of others. We obtain a clear demonstration of persistent selective deficits in language, visual perception and spatial orientation, in the absence of general impairment on standard tests of intelligence. We also find a firm body of evidence to add to our growing understanding of hemispheric asymmetry where such deficits are concerned. Differences within the hemispheres are less clearly established, but here also some interesting results are obtained.

The book will be read avidly by researchers in similar fields. For the psychiatrist it is a fascinating if rather daunting piece of work. It shows yet again that accuracy of measurement is but the first step in attempts to arrive at an understanding of brain-behaviour relationships.

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