

the development of additions to our five senses.

Since some of the philosophical ideas of Whitehorn and Schroedinger are brought forward, the reviewer wonders why du Nouy's concepts of Human Destiny, or Jung's Collective Unconscious with its occult sensitivenesses, or the strong statement of the neurologist Herrick about the potential of millions of unused cells in every human brain are not included.

With all this we almost forget George Burton. Well, he comes to realize that he has let his love life dwindle into insignificance, that power and fortune do not bring happiness, that his symptoms, emotional and physical, are caused by his missing something. In rather a faint way his superconscious takes hold, and welling up from the unconscious comes the love-creation motif. The book ends with a romance fulfilled between Burton and the woman who figures throughout as similarly successful and unhappy.

The author modestly apologizes for the insufficiencies of his presentation, a pioneering attempt, as he states, to make a start at calling attention to the need for synthesizing what so far is known only by specialists in separate fields concerning the deeper forces which influence human behavior. The reviewer considers that he has accomplished this task with such originality that it can fire the imagination in all of us.

WILLIAM HEALY

Der Surrealismus. Eine Einführung und Deutung Surrealistischer Literatur und Malerei

Dieter Wyss

Heidelberg, Verlag Lambert Schneider, 1950, 88 pp.

This small volume encompasses in its 88 pages of text and 15 tables a great quantity of interesting and unusual material. The author gives a brief introduction and states his problem, but he apparently considers it his main duty to let the poets and painters speak for themselves. He refrains, therefore, from detailed analysis and limits his text to a brief commentary.

In discussing pre-surrealistic and surrealist poetry, he quotes extensively from a number of poets, especially the French. A scene from a play by Alfred Jarry in which Father Ubu has the gentiles decapitated, not sparing the butcher's hook, sounds so modern that one unconsciously thinks that this is an allegory of Hitler's trial of the German officers and gentiles who revolted against him. Only when one discovers that this

play was written in 1896 does one realize that in Hitler, the weirdest fantasies which haunted the French poet Alfred Jarry became reality.

Most of the writers who are quoted are not too well known outside of France, but Henry Miller, the American writer living in Paris, has been included with two pieces.

Among the painters, Dieter Wyss deals extensively with Max Ernst but also brings illustrations from Chirico, Dali, and several of the younger surrealists, among them Dorothea Tanning, an American, while Dali and some of the others have found refuge in America.

Surrealistic art has gotten its greatest impetus from psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic tendencies in our times. It is, therefore, not surprising that the uninhibited expression of unconscious tendencies of sadism, masochism, and other impulses finds a large place in this type of art.

CLEMENS E. BENDA

Neurotic Counterfeit—Sex

Edmund Bergler

New York, Grune and Stratton, 1951, 360 pp., \$5.50.

For an uncritical and opinionated approach to the problems of psychic impotence and sexual perversions, it would be difficult to find a better example than this. The entire volume is replete with dogmatic statements, frequently prefaced with the phrase, "Of course, this is . . ."; but such statements are unsupported by scientific proof of the author's arbitrary conclusions. One would not quarrel with such pronouncements, however farfetched, if only the book indicated the difference between theoretical conjecture and scientific evidence. Instead of such distinctions, there are diatribes against legitimate skepticism. Pages 34 to 36 consist entirely of a polemic against "doubting Thomas," in which such epithets as "stupid," "irrational," "unconsciously determined conspiracy" occur in profusion. Incidentally, 4 of the first 207 pages are devoted to "Therapeutic Procedures and Chances of Therapy"; and a similar proportion of the second half of the book, which concerns the problems of frigidity, deal with therapeutic results. The rest is theory presented as Gospel.

In the midst of his vicious attack on the lack of understanding on the part of other physicians, the author takes pride in describing the case of an impotent patient (page 14) referred to him by a neurologist who was aware of "my book on impotence and reports of recovered cases, on

which the neurologist had checked personally." References to the scientific literature on the subject consist almost exclusively of the author's own writings. The rare references to the work of other authors omit all specific identifying data, which are meticulously given for his own articles. The general bibliography on the subject consists of a list of the author's contributions, two books a year having been published since 1948. It is as though no one else had contributed to our knowledge in this important field.

Repetition abounds in the book, much of it being summaries of the author's previous writings. Everything goes back to the "ogress of a mother," and the "pre-oedipal structure." There are frequent obscure formulations, such as "the Oedipus complex is the last rescue station from oral-masochistic passivity. Its basic purpose in the psychic economy is to demote from the position of power both the Giantess of the nursery and the threat of the 'septet of baby fear' regularly attached to her." This premise "also explains the mere existence of hysterical regression" (page 167). In discussing the emotional basis of marriage (page 229), the author states, "Every child has freed himself from the terrors of the 'septet of baby fears' by fleeing to the Oedipal 'rescue station.' Here he was part of a triangle which was undesirable because of the presence of the competitor of the same sex. The Oedipal wishes of both varieties (defensive and real) are later relinquished, but the pattern of exclusiveness—since it is just a continuation of infantile megalomania—remains paradigmatic. Hence the institution of marriage has an unconscious and very powerful ally; it is the most harmless of all the infantile patterns."

The author has written a wholly unimportant book on a very important subject. The existence of such books as these discourages more self-critical analysts from writing on the same topics. It is only for this reason that a full review of Dr. Bergler's latest book becomes necessary.

PETER G. DENKER

A Few Buttons Missing

James T. Fisher and Lowell S. Hawley

Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company,
1951, 282 pp., \$3.50.

This is the autobiography of a practicing psychiatrist who is 87 years old, who did not go to school until he was 13, who took a degree in veterinary medicine before going to medical school, made a fortune in San Diego real estate,

studied with Freud in the early years of this century, and who has had experience in almost all branches of his field. These are the ingredients of a good story, and Dr. Fisher is obviously intent on telling one. He uses liberal amounts of humor and anecdote in his attempt to present psychiatry as painlessly and reassuringly as possible to the general public.

Because of its superficial character and rather disjointed organization, the book will be of no value to the medical historian. It is likely to be a little boring to anyone in the social sciences, but it will harm nobody. If someone needs to be soothed or reassured about psychiatry or mental illness, this book might be recommended.

FREDERICK H. CUMMER, JR.

Be Your Real Self

David H. Fink

New York, Simon and Schuster, 1950,
307 pp., \$2.95.

In recent years there has been a spate of books about psychiatry and mental functioning directed to the lay public. The purpose of such books apparently is to attempt to bridge the gap between the tremendous need for psychiatric treatment and the unavailability of such treatment to many people. In order to reach a large group, these books tend to be general and reassuring in tone. To what extent these efforts are successful with any given book is hard to gauge. The continual appearance of new books of this nature might suggest some success in achieving this goal; it might equally suggest failure and a renewed attempt to accomplish this purpose.

Be Your Real Self by Dr. Fink is a book of this type. It is no better and no worse than most such books and suffers from the defects common to all. Perhaps the most serious flaw both in Dr. Fink's book and the others is the failure to recognize in these writings that unconscious factors play a role in neurotic illness, and that these unconscious motivations are usually not amenable to conscious exhortations to change nor to the outlining of rules of behavior and thought. Thus in outlining a "three-pronged attack on unhappiness" through relaxation therapy, adjustment therapy, and attitude therapy, Dr. Fink is not approaching the unconscious drives producing the "unhappiness" in the first place.

This raises the question of why these methods work so well in the office, as apparently they do, judging from statements made throughout