

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

i. Psychology and Psycho-Pathology.

Variations in the Emotional Development of Normal Adolescents.
(*Brit. Journ. Educ. Psychol.*, February, 1931.) Wheeler, O. A.

There is usually an increase of emotionality during the period of adolescence; this shows itself in (1) an increased feeling for self, tending towards psychological independence and the finding of a vocation; (2) an intensification of sex emotions, tending towards a hetero-sexual attitude and the finding of a mate; and (3) the development of social, æsthetic and religious emotions, tending towards the formulating of a point of view on society and on life in general. Proportionately more women and girls than men and boys tend to emphasize those emotions directed away from the self.

The main emotional differences between the sexes appear to have their roots in a fundamental difference in the activity of the sex impulse. In the one case the sex impulse reinforces the egoistic, in the other the social and self-sacrificing trends. The home conditions exercise more influence on the development of the emotions than any other single factor, social, educational or religious.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Some Case Studies of Delinquent Girls Described as Leaders. (*Brit. Journ. of Educ. Psychol.*, June, 1931.) Brown, S. C.

The author found, amongst a group of six girls described as leaders, that the conditions commonly present were: excellent, possibly superior physique; high level of energy output in physical activity; interest in and enjoyment of social relationship. The level of general intelligence was sufficiently variable to discount its significance as a factor. The psychologist reported a quickness of response and good initiative. In all six instances there was no father in the home. Of the mothers, two were hard-working and reliable, but complained that they were too tired in the evening to give their children proper attention. Two others were notorious in the district for their irregularities, and of the remaining two, one was a neurotic and the other a psychotic of a paranoid type. In all cases there was only spasmodic affection and loyalty on both sides of the relationship. In each case there had been a previous delinquency record on the part of elder brothers or sisters.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

A Study of Phobias. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psychopathol.*, July, 1931.) Paskind, H. A.

The author found 48% of 733 cases of psychoneurosis afflicted with phobias. The phobias in these conditions are understandable

and systematized. They arise either from the misinterpretation of some physical sensation or experience, or as elaborations from other phobias, which in turn developed out of the misconstruction of physical sensations. The object of the phobia is always a logical one. The cause is usually contemporaneous with the phobia or may just precede it. Among 672 cases of manic-depressive insanity the author found phobias in 65%, and in 10% among 544 cases of dementia præcox. In these two psychotic conditions the phobias are usually illogical. Whether logical or illogical they are uneradicable by reason or explanation or by facing the fear. In the psychoneuroses the fear can usually be removed by reason or explanation and by endeavouring to make the patient face the fear.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Growth of Visual Perception in Children. (*Brit. Journ. Psychol., Monograph Supplements, No. 15, 1931.*) *Line, W.*

The author concludes that the ability to perceive form is dependent very largely on the same "g" that operates in all cognitive processes. The results support Spearman's contention that "relations furnish the woof and warp of shapes or whole qualities." Education in relations is vital to the cognition of "shape."

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Influence of Adrenal Extract on Behaviour and Mental Efficiency. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychol., July, 1931.*) *Fersild, A. T., and Thomas, W. S.*

Adrenal extract was administered hypodermically by the authors to six persons for the purpose of studying its effect on (a) mental performance, (b) motor performance, (c) physiological response and (d) emotional behaviour. The results of the tests of mental and motor performance showed that adrenaline did not promote mental efficiency, whereas the motor activities were somewhat improved by the drug. Behaviour symptoms ranged from tremor to signs of restlessness and emotional irritability. The subjects reported "tingling" sensations, a feeling of "stuttering" and divergent affective experiences, such as feelings of strain, weeping spells, irascibility, fatigue and drowsiness subsequent to the experimental period.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Redintegration of Pleasant and Unpleasant Experiences. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychol., July, 1931.*) *Stagner, R.*

The author found that unpleasant feeling-tone is associated with poor retention. Unpleasant events involve the setting up of some kind of tension, and in pleasant situations there is a release from tension. A reflex which results in satisfaction has its potency raised relatively to other reflexes conditioned to the same stimulus. The inadequate response is subject to the action of retro-active inhibition, in consequence of the fact that it is followed by other responses, whereas the successful one is not. Learning thus consists in selecting the correct response and inhibiting the incorrect.