

Book Reviews

Oedipus, Myth and Complex: A Review of Psychoanalytic Theory, by Patrick Mullahy, Introduction by Erich Fromm, Hermitage Press, New York, 1948, 538 pp. Reviewed by Leonhard Deutsch, New York, N.Y.

The subtitle is somewhat misleading since it suggests that psychoanalysis is based on only one theory, with the "Oedipus Complex" as its center. Actually, the author outlines not only the theories of Freud, but also of a number of his disciples and he includes the theories of those who, like Adler, Jung, and Rank, broke away from psychoanalysis.

Dr. Mullahy presents the ideas of each school rather as items without a unifying view. Also, he criticizes the various theories point by point rather than in their totalities. His criticism, though sound, misses the most important criteria: How a theory is justified *a priori* and how it is verified *a posteriori*. Further, the underlying philosophical problems—causality, biologism, determinism, etc.—are barely touched. Adler's system is reproached for "superficiality," is not accepted as a general science of human character, but still is appreciated as psychotherapy.

For no obvious reason the book concludes with an English translation of Sophocles' Oedipus trilogy in its entirety.

Dr. Mullahy's book offers little to the professional psychologist and therapist who is familiar with the original literature and has undoubtedly formed his own opinions. The layman will get little stimulation from the book, and a great deal of confusion.