

identified with the ball of excrement which the beetle rolls along as food for the young, the ancient sun-god himself being identified with the beetle. The darkness of night, when the life-saving sun-god had disappeared, was filled with wild fancies revealing the libidinous strivings crudely sublimated in their concrete beliefs concerning the god's nightly journey through the kingdom of darkness, the terrors of which the deceased, too, must meet in his journey to Osiris. It was the vital character of these beliefs, the fact that they were an expression of the compelling, instinctive power within that drove them to such elaborate and time consuming rites and ceremonials for the dead, and made the Book of the Dead one great amulet or series of amulets to deliver them from these vaguely threatening forces and preserve them for the pleasures of the life in the other world.

The Book of the Dead explained to us as it is here and given to us at first hand in so large a portion of it, forms a valuable source of comparative study for the further understanding and mastery of these phantasy forms in the mental conflict of the neuroses.

JELLIFFEE.

LA CONSCIENCE MORBIDE. Essai de Psychopathologie Générale. Par le Dr. Charles Blondel. Docteur ès lettres, Agrégé de philosophie. Felix Alcan. Paris.

This volume well illustrates how futile it often may be for a non-trained worker in medicine to center into a foreign field with the hope of giving something of value. Out of seven case histories, given from their purely superficial and anecdotal formulations, the author has attempted to erect a nosological entity which he calls morbid consciousness.

He juggles with a group of words, verbal imitations of things, and never penetrates beyond the analysis of their acquired meaning. The real patients, their behavior, the motives actuating their conduct, these are only seen in the light of a library desk hypothesis.