

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### PSYCHOANALYSIS

*Science and Psychoanalysis. Vol. 2. Individual and Familial Dynamics.* Edited by J. H. Masserman, M.D. Pp. vi + 218. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This volume, the second of the series, again takes the form of a symposium based on the proceedings of the Academy of Psychoanalysis. The first meetings of this group, by exploring biological, philosophical and other roots of psychoanalysis, paved the way for broader reorientations, and in these papers two big questions are examined in more detail.

The first section, on masochism, opens with a frank presentation of clinical material and theoretical formulations by Dr. L. Salzman. Subsequent papers, using this as a reference, deal with particular aspects of the subject, with an emphasis on clinical considerations. The panel discussion illustrates the many diversities of opinion.

The second section deals with familial and social dynamics and perforce ranges over a wide field. Attempts to use the family as a group therapeutic unit are an example of some of the experimental work being undertaken.

This is a book which is primarily of concern to the psychotherapist, for whom there is much of considerable interest and value.

W.A.S.

### STRESS DISORDER

*The Nature of Stress Disorder.* Conference of The Society for Psychosomatic Research held at the Royal College of Physicians, May 1958. Pp. 298. Illustrations. 25s. net. London: Hutchinson Medical Publications. 1959.

This book contains, in bound form, the 15 papers read and discussed at the conference of the Society for Psychosomatic Research. The title is somewhat optimistic. Having read the book one is left feeling how great in fact is the need for research on the subject. While the papers and discussions are quite interesting, the problem of why some people break down in the face of the stresses encountered during daily life remains unsolved. Some of the papers showed an experimental approach, while others were based on clinical observations. The participants included psychiatrists, physicians and general practitioners, emphasizing the frequency of these disorders and how every doctor, whatever his sphere, has to cope with them and can contribute towards their elucidation. Hypertension, pruritus and peptic ulcer were but a few of the disorders discussed. The book makes interesting reading, but adds little to our knowledge of this important problem. I.G.