

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

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Contributions to psycho-analysis by S. Ferenczi

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S. FERENCZI

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PSYCHO-ANALYSIS**

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The Hungarian Law Courts*

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by Dr. Ernest Jones*



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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

Dr. Ferenczi is known as one of the leading exponents of psycho-analysis, and, apart, of course, from Professor Freud, has perhaps made more original contributions than anyone else to that subject. Before taking up the study of psycho-analysis he had for many years been engaged on neurological, psychiatric and medico-legal work, and had made a number of contributions particularly on neurological and psychotherapeutic subjects. His extensive personal experience with the methods of hypnotism and suggestion gave him a specially favourable opportunity to compare and contrast the results thus obtained with those he was able later to obtain by the use of the psycho-analytic method. The greater part of his work has been published only in Hungarian; from that which has appeared in German I have selected for translation, with Dr. Ferenczi's approval, some fifteen papers, which are here reproduced in the order of their original appearance. Of these only two, forming Chapters I and III, were written from the point of view of popular exposition; the others are all of a more technical and advanced nature, being addressed to an audience already familiar with psycho-analytical principles. While this fact increases their value for serious students of the subject, there being little enough of such literature in English, it exposes many of the conclusions to ready misconception unless it be constantly borne in mind that a considerable knowledge of previous work is assumed throughout by the author. To those

readers approaching the subject for the first time the following books are recommended as a preliminary study: Hitschmann, "Freud's Theory of the Neuroses," Brill, "Psychoanalysis," and the translator's "Papers on Psycho-Analysis." In the translation I have tried to render the author's thought and language as closely and accurately as possible, judging this to be the chief desideratum in dealing with a scientific work, even at the cost of retaining some foreignness of style.

I am indebted to Miss Barbara Low for reading through both the manuscript and the proofs.

Portland Court.

London. W.

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CHAPTER I

THE ANALYTIC INTERPRETATION AND TREATMENT OF PSYCHOSEXUAL IMPOTENCE*

ONE of the few objective arguments brought against the method of treatment of the psychoneuroses inaugurated by Freud is the criticism that it effects only a symptomatic cure. It is said to cause the pathological manifestations of hysteria to disappear, but not the hysterical disposition itself. In regard to this Freud quite rightly directs our attention to the fact that the same critics shew much more indulgence towards other anti-hysterical procedures, which cannot even effect a *final* cure of one symptom. We may also bring forward against the argument just mentioned the fact that the analysis, penetrating into the depths of mental life, (a process which Freud tellingly compares with the excavating work of the archaeologist), not only effects a cure of the symptoms, but also results in such fundamental change in the patient's character that we

*Published in the *Psychiatrisch-Neurologische Wochenschrift*, 1908, Jahrg. X.

no longer have any right to call him a sick man.¹ We are the less justified in doing so, in that after the analysis is finished he is well armed also against new psychological conflicts and shocks, pretty much as well as the non-analysed "healthy persons," who—as we now know with certainty—carry about with them throughout life a multitude of repressed ideational complexes that are at all times ready to increase and exaggerate with their affect-value the pathogenic action of psychological traumata.

Besides this, the burden of proof completely disappears in the cases where our medical task is comprised in the curing of a single symptom. Among these tasks the treatment of psychological impotence has constantly been regarded as one of the most difficult. So many of my patients came with this complaint, and so great have I found the mental misery due to this symptom, that I have been untiring in the application of the most diverse medicinal² and suggestive³ methods of treatment. Now and then I have had success with both of these, but neither of them proved to be reliable. I count myself all the more fortunate to be able now to report much more successful results, for which I have to thank Freud's psycho-analytic method of treatment.⁴

¹Jung and Muthmann in their works come to the same conclusion.

²Ferenczi. *Arzneimittelschatz des Neurologen*. *Gyógyászat*, 1906.

³Ferenczi. *Ueber den Heilwert der Hypnose*. *Gyógyászat*, 1904.

⁴Freud's works may be referred to in this connection, as well as the following ones by two Vienna physicians: M. Steiner, "Die funktionelle Impotenz des Mannes," *Wiener med. Presse*, 1907, Nr 42, (also *Die psychischen Störungen der männlichen Potenz*, 1913, by the same author; Translator's Note), and W. Stekel, *Nervöse Angstzustände*, 1908.