

## Medicine

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**Freud's Conception of the Psychology of Neuroses.** By A. A. BRILL, PH.B., M.D., New York City. *Medical Record*, Dec., 1909.

Prof. Freud is happy in possessing several enthusiastic pupils, and A. A. Brill is perhaps the foremost. This is a brief paper, declaiming Freud's *theories*, and giving a good clear account of them.

Psychoanalysis is rapidly becoming more generally used, and psychotherapeutics more popular and more cultivated, and for these methods we are deeply in debt to the Freud school. Yet neither placing the basis of all these Psycho Neuroses on a sexual origin, nor acceptance of the influence of psychic shocks in determining motor and sensory changes, is wholly acceptable to all students of psychiatry. The danger in following such an origin is that we may delude our own minds as to its value by oversaturation, and accept far overreaching conjectures as facts.

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**Relation of Rectal Diseases to the General Nervous System.** ERNEST LAPLACE, M.D., LL.D., Philadelphia. *J. A. M. A.*

Laplace (rather) overemphasizes the relationships of rectal diseases to nervous diseases, both on anatomical grounds, and also secondary to such causes as constipation.

The result of this relationship of cutaneous and muscular nerves to the visceral nerve supply of the rectum allows local conditions, as hæmorrhoids and fissures, etc., to produce reflex and referred pains in remote regions, while the depression produced by the pain of these morbid processes acting on the pelvic sympathetic produces general depression of the nervous system.

Constipation is in truth a serious condition, as it allows of the absorption of noxious products which depress the nervous system.

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