

represents the sun, the four cardinal points, the deities of these points, givers of life associated with the deities, such as gold, and so forth.

While in the case of such a highly specialised form as the swastika there may appear to be a reasonable possibility of a common origin, it might well be argued that a form of such frequent occurrence in both natural and artificial objects as the spiral might have a multiple origin even within a single cultural area. It has been suggested, for example, that in Egypt it is derived from the lotus, while Dr. H. R. Hall derives it from coiled wire used purely for ornament. Mr. Mackenzie does not deny the possibility, although he thinks that the earliest form may have been the spiral derivative from a shell in view of the magico-religious ideas appertaining to shells among the peoples of Upper Palæolithic age in western Europe. He holds, however, that, whatever the material origin, a precedent condition was the fundamental idea of movement, as in whirlpools and the whirlwind, as a giver of life. This opens up an interesting field of speculation in which it is not possible to follow the author here. He has gathered together a large number of examples, which he interprets to support his views in the case of each symbol, and if all are not equally cogent and the argument not in all cases equally convincing, they will at least serve to stimulate discussion.

*The Secretion of the Urine.* By Dr. Arthur R. Cushny. (Monographs on Physiology.) Second edition. Pp. xii+288. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 16s. net.

THE appearance of the second edition of this monograph reminds us of the great loss which science has suffered in the untimely death of Prof. A. R. Cushny. It is indeed fortunate that the book was almost ready at the time of his death, since it reflects the considered views of the author on the subject of the function of the kidneys in the light of the most recent researches in this province of physiology. The theory put forward in the first edition nine years ago has formed the starting-point of the majority of the researches carried out on the secretion of the urine during this period: that the work stimulated research is shown by the increase in the number of references from four hundred to six hundred.

The author considers that the modern theory of filtration through the capsule with reabsorption of an optimal fluid in the tubules has been greatly strengthened by the more recent work: in fact, reabsorption has been definitely proved to occur. A slight modification of the theory has been necessary, following the increase in our knowledge: the distinction between threshold and no-threshold bodies, that is, between those substances which do not appear in the urine unless their concentration in the blood exceeds a certain value and those which are excreted, whatever their plasma concentration, appears to be less clean cut than was formerly supposed. Thus, with a modification affecting the nature of the optimal fluid absorbed in the tubules, the author considers that the theory covers all the more recently discovered facts.

We note that the chapters on the perfusion of the kidney and on nephritis have been largely re-written: the latter especially is noteworthy in its broad outlook

upon clinical problems and in its suggestion for the best methods of investigating the functions of the kidneys in disease in the light of the modern view of renal secretion.

*The Mammals of South Australia.* By Dr. Frederic Wood Jones. (Handbooks of the Flora and Fauna of South Australia, issued by the British Science Guild (South Australian Branch), and published by favour of the Honourable the Premier.) Part 3 (conclusion), containing *The Monodelphia*. Pp. 271-458. (Adelaide: R. E. E. Rogers, 1925.)

THE appearance of the third and concluding part of Prof. Wood Jones's work on the mammals of South Australia is a timely reminder that Australia has quite an extensive indigenous fauna of non-marsupial mammals. The overwhelming interest of the marsupials has led to the neglect of the other native mammals, even by the professional zoologist, and adequate material for study is wanting. This state of affairs should be remedied as a result of this memoir. More than one hundred species of monodelphians are known from Australia, over seventy of which are carefully described and figured by the author. His appeal for more work on the Australian non-marsupial mammalia comes with all the stronger force when so useful a guide to them accompanies it, and it is made not a moment too soon, for the inroads into the native fauna by introduced species extends equally to these mammals as to the marsupials. Prof. Jones tells a sad tale of the effects of rabbits, rats, mice, foxes, and cats on the indigenous species. His chapter on the dingo is of special interest. He believes it to be an introduced domestic dog of the true northern wolf type, and the evidence he brings forward on this point is convincing. We are glad to have so authoritative an opinion on the origin of this animal.

The completed work is a most valuable study of Australian mammals, for though only dealing with South Australia, it is virtually a guide to the whole continent. The author and the South Australian Branch of the British Science Guild are to be congratulated on the publication of so valuable, useful, and much-needed a work.

*Psycho-Analysis for Normal People.* By Geraldine Coster. Pp. 232. (London: Oxford University Press, n.d.) 2s. 6d. net.

"THIS little book on a big subject" (preface) aims at giving, more particularly for nurses and women teachers, an elementary introduction to the theories of Freud, Adler, and Jung in a form more acceptable than that of "the early exponents of analytic psychology . . . [who] succeeded for the most part in arousing disgust and revulsion" (p. 173). It would seem to be an attempt to neutralise certain ill-effects of 'psychoanalysis' in its rôle of 'rather dangerous plaything of society' (p. 14).

Under the headings instinctive energy, fear, the power instinct, the sex instinct, dreams, sublimation and religion, we are given an account of the libido theory that may possibly be wholly acceptable to some sections of the Jungian school of thought. The bibliography consists of three books on psychology, twelve on the so-called 'new psychology,' and forty-two novels.

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