

Psychic Union

Mysterium Coniunctionis: An Inquiry into the Separation and Synthesis of Psychic Opposites in Alchemy. By C. G. Jung. Translated by R. F. C. Hull. (Pp. 704 + xix; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1963.

Alchemical phraseology is highly picturesque and often bizarre. Thus chemical combination was represented allegorically as the movement of the heavenly bodies, as marriage, or as the sexual association of animals. At one time it was believed that *coniunctio* (union) came about through affinity and thus two "bodies" became one. How this happened was a *mysterium*, an enigma. Hence the title of this book: the mystery of the union of opposites within the mind. Like the leading alchemists Jung was not concerned with the conjunction of material objects.

But why alchemy? Psychiatrists must accept the mind as they find it, and often it seems a puzzling conglomeration of phantasy, illusion, and symbolism, as seen, for example, in dreams. All such contents, and particularly dreams, must be taken seriously if we are to understand the unconscious features in psychological disturbances. To his surprise Jung found that the symbolism in alchemical thought had living significance for him in his efforts to discover what was going on behind the scenes in patients with neurosis or psychosis.

Dissociation in one form or another was frequently described by the alchemists, though they did not know the term. Likewise the complexity of the transference relationship—to use modern terminology—comes in for elaborate investigation in an effort to unite opposites and to understand their synthesis. Alchemical writings abound in paradoxes and allegories, but the writers could not know that these represented their own projections.

Mysterium Coniunctionis was begun ten years before it first appeared in 1955. To avoid overloading the book Jung published several offshoots of the main theme, including *Psychology and Alchemy* (1944); *Psychology of the Transference* (1946); *Answer to Job* (1952); and *Aion* (1953). These earlier books prepare the way for this volume, though it can be understood without them. Mr. Hull's translation is first-rate.

E. A. BENNET.

In Ancient Egypt

Magic and Medical Science in Ancient Egypt. By Paul Ghalioungui. (Pp. 188; illustrated. 30s.) London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1963.

This is a straightforward account of medical knowledge and practice in ancient Egypt as

revealed by the nine papyri that contain information on the subject. It is written by a distinguished professor of medicine practising in Cairo who rightly thinks that "his knowledge of his country and of his countrymen, and a practice of over thirty years among them, could bring some contribution to the understanding" of the medicine of former ages. He explains that magic and sorcery were not without their uses in those times and adds that "magic has survived even to this day because it emerges from a region that is entirely proof against logic."

The information gained from the papyri is but small, but it shows that there was a considerable elementary knowledge of medicine and surgery as early as 5,000 years ago. Some drugs and treatments have survived even to this day. The account of embalming is particularly interesting.

The relations between Egyptian and Greek medicine are discussed, and we are told that "there is a resemblance between the Hippocratic spirit and the best in Egyptian medicine." We join with the author in the wish that the Sphinx could break its silence and reveal to us what place Egyptian medicine occupied in the origins of modern thought.

The book is well illustrated and we can recommend it as giving a readable, sympathetic, and reasonable account of what little has so far been revealed of ancient Egyptian medicine.

ZACHARY COPE.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Chest Diseases. Edited by Kenneth M. A. Perry, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Sir Thomas Holmes Sellers, M.A., D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Volume 1 (Pp. 601 + xi; illustrated). Volume 2 (Pp. 700 + x; illustrated. £12 12s. per set). London: Butterworth and Company Limited. 1963.

La Maladie Lupique en Médecine Interne. By Professor Fred Siguier. (Pp. 150; illustrated. 32 F.) Paris: L'Expansion. 1963.

Psychiatric Disorder among the Yoruba. A Report from the Cornell-Aro Mental Health Research Project in the Western Region, Nigeria. By Alexander H. Leighton, T. Adeoye Lambo, Charles C. Hughes, Dorothea C. Leighton, Jane M. Murphy, and David B. Macklin. (Pp. 413 + xix; illustrated. 70s.) Cornell University Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

Syndromes of Psychosis. By Maurice Lorr, C. James Klett, and Douglas M. McNair. (Pp. 286 + x. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

A Portfolio of Chest Radiographs. By B. T. Le Roux, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., and T. C. Dodds, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.B.P., F.R.P.S. (Pp. 367; illustrated. 60s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Limited. 1963.

Care of the Patient with a Stroke. A Handbook for the Patient's Family and the Nurse. By Genevieve W. Smith, M.A. (Pp. 157 + xv; illustrated. 15s. 6d.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1963.

Diseases Transmitted from Animals to Man. Edited by Thomas G. Hull, Ph.D. Fifth edition. (Pp. 967 + xxii; illustrated. \$17.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

Drug Therapy for Dentists. By James M. Dille, Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 228. 44s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. London: Lloyd-Luke Limited. 1963.

Year Book of Anesthesia. 1963-1964 series. Edited by Stuart C. Cullen, M.D. (Pp. 392. 64s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. London: Lloyd-Luke Limited. 1963.

The Central Middlesex Hospital. The First Sixty Years, 1903-63. By J. D. Allan Gray. (Pp. 234 + xvi; illustrated. 30s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Company Limited. 1963.

Genetics To-day. Proceedings of the XI International Congress of Genetics, The Hague, The Netherlands, September, 1963. Volume 1. (Pp. 332. £5.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

The Hirsute Female. By Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. (Pp. 313; illustrated. \$12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The Psychodynamics of Family Life. Diagnosis and Treatment of Family Relationships. By Nathan W. Ackerman, M.D. (Pp. 379 + xvi. 45s.) London: Basic Books: 1963.

Die Homosexualität Beim Mann. By Kurt Freund. (Pp. 275 + x. DM. 18.50.) Leipzig: S. Hirzel Verlag. 1963.

Modern Ophthalmology. Edited by Arnold Sorsby. Volume 1. *Basic Aspects.* (Pp. 531 + xiii; illustrated. £6 10s.) Volume 2. *Systemic Aspects.* (Pp. 716 + xii; illustrated. £7 10s.) London: Butterworths. 1963.

Problems and Progress in Medical Care. Essays on current research. Edited by Gordon McLachlan. (Pp. 368 + xiii. 12s. 6d.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press: for Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. 1964.

Pharmaceutical Directory of India. Second edition. (Pp. 357; illustrated. No price.) India: Star Publications. 1963.

The Clinical Use of Dreams. A Practical Handbook for Analyst and Patient. By Walter Bonime, M.D. (Pp. 343 + xxiii. 60s.) London: Basic Books. 1963.

Tropical Neurology. Proceedings of the First International Symposium held in Buenos Aires, 29 November-2 December. Edited by Ludo Van Bogaert, Jose Pereyra Kafer, and Gustavo F. Poch. (Pp. 329; illustrated. No price.) Buenos Aires: Lopez Libreros Editores S.R.L. 1963.

Schauta-Amreich's Radical Vaginal Operation of Cancer of the Cervix. Modified by Hans Hogler, M.D., F.I.C.S. (Pp. 86; illustrated. \$6.50.) Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The Medical Background of Anglo-Saxon England. A Study in History, Psychology, and Folklore. By Wilfrid Bonser. (Pp. 448 + xxxv. 50s.) London: Wellcome Historical Medical Library. 1963.

Boala Reumatismala. Reumatismul Bouillaud-Sokolski. By Dr. V. Ciobanu. (Pp. 343; illustrated. No price.) Rumania: Editura Academiei Republicii Populare. 1963.

Problems of Physiology of Higher Nervous Activity and of the Nervous System. Works of the Pavlov Institute of Physiology. Volume 10. Translated from Russian by Y. S. Halpern, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Pp. 432; illustrated. £5.) Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translations. London: Oldbourne Press. 1963.

Viruskrankheiten des Menschen. Volume I, Part 9. By Prof. Dr. med. Eugen Haagen. (Pp. 849-944. DM. 24.) Darmstadt: Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff Verlag. 1963.

The EMG. A Guide and Atlas for Practical Electromyography. By Forbes H. Norris, Jr., M.D., and G. Milton Shv, M.D. (Pp. 134 + viii; illustrated. \$4.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton Incorporated. 1963.