

## Reviews

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**Sigmund Freud. Life and Work. Volume Three. The Last Phase. 1919-1939.** By ERNEST JONES. The Hogarth Press, London, 1957. Pp. 536. Price 35s.

In this last volume, published just before his death, Dr. Ernest Jones writes objectively with knowledge, ability and love to give the world a worthy account of Sigmund Freud, his life and work.

Ernest Jones was always to be relied upon to give Freud tactful advice and endless help. When all was not well amongst colleagues he wrote to Freud, "You know that it is essentially for you that we are all working, which is why your inspiration and approval mean so much to us all."

Jones also toiled hard for the escape of "colleagues who were more than ostracized in Berlin"; and, after the Nazi invasion of Austria in 1938, he engineered the very tricky evacuation of Freud from Vienna to London.

This third volume is best epitomized by the heading of the fourth chapter—"Fame and Suffering"—this thought haunts one even when reading the excellent historical reviews by Jones on Freud's contributions to, for example, Metapsychology, Biology, Anthropology and Religion.

The story of Freud's life is resumed in 1919 with the coming together of leading psychoanalysts to form a Committee of six. Two of these six subsequently "developed psychotic manifestations"—one can only comment that if this proportion is statistically significant it underlines the cost by which humanity gains its knowledge. Such thoughts are still more prominent in "the epic story of Freud's suffering". In 1923, cancer of the jaw being diagnosed, Freud had the first of the thirty-three operations he underwent before he ultimately died in 1939. He endured all this without complaint and without the help of religion. He did indeed have the help of his daughter Anna who nursed him from the onset of his illness to the end of his life, but the pact they kept was that, however agonizing the situation, "no sentiment was to be displayed".

"But with all this agony there was never the slightest sign of impatience or irritability. The philosophy of resignation and the acceptance of unalterable reality triumphed throughout."

It was against this background that fame came to Freud. He was aware of the drawbacks to fame and even before his long last illness his reply to a letter congratulating him on the progress psycho-analysis was making in the world was ". . . you seem to overestimate my enjoyment of it. What personal gratification is to be drawn from psycho-analysis I had already enjoyed in the time when I was alone, and I have been more annoyed than pleased since others have joined me." Jones says, "Above individual friendships Freud had come to treasure still more the value of his discoveries and all that ensued from them."

As all the world knows, his theme was sexuality and Freud insisted on its being recognized "that that is our Shibboleth".

Jones says, "It is easy to state the parts of his work to which Freud attached the highest importance . . . They were (1) the seventh chapter of *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), (2) the last chapter of *Totem and Taboo* (1913), and (3) the essay on 'The Unconscious' in his metapsychological series (1915). They amount altogether to only 220 pages (!)". Apparently Freud thought his "The Future of an Illusion" to be of "very little value"—saying of it, "I regard it as weak analytically and inadequate as a self-confession."

Jones in retrospect assesses soberly Freud's influence on human knowledge and life. Thus Freud's influence on Social Life includes the fact that "mistakes in daily life, the forgettings, mislayings, slips of the tongue and pen and so on . . . are no

longer always passed by as 'accidental' . . . Most important, however, is the increasing sense people have of being moved by obscure forces within themselves which they are unable to define . . . and this . . . we owe above all to Freud."

C. E. HEDGMAN TURNER.

**The Shakespearean Ciphers Examined.** By WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN and ELIZABETH S. FRIEDMAN. The University Press, Cambridge, 1957. Pp. 303. Price 25s.

The arguments on the Baconian controversy run the gamut from sense to nonsense. Let me say at once that this book is written by two experts on the subject of ciphers, professional cryptologists in the U.S. military and diplomatic services; they take the various ciphers that have been proposed as existing in the Shakespearean texts and study them exhaustively.

The book is first-rate. It is masterly, impartial, and clearly written. It demonstrates beyond question that the so-called ciphers are not ciphers in any proper sense, but "rules" with so many exceptions and variations that, as the authors demonstrate abundantly, almost any text may be made to yield almost any message. The book can first be recommended simply as an interesting study in applied cryptology. However, it has psychiatric applications. The subject clearly lies on the fringe of paranoia, and the authors' study of how Donnelly, Gallup, Owen, and many others have thought and "reasoned" may give, to those interested in paranoia, an insight into those mental processes that are almost within normal limits yet not fully psychotic. Contrary to a psychiatrist's expectation, most of the cipher-proposers are not psychotic in any ordinary sense; and it is this fact that makes the book unusually interesting.

Mrs. Gallup, for instance, attempted to apply a cipher that Bacon is known to have proposed; she found that after a little coaxing, and by making some allowance for compositor's errors, some sort of message began to emerge. She admitted that she was not sure what credence to give it, but as page after page of the first Folio continued the "message", she felt unable to reject it. The Friedmans showed, by experiments on each other with related ciphers, that the actual freedom allowed by her in the interpretation of the letter forms was, in fact, sufficient so that the growing "message" would never break down irremediably into nonsense. Though the breakdown was incessantly threatened, there was always enough freedom for further adjustments, perhaps by going back a little way for a fresh line, so that a sufficient degree of "sense" could be preserved. What the authors demonstrate is how little freedom will suffice to make the threatening chaos always at least postponable. Mrs. Gallup was probably an innocent victim of this not very obvious property of ciphers and their breaking. The others, however, come nearer to the psychiatric domain.

Those who are interested in the psychology of paranoia may well find this book illuminating and suggestive. It will repay detailed study.

W. ROSS ASHBY.

**Schizophrenia: Somatic Aspects.** By nine contributors, edited by D. RICHTER. Pergamon Press, London, 1957. Pp. 181. Price 40s.

This book is very simple to review, for it is an up-to-date account of our knowledge about the somatic aspects of schizophrenia, each aspect reviewed by a well-known expert in the field. The whole subject is treated adequately, without being overloaded with insignificant detail; as a result, every part is readable. Paper and binding are good, and the print is beautifully clear.

Those who want to remain well informed on the subject of schizophrenia (and who does not?) cannot afford to overlook it.

W. ROSS ASHBY.

**An Introduction to Cybernetics.** By W. ROSS ASHBY. Chapman and Hall, Ltd., London, 1956.

Dr. Ashby, who has become well known over two decades of writing in the field now known as cybernetics, has ventured the difficult task of writing an intro-