

physiological terms. The Pavlovian use of such physiological terms as reflex, irradiation and inhibition to describe phenomena at a different biological level is critically examined. The Pavlovian reflex, for instance, is far from being a simple mechanical thing. It is a complicated total reaction in which the personality of the animal, as Pavlov himself has stated, plays an important part. All these reactions may be easily found in human beings too. It is a matter of taste to state that animal and human activity consists merely of reflexes, but the term "reflex" loses then every distinction, and is merely used to indicate that one is not interested in the subjective side of the animal's reactions but merely in the objective expression.

Either we have to give up the conception of the personality as a whole and of wholes and configuration in general, or we have to give up the Pavlovian idea which considers the cortical activity as a mosaic of excitation and inhibition. Animal experimentation can be sure of its results, and does not need any corroboration from the psychological side; but when animal experimentation invades the field of higher nervous activity and behaviour of animals, it should not forget that its result cannot be valid when contradicting acknowledged results of psychological research, and that psychological insight does not impair the results of objective investigation, but helps to their deeper understanding.

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Psychological Factors in Urological Disease. (*Psycho-Anal. Quart.*, vol. v, p. 488, Oct., 1936.) *Menninger, K.*

A small series of urological cases is presented, and an attempt made to investigate the contribution of emotional factors to pathological tissue alterations in the genital apparatus, particularly the prostate. All cases cited demonstrate the phenomena of a man whose emotional conflicts could tolerate neither a normal sexual life nor abstinence. His attempts at sexuality had masked destructive impulses, which were then reflected back upon him, first in the form of impotence (i.e., functional inhibition), and then, as if by replacement, with a more focal and autonomous self-destruction in the form of urethral and prostatic infection. From the few cases studied it appears that either staphylococci or gonococci may be utilized in the production of the lesions.

The hypothesis is that there is a self-destructive impulse in every individual which, hindered or fortified by other elements in the personality, achieves its purpose to varying degrees and in various ways. Its conflict with the life instinct results in compromises which may be regarded as partial suicides or focal self-destruction. These focal suicides may be carried out in a conscious deliberate way, as in self-mutilation, or in ways which seem accidental or extrinsically necessary, as in certain accidents and operations. These self-destructive tendencies, lying as they do deep within the fabric of the instinctual life, may also express themselves without the assistance of the voluntary nervous system and the striated musculature, and are to be seen as well in the death or injury of organs not directly connected with consciousness.

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3. Psychiatry.

Genealogical Studies in General Paralysis [*Studi genealogici in famiglie di paralitici progressivi*]. (*Neopsichiat.*, vol. ii, p. 507, Sept.-Oct., 1936.) *Selzer, H.*

The family histories of 64 patients said to be suffering from general paralysis are considered and tabulated. The great majority show the presence of psychoses of various kinds in other members of the family.

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