

## Book Review

"THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY AND ITS RELATION TO LIFE; By A. G. Tansley. Pp. 283. New York, Dodd Mead and Co.

In order to pass an opinion in the interests of the Clarion readers, and in fairness to its author, I have read the book from cover to cover, and in fairness to its author, I have read the book from cover to cover, a handy volume and well printed.

It seems, unfortunately, Tansley has practically ignored method altogether. I don't think his work can be called a "New Psychology." He might have followed the old discarded metaphysical mode of reasoning, which met death when science demonstrated the principle of the conservation of energy and left no room for spirit and matter apart from it, but which some dogmatic theologians still pursue. I don't accuse Tansley of it; he is above it. He might have pursued the so-called scientific method of induction and deduction, of formal logic, method of observation, classification, experimentation and interpretation. His book is not untrammelled with metaphysical presentation, but it is not intolerable reading. Tansley does not go into the painstaking work involved in the subject; his attempt in this direction is lacking.

The only scientific method that guarantees accuracy and unfailing soundness in results with respect to finding of principles and laws, "the dialectics" or the dialectic method, application whereof in the field of economics, politics, sociology and philosophy by Marx and Engels yielded them such stupendous discoveries of laws of social phenomena, as the Socialist and other schools well know, is not attended to in the above work. But Tansley honestly makes no claim to a system of systematic enquiry in psychology. The following quotation from his book is self-explanatory:

"The aim is to present a picture vaguely, sketched in some parts, almost blank in others, but it is hoped not too much out of drawing." (Page 15).

With all the want of a system, very interesting features of the psychological problem have been developed in places.

"The difficulty that is experienced in unravelling the intricate skein of mental structure and disposition is due to two causes. (1) First and most important, the fact that we have no adequate equipment for the task because our preceptions, our consciousness, our reason have been developed for quite other purposes to enable us to maintain ourselves in the world we live in, and not to help us to penetrate the secrets of our own minds. (2) The fact that there are parts of our mind of which we will not, or in some cases cannot, recognize the existence, because they conflict with other parts which we have come to regard as having a prior claim to recognition." (page 260.)

This is all too true. Bergson, Morton Prince, H. W. Carr, Janet, Freud, Jung, etc., in their psychopathological investigations have formulated enough data to confirm the above that they are demonstrable facts.

Respectable psychologists may find now that their books on psychology, i.e., their text books, otherwise standard works built on facts, thoroughly systematic, with a fair degree of qualitative and quantitative determination which secured psychology a place in the galaxy of exact sciences, have to be revised, embodying these characteristics of the unconscious, to maintain the reputation of a psychological science.

Tansley, in chap. 14, pp. 141-153 elaborates this quotation under the heading of "Psychical Segregation and Displacement." The main idea is that in the functioning of human minds at the urge of an abnormally developed interest (or libido) an undue amount of mental energy is commandeered, and sometimes mental content splits up into parts which

unconsciously and in conflict with each other function independently in the same organism, and if no balance was restored all abnormalities like hysteria, melancholia, etc., play havoc to the life of the person.

This is a fair account of the phenomena, and Prince Morton in his valuable work "The Unconscious," has firmly established the truth of the principle by psychoanalysing a number of cases. But psychology, to be of value as a science, needs "dialectics" applied to it.

The psychic segregation and displacement, to speak in Tansley's terminology, necessarily and inseparably involves the problem—"the psychic integration and equilibrium." In other words, synthetically, the problem is about the process of the organization of mind with respect to its functions, structure, form and content, with a view to its unity.

Tansley could have added to the value of his work if a systematic enquiry were made and generalizations drawn on the unity of the mind process. On the subject of instinct, emphasis made by Tansley is mainly on sex, herd and ego, by devoting a chapter to each, while others have been given just a courtesy. Opening sentence of chapter 16 reads as follows:

"It is a fundamental tenet of the New Psychology that all actions and connations leading to them are motivated by and gain energy from instinctive sources."

This tenet of his so-called New Psychology is only a half-truth, if not altogether perverse, in as much as the characteristics of instincts, applied and related to the life activities of an organism are not fully placed in their bearings of human society. Instincts have a genesis, a pedigree, a periodicity of life, as much as a pig. Instincts are products of life activity and are generated around some innate tendencies like seeking of satisfaction, etc., which are prior to instincts and are connoted to life. Instinct and the principle of intelligence are allied and co-existent in life phenomena.

In present day society, instinct of workmanship, or "construction" as the author calls it, abnormally fill the mental content of the working class. Any kind of work or a job for wages, enough to maintain their life, motivate their actions and the connations leading to them. On the other hand, acquisition and predatory instincts abnormally occupy the mentality of the master class. Any kind of gain—profits, exploitation, seizure—motivate their actions and the connations leading to such actions.

But innate tendencies inherent in life are seeking a balance; intelligence is pressed into its functions, modifying the incongruities and unhealthy functioning of instincts so as to restore the conservation of the life of the human species; in other words, to reconstruct the social order, looked forward to by the proletarian class, although primarily in their own interests, but in reality by abolishing classes in the interests of human society.

There are very interesting and pregnant thoughts as well as expressions in Tansley's work on the general questions of psychology, bringing out a good perspective in places. There is an unique presentation of the sex problem. The book no doubt would repay the perusal. One who is not a psychologist would do better, however, by acquainting himself with the principles of psychology from a text book like one by Professor McDougall, Pillsbury or Tichner, and thus, after getting the essential groundwork and a system of the human mind, if he reads Tansley's New Psychology he will by introspection in his mind identify the contents of both, as in ones own mind alone is found the ground and means of directly corroborating psychological truths. The whole problem of psychology, expressed in dialectic terms, is contained in the following sentence by H. W. Carr in "The Problem of Truth," p. 15. "Consciousness and life are, in this respect, one and the same. Consciousness as the unity of knowing and acting is a becoming."

H. RAHIM.

## THE FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC

While the Japanese Crown Prince tours the capitals of Europe, and Russian Monarchists hold a conference at Reichenhall, in Bavaria, a Tsarist flag flies over Vladivostok, and details come in of Japanese plans to establish in Siberia a chain of buffer States between Soviet Russia and that future Japanese colony—China.

The commencement of that chain must be the Far Eastern Republic, which from its capital at Chita, has been endeavoring to secure order at home and peace abroad. The first of these irreproachable objects would entail the dispersion of the remnants of the Tsarist troops scattered over the vast distances of Eastern Siberia. Yet more delicate a task would be the securing of the withdrawal of Japanese forces which are occupying the seaboard northwards from Vladivostok, "to maintain order and protect Japanese subjects." But the negotiations with Japan have made no progress. If they had no more positive aims the Japanese would stay to keep the Americans out.

The Republic of the Far East is not Bolshevik. It has a Constituent Assembly elected in March on a basis of universal suffrage, in which the peasant party outnumbers the Communists twice over. What more natural than that it should seek the blessing of our Government? Its Foreign Minister telegraphed, accordingly, to the British Foreign Office demanding recognition.

It made a similar request to the Chinese Government, and friendly relations are in the course of establishment. To the annoyance of Japan, it ceded Kamtschatka to Soviet Russia, receiving in return a loan of five milliards of roubles, to be repaid in goods within five years.

Our ally is interested in fisheries in Kamtschatka. Its Press protested against the cession to Russia, and threatened seizure of the territory by force. Semenov, the Tsarist "Commander in Chief of the army of the Far East," was recently in Tokio, discussing with the Japanese Government the measures to be taken against the Far Eastern Republic.

At the end of May an anti-Bolshevik revolution was carried through at Vladivostok; the Japanese were more than benevolent spectators, and are policing the town. With the co-operation of Semenov the Japanese have gained the mastery of the Russian Amur territory. The Chita Government is caught between the Tsarist Ungern on its West, and Semenov and his (and our) Allies on the East. The Russian counter-revolution is well on the way to re-establishing a base for new operations. There is talk of transporting the Wrangel remnants to Vladivostok.

A Reval telegram states that the Soviet forces are being concentrated to face the Siberian threat, and adds it may be only for picturesqueness, that Trotsky is proceeding to the Eastern "front."

Meanwhile, it is an awkward circumstance that the Vladivostok revolution, however much it may have been engineered by Tsarists—and it was enthusiastically welcomed by the Tsarists in session at Reichenhall—was not carried through by the population from any desire for the blessings of Tsardom. Relations between the provisional Government and Semenov are thus not easy to establish. A telegram from Chita published in "Humanite" describes the position a week ago. General Semenov inspires so little confidence in the population that on his arrival at Vladivostok the reactionary Government—which no doubt only wishes that it could openly join forces with him—was compelled to issue a statement that the General's visit was a chance one, and that he would shortly be leaving the town.

The British journals in Peking are demanding a clear statement of Japan's attitude to the Vladivostok adventure. The Peking representative of the Far Eastern Republic has sent to the American Ambassador a Note protesting against the Japanese support of the White Guards, and asking the American Government to demand that Japan shall evacuate the territory of the Far Eastern Republic.—Labor Leader.