

FERENCZI

Sandor dr.

SEX IN PSYCHOANALYSIS. By Sandor Ferenczi. Introduction by Clara Thompson. Translation by Ernest Jones. 338 pp. New York: Basic Books. \$3.50.

THE Hungarian, Sandor Ferenczi, one of Freud's first collaborators, died in 1933. Freud himself said: "This book, which has mainly spread Ferenczi's reputation, splendidly illustrates his originality, wealth of ideas, and his well-disciplined scientific imagination. His writings make us all his pupils." Consisting of what might be called incunabula of the creative years of psychoanalysis, this volume makes rewarding reading. It arouses, as well, an almost melancholy nostalgia, and the desire for a competent historical description of the development of our most revolutionary psychotherapeutic technique — a task which, so far, has never been undertaken.

Here the psychoanalytical lions still lie peacefully with the lambs, and Jung and Stekel and Adler are mentioned not as enemies but as comrades; one gets a distinct feeling of the pioneer spirit of that period, in which every new case was filled with wonder and discovery. It is the author's deeply humane and imaginative relationship to the patient that impresses the reader in this book. Ferenczi was a physician, not a dogmatist, and his penetrating findings are always based on clinical experience rather than on a preconceived system.

He solicits his conclusions from his patient's behavior, he learns from his patient as he treats him. On many occasions the reader witnesses the birth of fundamental psychoanalytical concepts. Moreover, what he has to say is not yet obliterated by the cryptography which makes present-day analytical literature so painful and mannered.

"Sex in Psychoanalysis" is no book for the layman, but it is required reading for everybody who is professionally interested in psychoanalysis.

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