

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Simo Køppe: The materiality of the of Psyche.

In neuropsychology we have an scientific investigation of the classical philosophical psychophysical problem, especially in the so-called theories of cerebral localisation. These theories are followed from 18th century and up to now. The paper differentiates between mechanistic, dualistic and functionalistic localisationist theories. At the end of the paper an alternative to these three theories are introduced, and discussed from an epistemological and ontological point of view.

Rolf Willanger: Neuropsychological analyses of amnesia

For the last two decades loss of memory (amnesia) has been analysed with the purpose of exploring the presence or absence of memory stores in amnesic states. Some areas of normal memory have been found in amnesic patients – but the patients do not have voluntary access to this memory. The findings elucidate storage, systems of knowledge and their specific organisation and thus contribute to theories of consciousness and its role in systems of knowledge.

*Rolf Willanger: To see without seeing – to know without knowing.
Neuropsychological empirical perspectives on perception and consciousness*

The elucidation of visual functions which have no access to consciousness yields perspectives to information systems and the role of consciousness. In the present article some neuropsychological syndromes with disturbances in visual perception are outlined with the purpose of drawing attention to recent research, in which the relation between perceptual systems and consciousness are pointed out.

The current trend in neuropsychological descriptions of brain syndromes is to take the most complex level of processing as the basis of analysis.

Anders Gade: The neuropsychology of mental imagery

Mental imagery was central to concepts of thinking in antiquity and early philosophy, as it was in the experiments and theories of last century's experimental psychologists. Under the influence of radical behaviorism imagery was reduced to a marginal role, but during the last two decades cognitive psychologists have again made it a topic of study. For neuropsychology imagery is interesting in its own right, because of its role in memory processes, and because of similarities to perception. A comprehensive theory of mental imagery (Kosslyn) has opened the way for componential analyses of cerebral processing in visual imagery, and studies of imagery representation in the brain are now possible.

Hans Henrik Jensen, Kirsten Drejer og Jan Buchmann: The neuropsychology of anxiety and the dimensions of personality

The present article has two aims, (1) to offer an introduction to the English psychologist Jeffrey A. Gray's experimental work on the neuropsychology of anxiety, and (2) to review the implications of the latest research within this area in relation to the reconceptualization of personality and behavioral dimensions.

Eysenck's model of personality, and his theory of the anxiety-prone personality as an "introverted-neurotic" serves as a starting point. The model was modified by Gray who formulated an "anxiety-dimension" on the basis of experiments on the behavioral and neuro-physiological effects of anti-anxiety drugs. These drugs have divergent as well as similar effects upon behavior. The latter gave rise to Gray's hypothesis of the "behavioral inhibition system", as one of three basic affective-motivational systems.

Cloningers three-dimensional model of personality is to a great extent in agreement with Gray's theory. The implications of these models for the theoretical understanding of clinical anxiety are briefly reviewed.

Th. Nielsen: Depression and disease

Passive stress denotes a set of behavioral and physiological responses to aversive situations faced with which the organism due to situational and experiential (learning) factors reacts with passivity rather than with active attempts at coping with the situation. The neurochemical changes in passive stress may underlie various depressive disorders and hormonal (neuroendocrinological) changes may lead to increased risk of infectious disease and possibly cancer due to immuno-suppression. The article reviews the empirical basis for these allegations.

Alice Theilgaard: Psychosomatic Affections

The epistemological problems related to the concept of psychosomatic medicine are briefly described. Psycho-analytic view-points concerning psycho-somatics from the inception in the nineteen-twenties are considered and as they later were integrated with ensuing Object-relation theories and Self-psychology. It is pointed out that the connection made of the concepts of interacting psycho-biological systems and the defects of the regulatory processes of the self has offered a bridging contribution to psycho-somatic medicine and psycho-analysis. The 'alexithymic' patient is described, and it is underlined, that alexithymia presents a non-specific way of reacting.

Finally suggestions regarding appropriate modification of customary psycho-therapeutic approach towards psycho-somatic patients are offered.

Bo Møhl (cand. mag. et psych., Sexological Clinic, University Hospital Rigshospitalet): Sexual Symptom Formation in a Psychosomatic Perspective

In the article sexual dysfunctions are considered to be psychosomatic reactions. After a quick survey of psychodynamic theories, where especially theories of "resomatization" and preverbal symbolism are emphasized as relevant to clinical sexology, the development of sexual symptoms is described. The development of sexual dysfunctions is focused on and a distinction is made between different levels of causes. The basic idea is that sexual dysfunctions develop when the psychic readiness is unable to handle the underlying conflict. Thus the symptom gets a defensive function in protecting the individual against an anxiety-provoking insight.

Susanne Lunn: Anorexia nervosa

The article takes as its starting point the difficulties in solving the enigma of anorexia nervosa. These difficulties are seen as connected with the conception of anorexia as a specific disease where the personality organization of the patient, the etiology of the disease, as well as the appropriate treatment, are determined by the diagnosis itself. Contrary to this is urged an understanding of anorexia as a specific defense organization. This implies that the diagnosis itself makes only a limited statement about the personality of the patient in question. Thus it is possible to include both the personality traits common to anorectic patients and the differences between them. The common personality traits are described, and conceptualized as an expression of ego-weakness. Finally anorectic patients' suitability for psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy is discussed.

Annette Poulsen: Psychic aspects in rheumatoid arthritis

The paper gives a historical outline of the psychological theories of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In the classical era of psychosomatic medicine, RA was considered a psychosomatic disease, in its narrow definition. Thus, research was concentrated on the possible psychological causes of the so-called »arthritis-personality«. Today these theories of specificity are relinquished to an integrative approach. RA is understood as a multi-factorial conditioned disease, where bio-physiological, psychoneuroimmunological, and psychodynamic mechanisms are significant. On the basis of this historical account, the psychosocial aspects of RA are discussed, such as social isolation, anxiety and depressive symptoms, marital problems, and inadequate coping with aggression. Finally, some considerations concerning psychotherapy in connection to chronic, non-malignant pain syndromes are provided. The advantages of group therapy are emphasized in preference to individual therapy with regard to somatic patients.