The Problem of the Nervous Child. ELIDA EVANS. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1920. Pp. viii + 299.

Dr. C. G. Jung writes an introduction to this book in which we read: "This book, as the reader can see on almost every page, is the fruit of an extended work in the field of neuroses and abnormal characters. Despite the fact that there are numbers of books on education, there are very few that occupy themselves with a child's most intimate problems in such a careful and painstaking way. . . . The physician should be particularly indebted to the author, as her book will be a valuable coöperation in the fight against the widespread evil of neuroses in adults. More and more the neurologist of to-day realizes the fact that the origin of the nervousness of his patients is very rarely of recent date, but that it traces back to the early impressions and developments in childhood. There lies the source of many later nervous diseases. . . . Mrs. Evans lays much stress on the parent's mental attitude and its importance for the child's psychology."

Among the chapter headings are: The Development of Repression. Symbolic Thought. Defence Reactions. The Parent Complex. Buried Emotions. Muscle Erotism. The Tyrant Child. Teaching of Right and Wrong.

On the title page is quoted an ancient maxim: "He who reads to criticize seeks only to hide his own defects, but he who reads for understanding will find the truth." The reviewer can take a hint and will be careful.

The author advises against a discipline by force and compulsion in the bringing up of children: "The only discipline worth having is a natural one got by interest and habit. We require order and attention from children, and demand that higher discipline which is habitual and has become so by the operations of interest. Sincere endeavor and honesty of purpose can be relied upon only under conditions that favor their continuation. Force or compulsion of any kind, however necessary it may be, blunts honesty, dulls the zeal of the most whole-hearted efforts, and, if it comes with too much strength, will spoil all."

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