

medicine based on scientific determinism is integrated within the framework of personal freedom and responsibility.

E. K. LEDERMANN.

*Marlborough Day Hospital,
38 Marlborough Place, N.W.8.*

DEAR SIR,

May I be allowed to make certain comments on Dr. Eliot Slater's fascinating and enlightening article on the 'Depth Psychologies' in your March issue?

On the one hand, the language of Science caters for communications dealing with the sets of empirically established and logically elaborated relations between observed objects (or their derivatives). On the other hand, there are different languages which cater for other important aspects of man's understanding which are more subjectively orientated and not so amenable to the above type of approach.

There are, between these differing types of approach to truth, varying degrees of mutually fruitful and corrective interconnections. In fact, their respective languages and subject matter can be seen as forming a spectrum, which spans the gulf between the most objective and the most subjective, i.e. between awareness through the 'measuring eye' of the Sciences and through the 'inner eye' of Art, Religion and Ethics. Conditioning therapy, which reflects one particular approach (and its corresponding language) would allocate itself more to the objective side of the spectrum and conversely with 'analysis'.

As Dr. Slater implies, one must not confuse the various approaches to truth nor treat their respective illuminations as interchangeably applicable (e.g. psycho-analysis and science) in all cases.

Which mode of approach to truth is most relevant in any given context must necessarily depend on the various factors involved.

I suggest that truth is ever-increasing understanding, combined with the pragmatically wisest use of the control that such understanding yields to man, i.e. it is not co-extensive with, though it incorporates, scientific knowledge. And, further, that, in certain conditions, psycho-analysis generates truth.

J. LABIA.

*'Croit Elidh',
St. Peter,
Jersey, Channel Islands.*

DEAR SIR,

I would not wish to defend psychoanalysis as a scientific method. I would have thought that all depth psychologies are part of the art of psychiatry, which in its turn is an essential part of the art of medicine. In line with this, in fairness to Freud and

in view of some of the statements made in Slater's paper, I consider it relevant to quote from some of Freud's later writings. He wrote (1933): 'As a psychotherapeutic method, analysis does not stand in opposition to other methods employed in this branch of medicine; it does not invalidate them nor does it exclude them. There would be no theoretical objection to a physician who described himself as a psychotherapist using analysis upon his patients alongside of other therapeutic methods, according to the peculiar character of the case and the favourable or unfavourable nature of the circumstances. . . . The expectation that we shall be able to cure all neurotic symptoms is, I suspect, derived from the lay belief that neuroses are entirely superfluous things which have no right whatever to exist. As a matter of fact they are serious, constitutionally determined affections . . . we may hope that in the future our knowledge of the action of hormones will provide us with a means of coping successfully with the quantitative factors involved in these diseases; but today we are far from having reached that desirable goal.' In other words, Freud was surely looking forward to the time when clinical psychiatrists would practise in the manner that most of us do these days, namely, utilising whatever therapeutic techniques—psychological and physical—may benefit the patient.

MAURICE SILVERMAN.

*Queen's Park Hospital,
Blackburn, BB2 3HH.*

REFERENCE

FREUD, S. (1933) *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, pp. 196-8. London: The Hogarth Press.

PORNOGRAPHY, THE LAW AND MENTAL HEALTH

DEAR SIR,

Dr. Kenyon in his article in the March issue, remarks on the 'little reliable evidence that pornography even interests children, let alone has a baleful influence on them'. There is, however, a great deal of evidence waiting to be documented from parents, teachers, social workers, newsagents and children themselves, showing that innocent children, indeed, are uninterested in pornography and do not even see it, but that once their attention has been drawn to the genital avenue, uncharted in the body image of the normal child until towards the end of adolescence, anything belonging to the fascinating lower end of the body and its extension into the 'dirty' and formerly forbidden side of life can attract and be pursued, and can corrupt and destroy far more than the equivalent situation in the adult.