Synæsthesia in Music. Vernon, P. E.

In this paper coloured hearing or musical synæsthesia is discussed from a new angle, and (1) pitch, (2) timbre or tone colour, (3) keys or tonalities, (4) chords or progressions are each considered in relation with (*a*) colours, tastes, odours and temperatures, (*b*) visual, kinæsthetic or symbolic qualities, (*c*) emotional qualities or affective characterizations.

The Artistic Process. Bruen, C.
Mechanism and Vitalism in the Light of Critical Biology. von Bertalauffy, L. (Vienna).

This is a defence by a vitalist of Eugenio Rignano's vitalistic or teleological views against an attack by Needham, of Cambridge.

The Psychology of Belief. Lawton, G.

This is a popular essay on belief. Belief means here not what is held to be true, but what one would wish to be true. When the scientific worker walks out of his laboratory, he ceases, so we are told, to be a scientific worker, "he becomes a human being, a layman, subject to the same emotions as all of us." It is the necessity of this emotional relief which is the root of religion. Prayer, a diary, the autobiography, the subjective work of fiction, the confidante, the Catholic confessional, the evangelist and revivalist audience, the spiritualistic message bearer, the psycho-analyst—all are the same type of relief. Many of those who cannot accept the conventional religious systems take as a substitute the system of atheism. To deny the commonly accepted God and doctrine of immortality gives as much emotional satisfaction as to affirm them. The solemn denial of God is a religious act.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

Psyche, No. 41, *July*, 1930.

This number contains the following articles:

The Psychology of Debabelization. Editorial.

A further plan for "Basic English" as a universal language.

Can Social Engineers Improve the International Language Situation? Shenton, H. N.

A paper on the same subject.

On Individual Psychology and the Sexual Problems of Adolescence.—II. Crookshank, F. G.

This second lecture continues the theme of the first, published in the previous number of the journal. It gives sound advice and norms on Adlerian lines, not only to adolescents but to neurotics

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.76.315.834 Published online by Cambridge University Press

also. Adler's "masculine protest" is said to be identical with Freud's "castration complex"—a statement with which many would not agree. Further, the retention of Freud's anal-eroticism seems to be gratuitous.

Jealousy. Jones, E.
Recent Development in Psychical Research. Dingwall, E. J.

A severe criticism upon the unscientific approach of the subject.

Contributions of the New Physics to Philosophy and Psychology. Reiser, O. L.

This is an interesting paper. It deals with relativity, behaviourism, and consciousness. The dualism of mind and matter has, according to the author, been created by definition, and is not the result of inspection. The new physics provides us with a theory of matter by which the gap between consciousness and matter may be more easily bridged. Light and sight are next discussed. It is pointed out that in the whole gamut of radiations, from the Hertzian waves to cosmic rays, the visible spectrum occupies only a very small part, but that, in the evolution of the higher animal, sensitivity to these rays is sufficient to make the individual adapt itself to its environment. Quantum phenomena and vision and the undulatory theory of matter are briefly discussed, and in the concluding pages the author ventures on still more speculative ground dealing with physical relativity and psychological relativity.

First International Congress on Mental Hygiene, Washington, May 5–10, 1930.

A short account of the meetings. A. WOHLGEMUTH.

Internationale Zeitschrift für Individual-Psychologie, May–June, 1930.

This number contains the following:

The Conflict about Heredity [*Der Kampf um die Vererbung*]. *Künkel, F.*

The central problem of the conflict is whether acquired characters are transmitted, and the purpose of this paper is to evaluate the material accumulated from the standpoint of individual-psychology.

Abuse of the Concept of Diathesis [*Missbrauch des Anlagebegriffs*]. *Holub, A.*

Individual-psychology does not stand alone in its denial that normal and abnormal constitutions are opposites. Chvostek and O. Nägeli among many others champion the same view. It is a great mistake to consider the deviating or variable as degenerative.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.76.315.834 Published online by Cambridge University Press