

a physical origin. A non-appreciation of this important fact is still all too common. Only recently an article appeared in one of the leading medical journals in which the writer remarked: "In this manner I hope that we will always be able to trick a malingerer or hysterical subject into betraying the falsity of his claim." This attitude, though rarely in such an outspoken form, is frequently implicit in medical writings, and cannot be too strongly condemned. Apart from yielding an inkling of the mental nature of various disorders, the first stage in the evolution of psycho-therapy is characterised by an indeterminate attitude towards the origin and pathogenesis of them. The older conceptions have begun to dissolve, but the knowledge won by the new method of treatment has not yet been formulated. Psycho-therapy is in this stage employed in a quite empiric way, and the physician either does not concern himself with the intrinsic *modus operandi* of his treatment, or else offers explanations of it which are so superficial as to be of little scientific value.

Psycho-analysis represents the second stage in the evolution of psycho-therapy. Here a deeper insight is sought into the essential nature and origin of the morbid phenomena with a view to obtaining a fuller understanding of the aims of treatment and so to achieving a greater precision in the application of it. The psycho-analytic method we owe almost completely to the genius of Professor Freud of Vienna, who in the past sixteen years has wrought it into an elaborate science of which I can here give only the most summary outline. The method is based on the knowledge that the symptoms present in the psycho-neuroses owe their origin to a conflict between different groups of ideas or mental processes which cannot be brought into harmony with one another. One complex of mental processes is for some reason or other of such a kind as to be unacceptable to the main body of the personality. The personality fails to assimilate it, will have nothing to do with it, tries to forget it, to submerge it, to "repress" it. The "repressed" complex then takes on an