

## Book Reviews

### MASTER AND DISCIPLE

#### Brother Animal

The Story of Freud and Tausk. By Paul Roazen. Pp. xx + 221 + v. (Allen Lane (The Penguin Press): London, April 1970.) 45s.

ERNEST JONES'S *Life of Freud* has served as the authoritative work on the master's life and labours, but, like many authoritative works commissioned and screened by the devoted circle of family and followers, it suffers to some extent not only from the biases of proximity but from those of diplomacy. Paul Roazen, an American political scientist now attached to the faculty of government at Harvard University, began in 1964 to meet and interview everybody living who had known Freud. His aim was to gather the oral tradition of Freud's circle, "for what is gossip to one generation may be history to the next". Roazen listened to these interviews "with a third ear" as a good analyst would do, as much for what was not said as for what was. In so doing, Roazen unearthed and analysed the Tausk story which, like Rhodes James's story about Churchill and Watson's autobiographical *Double Helix*, contributes new social psychological dimensions to historiography. Unlike other members of Freud's pre-world war circle who were considered brilliant and creative, Tausk was, before this book, nearly unknown even to aficionados of psychoanalysis. All his papers had been destroyed at his own request at the time of his suicide, which occurred under conditions so shocking to the psychoanalytic circle as to have resulted in a near total collective suppression of his name and his ideas from the group's published and even oral accounts.

Victor Tausk was a lawyer who came from Slovakia to Vienna where he studied medicine for the purpose of joining Freud and his group to become a psychoanalyst. Driven by a mixture of intellectual fascination and neurotic personal problems, he had experienced a succession of unhappy love affairs and a broken marriage, but remained both attractive to women and interesting (if irksome) to men. Indeed, he early distinguished himself as one of the brightest stars in the early Freudian firmament. So much so that when Lou Andreas-Salome came to Vienna to study with the master, flaunting her earlier affairs with Nietzsche and Rilke, she accepted Tausk as her lover in the place of the master himself, who though unavailable was fascinated by her.

Freud was interested in Tausk because he was creative. Tausk was one of the first to want to apply psychoanalytical ideas to the study and treatment of psychotics, and originated the concepts of ego-boundaries (later elaborated by Federn) and of identity (later elaborated by Erikson). Yet he made Freud uncomfortable because he was explosive in his intellectual style, elaborating some of Freud's ideas before the master himself was ready to have them put forward. In such a situation there is clearly the danger of conflicts about priorities and possession of ideas.

For men less tied to the master by their own neurotic dependence, such a situation could and did generate schism—as with Jung and Adler. Freud wanted just the right amount of passive acceptance of his ideas—too much would earn his contempt; too little, his ire. Jung and Adler had too little submissiveness to stay in the

group. Tausk had enough acceptance of Freud as the central figure—indeed he was tied to him by an inordinately powerful personal longing for acceptance by the master—but at the same time his own personal style was competitive and aroused Freud's discomfort.

When, after the First World War, it became *de rigueur* for analysts to have received a didactic analysis, Tausk sought the couch of the master. Freud rejected him (wishing to place Tausk's problems at a little distance because of the heavy personal demands they made and the danger of their differences over professional ideas swamping their therapeutic relationship). He therefore referred Tausk to Helena Deutsch, five years the former's junior and relatively inexperienced, but an analysand of the master. Once again, Tausk and Freud were related through the channel of a woman in the movement, but this time Tausk's fascination so filled Helena Deutsch's preoccupations that Freud felt that he had to ask her to either drop Tausk or give up her analysis with him. There was no doubt about what the outcome of this ultimatum would be, and, rejected once again by the master, Tausk's suicide followed within months.

Roazen's analysis of the mutual ambivalence of leader and disciple is fascinating—not only for the insight provided on the harsher aspects of Freud's personality in his rejection of a troublesome competitive follower, but for the understanding it contributes to the social dynamics of the creative process in emergent schools or disciplines. There are parallels in other fields of science, in politics and in the arts.

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### ALARM BELLS

#### The Optimum Population for Britain

Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Royal Geographical Society, London, on 25th and 26th September, 1969. Edited by L. R. Taylor. Pp. xxiii + 182. (Academic Press: London and New York, March 1970. Published for the Institute of Biology.) 35s.

"THE optimum population for Britain has already been exceeded according to 90 per cent of those attending . . . the Symposium." So runs the dust jacket of the book. If the other 10 per cent felt that the question "does not apply", it is they who reflect any conclusions to be drawn from this collection of papers of disparate length and quality.

It would, as G. P. Hawthorn says in his postscript, be interesting to have an analysis of just why slight changes in population growth rates and directions produce disproportionately wild changes from anxiety about national extinction to anxiety over environmental pollution and overcrowding. It is clear from the papers that some authors were not even clear of current trends, for while it is the overcrowding alarms which are ringing today the crude birth rate of Great Britain has been in decline since 1964, and the modest increases in British population projected to the year 2000 cannot in themselves justify the shrill notes of these alarms.

The papers fall naturally into three groups; those of the biologists and agricultural scientists, those of the social scientists and those of the legislators and family planners. The twin themes of the first group are environmental pollution and food production. K. Mellanby considers that the prospects are good for pollution control in Britain, provided there is willingness to pay the cost in money and trouble. This is the key proviso, for the connexions between pollution, unbridled economic growth and the externalizing of the diseconomies of the consumer society are manifest; those between simple human numbers and pollution are not. Given that one theoretical optimum population (for there are several optima, as Alfred Sauvy has demonstrated, but none of these papers develops explicitly) is that which maximizes economic growth,