

Book Reviews

Jung family.

It is to our advantage that Miss Hannah has recorded information gleaned from thirty years of close contact with Jung, and which otherwise might have died with her. Thus his break with Freud, the indictment against him of Nazism, and his seemingly unorthodox private life are given new interpretations. Biographers of the future will, therefore, be most grateful for her personal reminiscences and penetrating portrayal of Jung's career. Meantime, her biography can be recommended as a well-documented account of a man whose ideas have influenced, and continue to influence, us.

SEYMOUR FISHER and ROGER P. GREENBERG, *The scientific credibility of Freud's theories and therapy*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. x, 502, £12.50.

The authors of this book are said to be "eminent psychologists", so an unbiased opinion is unlikely. They pose the question asked by many: has an empirical analysis revealed Freud's theories and practices to be true or false? Five hundred pages, including seventy-six of references, later they have verified some of his ideas, but have reservations about others. They have avoided the problems of consciousness, the etiology of psychoneuroses, and theories of humour, amongst others. However, they can conclude that Freud was right about subconscious motives, feelings, and fantasies influencing behaviour. The original query posed has, however, not been fully answered, and further analysis is said to be necessary. An objective and clear-cut answer to the problem of Freud's doctrines is therefore still awaited.

ROBERT I. WATSON, sr. (editor), *Eminent contributors to psychology*, volume I: *A bibliography of primary references*, New York, Springer, 1974, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 470, \$29.50.

In this, the first of possibly two volumes, about 12,000 carefully selected major primary unannotated references for more than 500 individuals living between 1600 and 1967 have been grouped alphabetically by name of author. Coverage is wide and includes biologists, neuro-anatomists, philosophers, writers, physiologists, statisticians, chemists, sociologists, and neurologists, as well as psychologists and psychiatrists. Reference, where appropriate, is made to anthologies of primary sources and other source-books. An introduction explains how the individuals were selected, and a guide explains the arrangement of the references. This book will prove to be a most useful reference tool, and the second volume, containing more than 50,000 selected secondary references to the work of the same contributors to psychology, will be equally welcome.

MARK D. ALTSCHULE, *The development of traditional psychopathology. A source-book*, Washington, D.C., and London, Hemisphere, 1976, 8vo, pp. v, 330, £14.70.

The compiler has assembled a large number of extracts from primary sources ranging from Antiquity to 1905, and divides them into two groups: 'General aspects and theoretical considerations'; 'The syndromes'. He is responsible for some of the translations, but most of the material is from the British or American literature or from English versions of continental publications. References to the whereabouts

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of the original works cited are made in each case. The selected pieces are connected by Professor Altschule's useful commentaries. Unfortunately his general knowledge of the earlier historical periods is defective, and, throughout, the background to medical events is mostly lacking. No attempt is made to identify or comment on the authors selected, and citation of secondary sources is virtually absent. The index, so vital in a work of this sort, is completely inadequate, and the price of the book is high.

As a reference work to the history of psychiatric disorders this book will be useful, but those referring to it should be aware of its shortcomings.

SYDNEY ANGLO (editor), *The damned art. Essays in the literature of witchcraft*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 258, £8.50.

The editor has gathered together ten independent essays, two of them and an epilogue by himself, written by historians of ideas, literary scholars, and others with sociological or anthropological inclinations. They are concerned with the literary record of witchcraft, which is a refreshing change from the more usual book attempting once again to elucidate the phenomenon by using much the same basic data and by broaching insoluble problems of human psychology. Thus we have here the contemporary theories of the author of *The malleus maleficarum*, Gianfrancesco Pico, Johannes Weyer, Jean Bodin, Reginald Scot, George Gifford, King James I, Pierre de Lancre, Cotton Mather, and of the Scottish witchcraft tracts of 1697 and 1705. These authors had different aims and used their writings to justify, refute, or persecute, so that together the essays on them present a valuable spectrum of popular concern. Each contribution places the chosen writer and his text in his intellectual context and analyses both style and content.

The detailed consideration of the literary remains of witchcraft is clearly of the greatest value in helping us to understand it, and it is curious that no-one has attempted this approach before. Dr. Anglo's and his contributors' scholarly essays are therefore most welcome, and they stand out in excellence amongst the current plethora of books on witchcraft and similar occult practices.

J. J. COBBEN, *Jan Wier, devils, witches and magic*, translated by S. A. Prins, Philadelphia, Dorrance, 1976, 8vo, pp. viii, 218, illus., \$8.95.

In 1960 Dr. Cobben prepared a doctoral thesis on Johannes Wier (1515–1588) and this is an accurate translation of it. There is an introduction, a biography of Wier, and a chapter on 'Medicine and ideas of the sixteenth century'. There follows a survey of Wier's main work *De praestigiis demonum* (1563) and of his other writings. A final chapter is entitled 'Wier's place in history'. There are altogether 578 references grouped at the end, but there is no index.

Wier waged ceaseless war against witchcraft and was able to formulate explanations and remedies which were only put into practice more than two centuries later. In several other ways he was ahead of his contemporaries, who on this account could not understand him.

This is a significant contribution to current scholarship on the occult and will allow many who could not have read the original Latin to appreciate Wier's important concepts and role.