

individual *towards* the family which is most often in excess and therefore requires restraining, while the tendency *away* from the family is most often deficient in strength and hence needs stimulation. Efforts must be made to aid the process of weaning from family attachments both in its sexual and dependence aspects. In an ideal early upbringing lies our great hopes for the betterment of the individual and society.

The book is extremely readable and lucid. Mr. Flügel accepts more or less whole-heartedly Freud's views, but his attitude is never narrow-minded, and he logically gives us his reasons for any conclusions to which he may come. It can hardly be too highly recommended to any reader of the *Journal* who wishes to orientate himself better on such a vastly important subject as the psychology of family life.

C. STANFORD READ.

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*Functional Nervous Disorders: Their Classification and Treatment.*

By DONALD E. CORE, M.D. Manch., M.R.C.P. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1922. Medium 8vo. Pp. xvii + 361. Price 25s. net.

Since it is stated in the preface that there is more confusion existing in the problems presented by the functional disorders than in any other branch of medicine, and that one source of this confusion appears to be associated with the current vagueness in the definition and classification of these conditions, we naturally expect to find that the contents of this book will in some way help towards a clarifying of our conceptions. In this hope we are not only disappointed, but Dr. Core seems to have brought confusion where little or none previously existed. To find early such a statement as—"Clinically hysteria is to be considered as primary, secondary and tertiary, according as to whether the manifestations are associated directly with an uncontrolled emotional tone, with discomfort of any description, or with the expectation of discomfort respectively," does not augur well, and when in the endeavour to gain some grasp of the author's meaning we read subsequent chapters, a condition akin to vertigo seizes upon us. That there is originality in the work is undoubted, but we are unable to understand how such seemingly bizarre conclusions are arrived at. The arguments throughout the book are so highly involved that we are precluded from any detailed criticism. One or two points, however, may be mentioned because of their startling novelty. The term "schizophrenia," used by Bleuler as a synonym for dementia præcox and implying a splitting of the personality, is used in these pages as signifying negativism; a use of the word which seems quite unwarranted. In the chapter on the drug treatment of hysteria the astounding statement is made that if any drug could be obtained which from its taste or smell earns the wholesale detestation of the patient, it might quite conceivably be as efficient a means of treatment as could be found! Dr. Core's ideas concerning psycho-analysis are stale and fallacious. In his preface he says that psycho-analysis is a somewhat pompous name to apply to a simple procedure which amounts to little more than detailed case-taking. Such a statement

was excusable many years ago when knowledge of the subject was scant among the medical profession, but at the present day it must be severely condemned. He advocates this form of treatment in certain functional disorders such as the "obsessive form of the mnemo-neurosis," but shows an absence of knowledge of such therapy by stating in a footnote—"Anyone who has performed psycho-analysis realises how surely, as the proceeding goes on, the patient, sooner or later, becomes angry; the very remorselessness of the questions, quite apart from their implication, induces in many a feeling of bitter hostility." Anyone who *really* psycho-analyses knows nothing of the sort. A psycho-analyst who knows his business rarely speaks at all.

It is difficult to find anything in this volume to recommend it. The writer has evidently worked hard at his subject, but his style is very diffuse and clouded, and we cannot help but think that the functional disorders are dealt with much more scientifically and accurately by more than one modern authority.

C. STANFORD READ.

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### Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

#### 1. Psycho-Pathology.

*A Method of Personality Diagnosis and Evaluation with Provision for Social Service Propaganda.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, October, 1921.) Fernald, G. C.

Recent advances in the study of defective delinquents are largely dependent on the findings in the field of character, that component of mentality which connotes its quality in contrast to its degree, *viz.*, intelligence.

Action or behaviour eventuates from mental organisations fully as significant as indexes of personality-efficiency as are those which eventuate in thought and its expression. Thinking is the product of intelligence, behaviour the product of character, and on the latter each personality is accountable in daily usage and in juridical procedure.

Character deviations or rectitude cannot as yet be technically tested and numerically scored, but can nevertheless be presented in scientific description. Fernald details a classification of behaviour disorders in use at the Psychopathic Laboratory, Massachusetts Reformatory, the inquiry being in three fields—mental disease, intelligence and character.

Unless strength of will exists in the character of the individual the tendency to sloth will defeat the success of a high as readily as of a low intelligence. Mediocre ability to persevere in the pursuit of well-chosen purpose causes economic and sociological failure as often as does incompleteness of knowledge of the course to follow. The imbecile without self-determination will respond to his maximum capacity if on a farm as a chore-boy, content, trusted so far, but always supervised; not so another who as a tramp begs and pilfers but will not work. The essential difference lies in the field of character.

LXVIII.

21