

PSYCHIATRY

Psychoanalysis Costs \$5,000 To \$6,000 Per Case Treated

YOU need to have money, maturity and intelligence before you put yourself into the hands of a psychoanalyst.

So states Dr. Harold Thomas Hyman, New York City physician, who for fifteen years has been collecting experiences in this method of treating human ills.

Dr. Hyman, who needless to say is not a psychoanalyst, reports on forty-three cases treated by psychoanalysis (*Journal American Medical Association*, Aug. 1).

From Dr. Hyman we learn that the total fee for psychoanalysis averages between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a case. The average visit costs the patient something less than \$10, and there are likely to be from 250 to 270 sessions a year. It takes from eighteen months to two years to terminate an analysis.

Although those who practice the Freudian method claim that age is not a factor in treatment, Dr. Hyman holds that before the middle twenties only the unusual person can obtain any insight into the procedure. Beyond the age of 40 or 45 there seems little possibility of altering individuals, he declares.

The successful patient must have a plastic and trained intelligence, Dr.

Hyman asserts. As a rule such patients are recruited from the professions and the arts. The average man or woman is wholly unable to grasp or to utilize this form of therapy, in his opinion. Those with profound psychiatric disorders have neither the receptive attitude nor the moral fiber to profit from the information that is disclosed.

Among the forty-three cases Dr. Hyman discusses, fifteen suffered from profound psychiatric disease. The treatment of twelve of these by psychoanalysis resulted in "dismal failures." In two patients the results are still questionable, and one—a homosexual—made a brilliant recovery.

Twenty-eight patients suffered from less serious disorders—hysteria, anxiety states, obsessions and the like. Seventeen of these were distinctly benefited, and eleven experienced no significant aid, according to this critic.

The New York physician hopes that his report will stir up debate and controversy to the point where doctors will establish indications and contraindications for this method of treatment, a method which "offers great promise of fulfillment in the not too distant future."

Science News Letter, August 15, 1936



"Chnops," Plus

SIX chemical elements are essential parts of protoplasm, the living substance itself. These are carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulphur. Their initial letters, which happen also to be their chemical symbols, have been arranged into a memory-saver word or mnemonic: CHNOPS—pronounced like the German word for strong liquor, Schnapps. There is a considerable quantity of the first four elements in protoplasm, and only a very little of the other two; but those small amounts are indispensable to life. Take them away, and protoplasm is no longer protoplasm; neither is it any longer alive.

In addition plants require several other mineral elements. Three of these

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