

shrine, and he is spurned with the same truculence that is visited by tribesmen on those who have violated the tribe's most sacred Tabu. Perhaps for that very reason he can never become a truly popular figure.

The ultimate fate of psychoanalysis will depend upon the general attitude of Freud's followers and the public's reaction, but essentially upon the level of helpfulness which the craft attain. The movies and current fiction, while overplaying the subject to the point of nausea, are making it coherent for the first

time to the public — and as a result there is an increasing tendency to consult the psychiatrist.

It is eminently fair to credit Freud with a unique stimulation of psychological attack and with unprecedented progress in the treatment of the neuroses, even though his method remains ineffectual in the psychoses. His contribution to descriptive biology is classical and fundamental and the name of Sigmund Freud will endure as long as human culture.

Book Review

SHOOT THAT NEEDLE STRAIGHT. By Robert Rantoul, Pp. 220, (\$2.75) Bruce Humphries, Inc., Boston, 1947.

This is a book that might safely be presented by a physician to a diabetic patient or by anyone to a friend suffering from the disease. The style is brisk and engaging and the story describes the mental and

physical experiences of a young man from the beginning of his symptoms, through his medical treatment and education at the hands of a high-grade ethical physician to his unfortunate encounter with a criminal quack and beyond that, through many interesting experiences of his life. The general dietary regimen and the insulin therapy are described in exemplary fashion.

Abstracts Of Current Literature

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CLINICAL MEDICINE

MOUTH AND ESOPHAGUS

LONG, D.A.: *Effect of penicillin on bacterial flora of the mouth.* (Brit. Med. J., Nov. 22, 1947, 819-820).

Either the local application of penicillin to the mouth or the systemic administration of penicillin in large doses profoundly affects oral bacterial, but only in systemic treatment is the flora of the tonsils, pharynx and nose affected. Excretion of penicillin in the saliva probably only occurs when doses of more than 500,000 units per 24 hours are used. It can be demonstrated only in the initial phase of reduction of bacteria before gram-negative bacilli become established. The latter produce sufficient penicillinase to destroy it.

CUNHA, F.: *Achalasia and megaesophagus as a complication and sequella of pertussis.* (Rev. Gastroenterology, Oct. 1947, Vol. 14, No. 10, 693-704).

A case is reported of a man of 44 who complained of fullness and heaviness in the chest, sometimes transmitted upward into the neck. Examination led to a diagnosis of achalasia and megaesophagus. The patient had recently experienced a severe illness with pertussis and the idea is advanced that a toxic lesion of a portion of Auerbach's plexus led to true idiopathic dilatation of the esophagus. The patient did not complain of difficulty in swallowing.

PANCREAS

HERRMANN, S. F.: *Surgery of the pancreas.* (Northwest Medicine, Oct. 1947, Vol. 46, No. 10, 770-772).

A review of surgical treatment of pancreatic cysts, acute pancreatitis, injuries to the organ, hyperinsulinism, and cancer. Total pancreatectomy is being successfully done — resultant metabolic changes are readily controlled. The pancreas is no longer indispensable.