

*Recent Discussions on "Time."* (John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, London, 1927.) Goldsbrough, G. F.

This paper, so we are informed by a prefatory note, was prepared for the Aristotelian Society as a basis of discussion, but was regarded as unsuitable and therefore is here published separately. It is entirely of philosophical interest.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*A Study of Fear by Means of the Psycho-galvanic Technique.* (Psychol. Monogr., Univ. of Iowa: Studies in Psychol., No. xi, 1928.) Bayley, Nancy.

This is an experimental study of the emotion of fear with the help of the "psycho-galvanic" reflex of the usual type. The question of primary interest to the author was whether there are different forms of fear. She comes to the conclusion that the most intense psycho-galvanic reflex deflections occur in response to stimuli which were described as startles, shocks and alarms. Whatever the physical reaction which occasions the change in skin resistance, it seems to be greater for the most part in response to sudden unexpected stimuli. The gradual change of resistance which occurs during a sitting is affected by the state of apprehension or ease of the observer. Reflexes which are caused by startling stimuli are temporarily more abrupt than those caused by anticipatory fears. Introspectively, startles are differentiated from apprehensive fears in a way which corresponds with the temporal character of the reflex. The final conclusion of our author is that there are two types of fear, namely, startle and apprehension. But surely it is a mistake to enlarge the connotation of the term "fear" so as to include "startle." Fear is not a generic term and startle and apprehension specific ones. Apprehension is a mild form of fear (German *Furcht*), startle or fright is a different sort of emotion (German *Schreck*). This is the more surprising as the author evidently recognizes the difference, for she writes: "Startles appear to be texturally different from apprehensions because they are of very short duration, and because they are reflex rather than perceptual in nature. In startles the perception occurs after the reflex response, and when the sudden stimulus is not accompanied by danger the perception of the situation relieves the mental anguish, leaving only the sensations of the physical reaction. In apprehension the danger usually is perceived more slowly and continues over a comparatively long space of time." There is a good bibliography of the subject.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*Autokinesis and the Streaming Phenomena.* (Amer. Journ. of Psychol., July, 1928.) Guildford, J. P.

This paper gives some introspections of experiments of Aubert's autokinetic movements and concludes that the streaming theory stands the test of observation and of various crucial experiments.

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