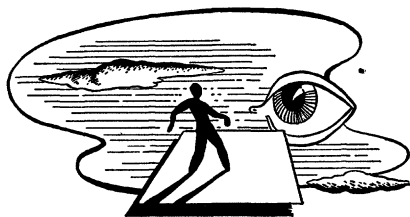


The all too brief index, characteristic of British publications, decreases the reference value of the book; many desired and essential entries are missing. The bibliographies would be more valuable if they included the initials of the authors and the titles of the articles.

One who undertakes the difficult task of reading, evaluating, selecting, organizing, and discussing the ophthalmic literature of the world deserves the highest praise. Commendations due to the innumerable excellent features of this volume would fill many pages, whereas all of the criticisms can be completed in a brief review. The book is a treasure and we should all be forever grateful to Sir Stewart Duke-Elder for its creation.

FRANK PAYNE

New York City



Frustration: The Study of Behavior without a Goal. Norman R. F. Maier. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1949. 264 pp. \$3.50.

Prof. Maier has written a significant and exciting book. This is not to say that his book has "all the answers" or that this reviewer necessarily agrees with such putative answers as are given. But it raises the right problems, and the attempted solutions—whether right or wrong—are original and challenging.

Quite aside from its special content, this book is noteworthy for the fact that it is written by a man who, though primarily an experimental psychologist, is here concerned with clinical issues. The approach to these issues is sympathetic and by no means unsophisticated. The book is, indeed, a kind of model, both in terms of its objectives and its methods, for indicating how experimental and clinical psychology can interact, to the benefit and enrichment of both.

The author has picked out for major consideration what the reviewer regards as the absolutely central and most critical issue in clinical theory no less than in practice: It is the question as to why so-called neurotic behavior is at one and the same time *self-defeating and yet self-perpetuating*, instead of self-eliminating. This is the dilemma that prompted some of Freud's most brilliant speculations; and it is an issue which every serious student in the field must face. Maier attempts to deal with it as follows.

In ordinary trial-and-error learning, says the author, new responses are acquired or old ones eliminated on the basis of their consequences. But in other instances, responses persist despite continuously unfavorable consequences. Such an instance Maier and his students have been able to produce experimentally in rats by exposing them to discrimination problems, on a Lashley jumping

stand, which are "insoluble." If the problem is soluble, the rats learn to jump to the right or the left on any given trial, according to the nature of the cue stimuli presented on that trial. But if the problem is insoluble, the rats tend to fall into rigidly fixed patterns, such as always jumping to the same side.

Maier uses this finding as a basis for postulating that under conditions of frustration there is often a breakdown of normal learning and the development of abnormal fixation. He thus evolves what might be called the *frustration-fixation hypothesis*. He rejects the Freudian hypothesis that fixated, or "symptomatic," behavior "may serve as a relief for the patient," in favor of the view that once the frustration-fixation mechanism has taken over, the usual principles governing adaptive behavior cease to operate and one sees the occurrence of "behavior without a goal."

The reviewer does not believe that this analysis is satisfactory (cf. Freud's equally *ad hoc* and circular concept, the "repetition compulsion"), but the author does a skillful job of illustrating and defending his thesis, which he states boldly and lucidly.

To many readers the most illuminating part of the book will be chapter 8, in which the author brings his earlier experimental work on reasoning to bear upon contemporary problems in the field of counseling and psychotherapy. Although he largely follows Rogers' analysis of the treatment process, clinical workers of other persuasions will find Maier's discussion of "reasoning as the combination of elements in experience that have not previously been combined" highly suggestive. This part of the book leads to a consideration of some of the most basic issues in the entire field of personality and behavior theory.

O. HOBART MOWRER

University of Illinois

Studies in Population: Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America at Princeton, New Jersey, May 1949. George F. Mair, Ed. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1949. 169 pp. \$2.50.

This publication is described as "an experiment" in that it for the first time presents the collected proceedings of an annual meeting of the Population Association of America. It includes so much useful material that it is almost certain to be given a wide welcome and, it is to be hoped, continuation.

There are five sections: Application of Demographic Data to Current Problems; Tools for Demographic Research; Resources for the World's People; Value Systems and Human Fertility; and Future Course of Research in Fertility. A wide gamut of problems is considered, and sections III and IV, which had been presented more or less as organized symposia, are the subjects of penetrating evaluations by Warren S. Thompson and Kingsley Davis. Space permits only the briefest comment on a few papers.

Many will find most interest and significance in one contribution that, in a sense, does not belong here at all: "The Catholic Value System in Relation to Human Fertility," by the Rev. William J. Gibbons, S.J. Its