

to relieve the tension of unconscious strivings. This system of sympathetic magic does not influence the environment as primitive man believed, but only the processes of animate nature within the individual, causing increased comfort, coordination and happiness. The cultivation of taboo was developed at the same time to avoid decoordination and anxiety. This sympathetic influence through the medium of conditioned cerebro-spinal and autonomic reflexes, affects (a) the association of ideas and coordination of skilful movements in the inhibition of ideas and decoordination of movements; (b) the genesis of affectivity, formation and neutralization of wishes; and (c) the stimulation or depression of organs which produce the vital energy for the struggle of carrying out the idea and fulfilling the wish.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Influence of Complexity on the Fluctuations of the Illusions of Reversible Perspective. (Amer. Journ. Psychol., October, 1931.)
Donahue, W. T., and Griffiths, C. H.

The authors carried out a series of experiments on six subjects, using figures of varying complexity. They found that complexity *per se* has a tendency to make the rate slower, although the differences in rate had but slight statistical significance. The figures representing the more familiar objects fluctuated more rapidly than those representing the less familiar objects, unless there was unequal familiarity with the two interpretations of a figure. The fluctuation-rate for all figures decreased rapidly during the course of the experiment. Other things being equal, the rate of change is proportional to the definiteness of the ideas involved in the two interpretations, and to the approach to equality in definiteness of the ideas involved in the two interpretations of a single figure.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

3. Psychiatry.

Clinical Findings in "Recovered" Cases of Schizophrenia. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., November, 1931.) Lewis, N. D. C., and Blanchard, E.

A paper based on the findings of 100 cases discharged as recovered. In 41% there was a family history of definite mental disorder. Only 26% of the cases had made satisfactory previous adjustment, and 73% had spent their youth in stressful families. Sexual adjustments were notably poor. The ability to re-establish interest in the environment is impaired in practically all persons who have suffered from severe schizophrenic symptoms, and many of the patients return to hospital.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Deeper Layers of Schizophrenic Psychoses. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., November, 1931.) Zilboorg, G.

Schizophrenia is but a link in a bio-psychological chain. It is not an irreversible process, and further therapeutic studies may