

found willing to devote themselves to a cult, to an ism, which, like a salted mine, returns to the investigator that which he himself puts into it."

Drs. W. A. White and Hoch spoke briefly and temperately on the other side. They said that they saw certain facts which required interpretation. If there were better interpretations available than those they offered they would willingly accept them.

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*On the Formation of the Erotic Complex in the Emotion of Love* [*Sur la formation du complexe érotique dans le sentiment amoureux*]. (*Revue Philosophique*, February, 1915.) Kostyleff.

The author discusses this question in connection with the studies of Freud and his pupils regarding the psycho-sexual attitude of four celebrated men as revealed in their love affairs and in their creative work—*viz.*, Leonardo da Vinci, Lenau the pessimist poet, Giovanni Sebantini the painter, and Wagner. In each of these artists the psychoanalysts have discovered to their own satisfaction that the dominant emotional influence throughout their lives has been the famous "incest complex." Kostyleff fully accepts the view that in these cases and, indeed, in general, impressions dating from early childhood and persisting subconsciously contribute to the formation of an erotic complex in relation with the sexual instinct, but he disputes the further assumption of the Freudians that this complex necessarily or ordinarily involves an individual image, or even a group of individual traits. He maintains, on the contrary, that a careful consideration of the facts shows that, though the maternal caresses may awaken the first organic reflex, there is not normally at that stage any true psychic accompaniment, and that when in later development there is a psychic association with the reflex, the link may be through some simple and more or less accidental element without any persistence of the image of the mother. In the case of Lenau, for instance, who was slavishly adored by his mother, the various women with whom he had amorous relations had no physical or mental resemblance to her or to one another, but they were all women who worshipped him and were dominated by him; this emotional attitude was the common trait which constituted the association between the first erotic reflex and the fully developed sentiment of adult love. Similarly with Stendhal: his autobiography gives unmistakable evidence of the awakening of definite sexual feeling in relation to his mother, but in his numerous love affairs there is no trace of a feminine ideal formed on her type; his several mistresses were quite unlike one another in all respects, except in their power to arouse in him the feeling of intense admiration which had accompanied his early and vivid impressions of his mother. The author's conclusion is, therefore, that the erotic complex need not be, and perhaps is not, ordinarily attached to an ideal image of an individual of either sex: the "incest complex" has not accordingly the importance and extension that the doctrine of Freud would give it.

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