

allusion to growth from within is an allusion to the unconscious. Does, then, an endogenous tree grow out of the unconscious? He says that to insist that "these misguided folk" (his own description of the psychoanalysts) "who troop with indefatigable enthusiasm after the Will-o'-the-wisp of the 'unconscious,' are in reality lascivious scoundrels and sexual perverts, is a mode of intellectual criticism which," etc. I dare say it is; but as I have not insisted on any such thing, Dr. Glover's intellectual criticism does not touch me. What I have said is that, though the doctrine of universal saturation with sexuality is not generally true, there is a certain basis of truth in it in a few scattered cases. If Dr. Glover denies this, I am quite willing to retract, and to admit that there is not the slightest basis of truth in the doctrine in any case whatever.

"Psycho-analyst" does not seem proud of his creed, for he conceals his name. He asserts, as has been asserted before, that psycho-analysis contains much that has no connexion with sexual ideas; and I ask, as I have asked before, why, if this is so, we never hear of anything but the sexual ideas? The question will be left unanswered now, as it has been left unanswered before. Why, if the connexion is not constant, does Dr. Jung say of a case which seems as remote as possible from sexuality, "I will now show you how . . . this dream may be translated so that it has a sexual meaning"? Whether I can see or even conceive of any other aspect of the problem is beside the point. The point is that no other than the sexual aspect has ever been brought forward. The rest of "Psycho-analyst's" letter needs no answer. If this is the best defence they can make, their case is as contemptible as I have asserted.

Fleet Surgeon Beadnell opens up a new subject. The stupidities and the imposture of what he calls mediumism and spiritualism have been exposed over and over again; and after each exposure the imposture is scotched for a time; but it always rears its head again, and finds a new crop of fools clamouring to be deceived. It will never be killed until the supply of fools ceases; but if Fleet Surgeon Beadnell needs powder and shot to demolish any particular case that he has in his eye, may I without impropriety refer him to the chapter on Belief, and the chapter on Errors in Attributing Causes, in a little book of mine on *Causation*, just published by Messrs. Longmans? There he will find psycho-analysis also faithfully dealt with.

Finally, may I say that a second severe attack of influenza within a fortnight has left my correspondence in sad arrears, and that I wish to acknowledge here the many letters I have received from friends, acquaintances, and strangers, approving my article on psycho-analysis, and thanking me for it? There has not been one, not even an anonymous one, of abuse or disapproval. How different from the days of the suffragette controversy!—I am, etc.,
Parkstone, Dorset, Jan. 20th.

CHAS. A. MERCIER.

Postscript.—The Editor has kindly allowed me to see a proof of Dr. Cole's letter. Dr. Cole says that psycho-analysis, as he understands it, is not a body of doctrine, but an investigation, and that Freud and Jung profess to base their doctrines on their results. If this is what Dr. Cole understands by psycho-analysis, he does not understand it aright. It consists of several modes of investigation, founded, not on their results—it is evident that a mode of investigation must precede any results accruing from it, and cannot be founded on them—but on certain assumptions, which the psycho-analysts teach, and which are therefore their doctrines. These doctrines are not founded upon results. They are pure assumptions. I have demanded again and again for years past to be told on what foundations they rest, and I have had no answer. I am entitled to say, therefore, that they have no foundation. I have heaped no abuse upon these doctrines. I have described them, and examined them, and the accuracy of my description has not been impugned in any particular, nor is it impugned in any particular by Dr. Cole. It must therefore be taken to be accurate. The only expression in my article that can by any stretching of the use of words be termed abusive is that in which I compare the psycho-analyst to the man with the muck-rake. It is difficult to see why those who hold such doctrines and pursue such methods should object to the comparison. For my part, I would rather be called a man with a muck-rake than a psycho-analyst. The man

with the muck-rake rakes up the muck, but he does not increase it, nor does he wallow in it. Lastly, if I have left psycho-analysis unassailed, what has Dr. Cole to complain of? What is his grievance? If it is unassailed, it is secure and triumphant, until it falls to pieces of its own rottenness.

January 23rd.

C. A. M.

*** We cannot continue this correspondence.

THE PSYCHO-PATHOLOGY OF MEDIUMISM AND SPIRITUALISM.

SIR,—Fleet Surgeon C. Marsh Beadnell complains that no psychologist has investigated occult phenomena. A very eminent Italian one, Cesare Lombroso, has done so. Permit me to recommend to him his book, *After Death—What?* (T. Fisher Unwin, Adelphi Terrace).—I am, etc.,
Rotherham, Jan. 22nd.

GILBERT E. MOULD.

THE DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF THE COLLOIDAL GOLD REACTION.

SIR,—With reference to the article on this subject in your issue of December 30th, 1916, pp. 909 and 910, a few notes on the subject from our own laboratory experiment book may perhaps be of interest.

Some six to eight months ago the Lange gold sol reaction was explained to the writer by the commanding officer of a well-known London military hospital, who also kindly supplied a number of normal and syphilitic serums for ultra-microscopic examination. Briefly, to the student of colloidal chemistry, serum may be regarded as a saline colloidal solution of insoluble protein protected to a greater or less extent by soluble protein (various aliphatic amino-acids). The total amount of solid matter in syphilitic appeared slightly higher than in normal serum, but undoubtedly the proportion of colloidal matter was greater, and this was much more pronounced in the cerebro-spinal fluid, in which the viscosity being so much less, the Brownian movement is much greater. Invariably the charge carried by the protein was positive, the capillary attraction by filter paper, devised by W. Ostwald, being the simplest method of effecting the test.

The interesting work of Morris-Airey and Long (J. C. S. A., November, 1913, page 1033) on the colour of gold sols is of particular interest. In the red solution the particles are negatively charged, and in the blue positively. The purple solutions contain both kinds of particles. The red solution is converted into the blue by the action of various electrolytes or electric fields. If the field is either too strongly negative or positive decolorization occurs.

The colloidal protein in the cerebro-spinal fluid is greater than normal in syphilis and possibly more highly charged; and herein may perhaps lie the explanation of the colour changes of Lange's gold sol. In cases where the particles are very numerous the field would be strongly positive, and not only neutralize the negative charge of the gold, but completely change the field into a positive one—so strongly, in fact, that decolorization occurs. In the next dilution the field is not so strongly positive, but sufficiently so to turn the negative red to the positive blue, and so on until dilution is so weak as to unaffect the red colour at all. Our observations were made on only a small number of specimens, and may very possibly be erroneous and the explanation too simple.

In conclusion, we should like to suggest that the statement "globulins have been shown to exert a protective influence on colloidal gold solutions" would be better expressed by "soluble globulins have been shown," etc., etc.

—I am, etc.,

JOHN WARD,
for Crookes Colloids, Ltd.

THE FUTURE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

SIR,—“Captain T.F.” states, in your issue of January 20th, that “a State medical service, with its inevitable loss of competition, is bad for public and profession alike.” Has he found it so in the army, or even in the Army Medical Service?

It seems to me that when professional men, such as soldiers or doctors in one of the public services, are paid by salary, they become more disinterested and independent, and are held in higher estimation by the public than when, as doctors or solicitors in general practice, they earn fees.

Our motives in paying visits and making up medicines and vaccinating babies may be questioned when we profit thereby. I think that the argument from competition is in favour of a public medical service, as we would be promoted in accordance with our experience and skill by the State. Under present conditions success comes to the