

Library is edited by Miss Angela Richards, who assisted James Strachey with the Standard Edition.

The present volume includes a good short sketch of Freud's life and ideas contributed by Strachey. I could find no date for this. Perhaps Strachey might have mentioned one or two additional sources of Freud's ideas and technique had he not died three years before the publication of Ellenberger's *The Discovery of the Unconscious* in 1970. I would have liked to see a reference to this work among Miss Richards' recommendations for further reading.

The book is well printed and compact.

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**Hysterical Personality.** Edited by MARDI J. HOROWITZ. New York: Jason Aronson. 1977. \$17.50.

Hysteria has outlived its obituaries, as Sir Aubrey Lewis predicted, and is alive and well and living in the University of California. This book is one of a series on classical psychoanalysis and its applications. Its authors, mostly analysts at that University, define hysterical personality broadly, combining description (the APA definition), dynamics (repression and denial), and cognitive style (following Shapiro's view that hysterical personalities have a global perceptual manner and poor memory). The contributors often fail to distinguish traits and symptoms to the extent that the book's title could equally be 'Hysteria'. There are reviews of the history of hysteria and its epidemiology, and of recent research on hysteria and hysterical personality, all adequate. The remainder of the book is made up of detailed case commentaries which may be of interest to other analysts. For the general reader it is dispiriting to find few original ideas and so little interest in the objective measurement of personality.

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**Female Psychology: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Views.** Edited by HAROLD P. BLUM. New York: International Universities Press. Pp 434. \$22.50.

*Female Psychology* is a collection of articles reprinted from recent issues of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. Three of the seventeen

articles, Stoller on 'Primary Femininity', Grossman and Stewart on 'Penis Envy', and Shafer on Freud's 'Psychology of Women', are in their very different ways important contributions to the subject. Beyond this it is difficult to be enthusiastic about the volume.

The arduous subject of female psychology would seem to compound a problem inherent within ego psychology. Roy Shafer writes:

'Ego psychology has established as the proper subject of psychoanalytic study the whole person developing and living in a complex world. No longer is ours a theory simply of instinct-ridden organisms, turbulent unconscious dynamics and the like . . . Ego psychology has helped establish lively two-way interchanges between psychoanalysis and modern biology, psychology, anthropology, history, linguistics, philosophy, aesthetics, and other disciplines'.

To me this expansion of the frontiers of psychoanalysis as claimed for ego psychology is not growth but diffusion. The specific subject of psychoanalysis—mankind's unconscious—has been lost. So what we have all too clearly reflected here is not the centre of psychoanalysis, namely clinical case histories garnered from the psychoanalytic setting and the theory derived therefrom, but its watery frontiers with sociology, biology, psychology, philosophy and the new politics of women's liberation. The similarities and differences in the masculine and feminine components of the unconscious are too little understood for the time to be ripe for this sort of obeisance to more fashionable disciplines.

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**Bisexuality. A Study.** By CHARLOTTE WOLFF. London: Quartet Books. 1977. Pp 246. £6.50.

This book is a protest against a conventional, narrow-minded concept of human sexuality and a defence of bisexuality. Though I sympathize with its intentions, I doubt its conclusions.

The author defines bisexuality as follows: 'Bisexuality is the root of human sexuality and the matrix of all bio-physical reactions, be they passive or active. Bisexuality is expressed first and foremost in bi-gender identity, which may or may not lead to bisexual orientation'. This statement the author tries to elucidate through interviewing 75 women and 75 men who have labelled themselves bisexual. Further these men and women have filled out a questionnaire and have written their autobiographies.

The book contains 30 statistical tables, but in my

opinion the nine autobiographies are more informative. But these autobiographies also give one the impression that the participants in the study are predominantly homosexual, not bisexual. Penelope, a young married woman, says: 'It seems to me that my predominant sexual taste is for lesbianism, because in a general way I do not find men sexually attractive'. Audrey, 51 years old, unmarried, says: 'My real attraction is for a woman . . . I wonder if I am really bisexual'. And Gordon, a married man in his fifties, says that he 'rarely seems to get real satisfaction' and that he is 'looking for a mirror-image of myself—a manly man to go to bed with, which is a paradox'. Do Penelope, Audrey and Gordon have a 'bi-gender identity'? And what is the difference between them and other homosexual persons with or without sexual relations to both sexes?

I do not mind the concept of bisexuality. But from my own contact with sexual subcultures it is my impression that bisexual people are rare and that most people, deep in their mind, know very well whether they are predominantly heterosexual or homosexual. In a great many cases, more than were admitted earlier, people of heterosexual attitude show homosexual behaviour and vice versa. This fact, though, demands, not the introduction of a third term, bisexuality, but that we should extend our understanding of what it means to be heterosexual—or if you like, that we should extend the concept of normality.

Charlotte Wolff says that no large-scale study on bisexuality ever has been attempted and that she 'decided to fill the gap'. It is not a modest aim; and in my opinion she has not succeeded in fulfilling it. But she has written a provocative, warm-hearted, interesting book about a controversial topic. I hope many will read it and make up their minds.

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**The Cognitive Unconscious: A Piagetian Approach to Psychotherapy.** By MELVIN L. WEINER. Davis, California: International Psychological Press. 1975. Pp 202. \$12.95.

In this book the author advocates a new technique for helping patients with psychogenic difficulties in the work and learning spheres. He accepts an analytic viewpoint but suggests that psychoanalytic psychotherapy often fails, particularly in cases where defences such as denial and repression are used extensively. In his view a therapeutic stalemate may

come about because of a failure to break through these defences. In an attempt to overcome such difficulties Dr Weiner introduced, with selected patients, a number of intellectual problem-solving tasks to be performed in the session. In this procedure he takes note of the patient's approach to the task, asks questions (in the Piagetian manner) and encourages the patient to give his associations to the task and to the difficulties encountered.

Weiner makes the assumption that the patient 'transfers' his essential problems in approaching the intellectual problem, and maintains that the examination of the 'cognitive unconscious' and the 'affective unconscious' together can lead to the revelation of important past traumas and fixations which would otherwise elude the therapist.

A number of clinical examples are given, but I must confess that I cannot discern in the descriptions of Dr Weiner's treatment much more than a psychoanalytically-based, active exploratory and interpretative approach with a strong didactic aspect. In a sense the usual transference relationship is transformed into a teacher-pupil one, although the technique also demands the sophisticated understanding of a trained analytic psychotherapist. Nevertheless, this book should not be ignored, for it offers the adventurous psychotherapist an approach to patients which might prove of value in certain special cases.

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**A Bibliography in Dynamic, Familial and Social Psychiatry.** Written for the Study Group of the Society Clinical Psychiatrists by JOHN BIRTCHNELL and SHEILA HAFTER GRAY. Available from ICI Pharmaceuticals Division. £1.00.

To attempt a comprehensive bibliography of the fields outlined in the title is a Herculean task; Omissions of key references is inevitable, and in some fields for e.g. adolescence, the selection of references was so arbitrary that I would have liked a clear indication that it was in no way comprehensive. Since a book like this will inevitably be out of date by the time it is published, it would be useful to know the date when the manuscript was submitted. The authors state in their Introduction that one of their aims in publishing this bibliography was to indicate 'the vast extent and fascination of human psychology'. They appear to have achieved this aim, as well as giving references to work in areas of