

A Psycho-analyst's Impressions of London [*Eindrücke eines Psychoanalytiker von einem Aufenthalt in London*]. (*Imago*, 1912.)
Maeder, S.

Dr. Maeder, of Zürich, who is a distinguished adherent of the Freudian school, has been spending two months in London diligently studying the English soul, and now records his results in Prof. Freud's new journal, *Imago*. The paper may be read with profit, sometimes touched with amusement, and some of the facts recorded will be new to most Londoners. Psycho-analytically, this was to be expected.

The author seems to have been chiefly impressed by the English woman. "She is the centre around which everything revolves." She exists in two extreme types—the masculine type and the doll. The first type is most numerous represented, with somewhat angular and coarse features, a rather unpleasantly decided and energetic bearing, and a pronounced aggressive temperament. In general the English-woman feels an intense need to play the leading and ruling part; her mode of thought is very ego-centric, and her emotional disposition is egoistic. She over-dresses, wears many jewels, and always says "He loves me," never "I love him." A general impression of defective womanliness is received everywhere. Even the ballet is in England athletic. Very significant is the English ideal of beauty with its emphasis of straight lines. The Englishwoman's ideal is the undeveloped girl, and even at fifty she tries to be youthful. This insistence on the girl ideal indicates the strong sexual suppression which characterises modern England. It signifies an arrest of development at the pre-sexual stage. The fully developed woman is regarded as "disgusting"—an attitude familiar to the psycho-analyst. Flirting, again, is not regarded as a prelude to love, but as an end in itself. The picture thus presented corresponds closely to the picture of sexual repression revealed by psychological investigation of the individual.

Entirely concordant with this view is the prudery which rules in England. Maeder, who seems to have moved in puritanic circles, had daily occasion to note the close connection between religion and sexuality. Strauss's "Salome" took five years to reach London. No well-bred Englishman may use the words "hell," "devil," "adultery," or "trousers"; he may be permitted to refer to a gentlemen's "lavatory," but if for ladies it must only be a "cloak-room." Maeder was shown some preparations by a microscopist in the presence of the latter's daughter, a university graduate of twenty-eight; when the section was from a human foetus it was described in a whisper—and not shown to the daughter.

English stiffness, hyper-correctness and etiquette are also regarded as instructive symptoms, as is English self-government, which Maeder found equally notable in London streets and London asylums.

To turn from suppression to another psycho-analytic question—the compensatory channels of the suppressed libido. The chief of these are the devotion to sport and to dancing and the extravagance of *décolleté* more pronounced in London than in any other great city of Europe. Suppressed emotional expression also leads to introversion,

as shown by the pronounced self-complacency of the Englishman, both individual and national. (Many symptoms of anal eroticism are also noted in this connection, even apart from "the immense luxury of the English closet.") Suppressed libido turned in on the ego is also to be traced in the Englishman's extreme care of the person and attention to dressing. So also with English love of animals. "Domestic pets are in England the lightning-conductors of libido."

An advantageous result of the kind of suppression that prevails in England is that by placing women on a lofty pedestal and making love difficult it spurs men to great achievements, arousing ambition and the impulse to produce one's best. In Germany it is impossible, even in a dream, to imagine a social democrat becoming a cabinet minister, or a man of science like Darwin finding his grave among national heroes.

There is evidently a rich field for the psycho-analyst in London. But Maeder is careful to point out in conclusion that he does not wish to make out that the Englishman is neurotic. He regards him as a gigantically capable person who has not suffered unduly from the suppression to which he has been subjected. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Emotional Dream-state. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, June, 1912.)
Powers, W. J. S.

It is held by many that "emotional dream-state" always depends to a large extent on pre-existing conditions of the organism, and that the traumatic shock of sudden emotion will not always suffice to produce it. This is questioned by Powers, who illustrates his argument by four cases which he observed, under Ziehen, at the Psychiatric Department of the Charité Hospital in Berlin. Of these the most decisive, and, indeed, the most exceptional, is the first case.

The patient was a man, æt. 30, married, with five healthy children, robust, well-developed, normal (except for slight strabismus), good heredity, always healthy, very moderate in alcohol and tobacco, of quiet, retiring nature, not easily excited, but very energetic, a hard worker and absolutely trustworthy. He worked an electric crane in a foundry. The day before admission he was working the crane as usual when the machine suddenly stopped. He at once shut off power. Stepping back to view the machinery he saw the body of a man jammed between the crane and a beam. He screamed, and after that was unconscious of anything that happened. His foreman stated that he seemed about to leap down from his elevated position; he was brought down with some difficulty, sobbing bitterly and trembling so violently that he could scarcely walk. He lay down for an hour, weeping and muttering incoherently, and was then taken to the hospital in an ambulance. On admission he was able to walk with support, but had no ideas of place, time and persons. A fine static and motor tremor was noticed; knee reflexes symmetrically exaggerated, patellar clonus, excessive sensitiveness to the lightest prick of a pin-point. He lay quietly in bed muttering, and with spells of violent weeping, breathing slowly and deeply. Ten hours later his wife visited him, and for the first time he showed conscious interest, recognised her, and told her that he had constantly before his eyes the man's body jammed between