



SPINNING

This spinning machine spins loose strands of American hemp into fine yarns. U.S.D.A. photograph by Forsythe.

PSYCHIATRY

Hypnotized Boys and Girls Can Give Meaning of Dreams

Although Knowing Nothing of Freud, Normal College Students Were Able Also To Translate Famous Myths

DREAMS have a language all their own, which can be translated by practically any normal person while he is under hypnosis, the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Boston was told by Dr. Leslie H. Farber and Dr. Charles Fisher of Washington, D. C.

These studies confirm Freud's theories of dream symbolism, but prove that you do not have to be a psychoanalyst to translate them. These research psychiatrists chose a group of healthy young college students who not only produced dreams to order when they were hypnotized, but translated them too. The validity of the answers was then checked in a series of control experiments, described in detail by Dr. Farber and Dr. Fisher.

The psychoanalytic idea of a "universal unconscious language" has been

taken out of the realm of controversy by these experiments, and made available for scientific study.

These college students who had never read Freud translated other people's dreams as readily as their own in most cases giving the classical Freudian interpretations which have aroused a storm of controversy ever since Freud published his "Interpretation of Dreams."

It was stressed by the psychiatrists that these experimental subjects were not neurotics, but normal, average college students who are totally unable to translate dreams either before or after hypnosis.

Also confirming psychoanalytic speculations were the translations obtained of myths—such as Moses in the Bulrushes and the Garden of Eden story—which tallied with Freudian theory.

Dreams of psychoanalytic patients were also translated, and under hypnosis these students were able to make sense out of the "unintelligible" speech of mental hospital patients, reported to them by the hypnotist.

Regarding the controversial question of the sexual nature of Freudian symbol interpretation—which at first sight appears to be completely confirmed by these hypnotic experiments—Dr. Farber and Dr. Fisher suggested another explanation.

The language of the unconscious, they said, as revealed in dreams, myths and artistic creations, is much more primitive and limited than waking language, since it remains comparatively unchanged since early childhood.

In dreams, complicated adult experiences have to be expressed by a relatively small number of concepts, or symbols, many of which refer to the bodily functions most important in childhood. They also stressed the fact that dreams have many meanings, on different levels, and that it is impossible to "interpret" a dream without studying all the circumstances which produced it. Their experiments, they said, were an attempt to study unconscious language, through dreams, by isolating the various factors which operate in dream production.

This technique of producing experimental dreams provides a scientific method for verifying psychoanalytic theory, as well as for general study of the unconscious, including the formation of bodily symptoms in neurosis.

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MEDICINE—PSYCHIATRY

Marihuana Found Useful In Certain Mental Ills

MARIHUANA, often blamed for crime and insanity among its users who smoke it in "reefers," "muggles" or "goof-butts," was reported as a drug of potentially "great usefulness in the treatment of drug addicts" and patients suffering from mental depressions and other nervous disorders.

This new and favorable picture of marihuana appeared in a report by Dr. Samuel Allentuck, of New York City, to the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Boston.

Dr. Allentuck used the drug experimentally in cases of mental depression and nervous disorders characterized by listlessness and lack of appetite. The drug was found to increase the appetite, and induce calmness and relaxation in those previously greatly agitated.