THE DREAM PROBLEM. By Dr. A. E. Maeder. Translated by Drs. Frank Mead Hallock and Smith Ely Jelliffe. The Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Company, New York, 1916.

The importance of this new publication of the Monograph Series is one which will fully justify itself by its practical applicability to the problems of everyday psychoanalytic practice. No less significant, however, is its theoretical value in the constantly broadening and advancing conception of the principles of psychoanalysis which represents its vitality and growth.

Maeder acknowledges the immeasurable service of Freud in laying the broad foundations of dream interpretation not only but in previsioning also though not yet definitely for the dream the progressive functioning of neurotic manifestations which, in regard particularly to the dream, forms the theme of this book. Maeder's difference from Freud is merely the carrying further of the work the latter has begun.

This progressive, "preparing function" of the dream links its interpretation with the ancient use made of the dream, not in any mythical mysticism but, with our increasing knowledge of the unconscious, as a clearly scientific revelation of the psychic situation and the attitude and activity of the libido in its acceptance of the dreamer's conflict or task.

The cathartic function of the dream precedes this, but if dwelt upon it keeps the patient only in the regressive phase of psychic activity. Emphasis upon the preparing function assists thus materially in the analysis in discovering the patient's attitude toward his task and is of greatest service for the patient's own understanding not only but for his determined grasp of the situation and progress through it. This necessitates a greater amount of attention to the manifest dream content than Freud has given. It leads also to a distinction between the objective and the subjective representation in the dream. This latter lifts the symbolisms of the dream as well as the condensations in personification and other mechanisms out of the merely regressive phase of infantile wishes and translates them into terms of adult striving toward reality. More consideration must also be given to the clinical and environmental setting of the dream.

The analysis of a number of illustrative dreams reveals the practical significance of these principles. A series of dreams of one patient reveals his gradual acceptance of the reality situation in place of his former pleasure-pain attitude through the stages of first an emotional grasp of the new demands and then advance to an effectual intellectual grasp. Two other contrasted dreams reveal the positive and negative working of the preparing and liberating function. The recurrent dream of the poet Rosegger freed him at last from an infantile attitude persisting through his otherwise successful life, while the nurse's dream quoted shows the failure of her libido to accept the terms of reality and her refuge in an infantile attitude.

Thanks are due the translators for making accessible this valuable contribution to the literature of theory and practice of psychoanalysis.

L. BRINK

LEONARDO DA VINCI. A PSYCHOSEXUAL STUDY OF AN INFANTILE REMINISCENCE. By Professor Dr. Sigmund Freud, LL.D., Translated by A. A. Brill, Ph.B., M.D. Moffat, Yard and Company, New York, 1916.

The translation of this small volume puts into our hands more than a fascinating study of a famous character. Freud's studies reach in breadth and profundity beyond the borders of the individual personal, however important the personality has been in history and art.

This background of human interest illumined by the author's psychological insight reveals, as his own words remind us, something otherwise