the instant of awakening, the appropriate emotion of none of these sets of ideas is in alignment, so the imagery will be taken from all, at their point of contact. Dreams are not the playground in which the libido can work off its repressed energy. The only utility of dreams is to give a possible clue to emotional disturbances, or as a convenient test for a theory of consciousness.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

1. *Psychiatry as an Objective Science.* (*Brit. Journ. of Med. Psych., vol. v, pt.* 4, 1925.)
2. *The Laboratory Method in Psycho-analysis, Its Inception and Development.* (*Amer. Journ. of Psychiat., January*, 1926.)
3. *Psycho-analytic Improvisations and the Personal Equation.* (*Psycho-anal. Rev., April*, 1926.)
4. *Our Social Evasion.* (*Med. Journ. and Record, June*, 1926.)
5. *Our Mass Neurosis.* (*Psychol. Bull., June*, 1926.)
6. *Insanity a Social Problem.* (*Amer. Journ. of Soc., July*, 1926.)
7. *Psycho-analysis in Theory and in Life.* (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis., September*, 1926.)
8. *The Re-absorbed Affect and Its Elimination.* (*Brit. Journ. of Med. Psych., vol. vi, Pt.* 3, 1926.)
9. *Speaking of Resistances.* (*Psyche, January*, 1927.)
10. *The Need of an Analytic Psychiatry.* (*Amer. Journ. of Psychiat., January*, 1927.)
11. *An Ethnic Aspect of Consciousness.* (*Soc. Rev., January*, 1927.)

The above reprints have been forwarded by the author, Dr. Trigant Burrow, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. This enthusiastic psycho-analytic writer has made some interesting contributions to the subject, and MacCurdy, in his *Problems of Dynamic Psychology*, draws attention to the fact that Burrow must be given credit for the development of the two fundamental principles of the primary subjective state and primary identification with the environment which he regards as deeply vital factors influencing the mental growth of the infant. Unfortunately the writer's literary style is so diffuse that his points are frequently most difficult to grasp. It is by no means feasible to review his papers in their entirety, but only to speak of the main purport running through them. The following conceptions are instanced:

As a psychiatrist confronts the direct objective data comprising the immediate subjective state of the individual before him, these same states existing in socially repressed form within the psychiatrist tend to cloud his clear laboratory observation of the subjective states in question. It is, therefore, imperative that conditions are secured for a definite laboratory technique in the observation of psychiatric material. Psycho-analysis has been concentrating its efforts to improve methods of applying its principles. "The individual must be recognized as part of a common societal organism, and experimental test has provided an instrument for the wider development of psycho-analytic aims. Until a social analysis permits each of us to recognize the presence within himself of all

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.74.304.135-b Published online by Cambridge University Press

the substitutive anomalies and mental digressions which he now represses, psychiatrists and psycho-analysts must continue to substitute the tedious ratiocinations and private improvizations that are based upon the personal equation inseparable from our common societal repression." We have failed to compass the true meaning of our individual analysis through not including a consideration of the individual's phyletic substrate as a social organism. There is a significant discrepancy between the analytic attitude to an individual and the completely non-analytic attitude when confronted with the same neurosis in its collective manifestations. Psychiatry remains blind to the fact of mental disease within the social mind. Insanity is a social problem, and society must accept its responsibility for mental affection of the individual through the analysis of the factors contributory to it on its own part. The essential basis of consciousness is posited in a socially organismic continuum. "If, then, there is present an instinctive societal bond within the life of man which has been repressed by him from its due acknowledgment in his societal consciousness, it follows that the disorders represented by the psychoses and neuroses are due to the repression of this instinct of man's tribal life as well as to the repression of the individual's sex instinct. The logical recourse is a societal analysis that will permit the envisagement of our social complexes in a manner comparable to the analysis that now permits the envisagement of complexes as they occur within the individual."

A great deal that has been said by this author might have been condensed into a much smaller compass. The crucial points are at times almost lost in the profuseness of expression.

C. STANFORD READ.

Scrupulosity and "Folie du Doute" [*Scrupule et Folie du Doute*]. (*Ann. Med. Psych., April*, 1927.) *Nathan, Marcel.*

The author believes that scrupulosity and the allied disorder "folie du doute" arises in the children of dictatorial and authoritative parents, as a result of a severe and repressive mode of up-bringing. In early childhood the rigorous attitude of the parents causes the child much heart-searching. It stifles initiative and causes the child to consider every act as bristling with insurmountable difficulties, and leads him to imagine that he is doing wrong in everything he attempts. Hence the child, so far as his conduct is concerned, erects an entirely false standard of values.

J. S. ANNANDALE.

On the Methods of Examining the Conditioned Food Reflexes in Children and in Mental Disorders. (*Brain, June*, 1927.) *Ivanov-Smolensky, A. G.*

The author describes his work at the Hertzen Pedagogical Institute and the Military Medical Academy in Leningrad. After the conditioned reflex to food was established, all four kinds of internal inhibition, extinguishing, differentiating, conditioned and retarded were studied. From the experiment Smolensky distinguished three

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.74.304.135-b Published online by Cambridge University Press