

neuroses. In many of the hysterical cases there are predisposing circumstances ("hypnoid states"), without which, perhaps, the sexual or painful experience would not exert the binding force which they establish.

Freud believes that the mischief kept up by these repressed emotions are annulled if they are given an opportunity to work themselves off by articulating in the presence of the conscious attention. In order to secure the "cathartic" result, Freud does not regard it as necessary to resort to hypnotic methods or suggestion. He endeavours to induce in his patients a condition of relaxation and passivity, with abstraction from the engrossment of sense stimulations, and then with the hand pressed to the forehead to urge and lead them to search their memories, in order to bring to life anything and everything, no matter how disagreeable, how offensively sexual, which may be related to the condition which is at stake, or may even come into the mind, without at first seeming to have any relationship to this condition. The accomplishment of this task is said to be usually easier than it would seem. In fact, the repressed emotion, although it may be the thing which the patient seems to find the greatest difficulty in bringing vividly before his mind, is really the thing which, in fact, principally occupies his mind. The physician's appeal may for a long time be resisted, but when the "confidences" eventually come they have a sharpness of outline indicating how clearly they have been preserved.

Putnam regards the "psycho-analytic" method as one to be attained but by few physicians, but he is inclined to think that a confidential conversation may accomplish just as much good.

In both papers instances are recorded illustrating the methods applied and the beneficial results obtained.

---

## OBSTETRICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF J. C. CAMERON AND D. J. EVANS.

---

The indications for, technique and result of operations for widening the pelvis. (XII. German Gynæcological Congress, Zentralbl. f. Gynæk., No. 24, 1907).

Zweifel (Breslau) defended symphyseotomy. At first he had to encounter opposition. The advice to let labour take its normal course after the operation had nothing terrible in it. It prevented vaginal lacerations. The women do not suffer greater pain than in normal labour. Gigli's opposition to symphyseotomy, that cartilage did not heal well, had been disproved by numerous experiments. The second