

affected. "Anæsthesia is the real *sigillum hysteriae*." Hysteria being thus a sleep, treatment consists in a process of awakening by means of super-nutrition, functional re-education, mecano-therapeutics, etc. Sollier admits that hysteria is not a normal sleep, so that his definition thus becomes more like an analogy; as he himself says, the sleep of hysteria is more like that of a compressed nerve which, in popular phrase, "goes to sleep."

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Value of Freud's Psycho-analytic Method [Die Bedeutung der psychoanalytischen Methode nach Freud]. (Clbt. f. Nervenheilk. u. Psychiat., January, 1907.) Sadger.*

For the past nine years Sadger has employed Freud's methods of treating hysteria and obsessions. He attaches more importance to the practical side of Freud's doctrine than to his theory, which has constantly developed, and cannot yet be considered to be in a satisfactorily final state. But Freud's central idea, that early sexual experiences have a determining and decisive influence on the later history in congenitally predisposed subjects, seems to Sadger, like Lister's ideas in surgery, to inaugurate a new epoch. Before Freud, hysterical symptoms could neither be understood nor permanently removed; in both respects the psycho-analytic method has effected a change. It will be seen that Sadger is an uncompromising champion of Freud's main idea: "Behind every symptom of hysteria and obsessional neurosis lie concealed a mass of sexual wishes," to some extent stretching back to early childhood, sometimes even to the first year of life. Sadger claims that when hysteria is thus understood, no one who properly grasps the technique of the psycho-analytic method can fail to cure it in every case. In the hysterical we are always concerned, he believes, with what are, fundamentally, childish feelings and desires; the hysterical combine the intelligence of the adult with the logic of a child. The germs of all kinds of perversities are to be found at the roots of the hysterical state, not only (and very frequently) homosexuality, but also traces of sadism, masochism, exhibitionism, fetichism, etc. It has been objected that unconscious suggestion plays a large part in this method. Sadger denies that this is the case, and asserts, on the contrary, that the hysterical are peculiarly rebellious to any kind of suggestion outside that of their own ideas. A more serious objection, he admits, is the difficulty of the *technique* of the method and the length of time required to learn it; he considers that it cannot be completely mastered in less than three years. Under these circumstances it is to be feared that the psycho-analytic method, whatever its merits, will be long in gaining recognition.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Theory of the Duplex Brain [Sur la Symétrie Bilatérale du Corps et sur l'Indépendance Fonctionnelle des Hémisphères Cérébraux]. (Arch. de Neurol., March—June, 1907.) Bonne, Ch.*

In a recent book, Sabatier—setting forth afresh in a very thorough-going and comprehensive manner an ancient theory—has argued that throughout the greater part of the zoological series the entire organism and the consciousness are alike dual, and that simple consciousness is