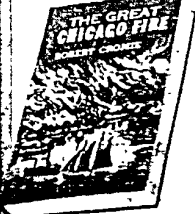


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A. Powell Davies

## An Active, Open Mind

**THE MIND AND FAITH OF A. POWELL DAVIES**, edited by William O. Douglas [Doubleday, 334 pages, \$4.50].

Reviewed by

Clarence Seidenspinner

This anthology reveals the open, active, and informed mind of Dr. A. Powell Davies. At the time of his death in 1957, he was minister of All Souls Unitarian church in Washington, D. C. There in the nation's capital he spoke out clearly on all the major social issues of our day.

In this collection of speeches and sermons, with here and there an article or book review, you will find Dr. Davies analyzing the nature of communism and its appeal to people who are essentially sick.

He tackled congressional investigations and loyalty oaths, and at a time when Washington was suffering from hypertension about the whole matter. In stinging words he said, "To defeat communism we must be just and righteous among ourselves and in the world at large, and to defeat communism we must be spiritually superior to it."

Other social situations prompted the quick but graceful reaction of Dr. Davies. The Little Rock episode, in which he chided the national administration for failing to act promptly; the fall of Czechoslovakia; the great need of large sections of the earth for food, and the possibility of conceiving a world community.

In all of the sermons on social issues, there is no cant or ignorance. The breadth of Dr. Davies' study and interests and the incisive way he gets down to the real issues is little short of amazing.

In a gracious introduction, Justice William O. Douglas reveals the spirit of this great Washington pastor, and summarizes the main events of his life. It is good to know that such a person dwelt in our midst.



## Attempt to Explain Freud's Personality

**SIGMUND FREUD'S MISSION: His Personality and His Influence**, by Erich Fromm [Harper, 120 pages, \$3].

Reviewed by V. C. Chappell

[Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago]

The genius of Sigmund Freud is beyond dispute. And there is no question about the profound importance of his work. Freud belongs to that small handful of seminal minds—Darwin and Einstein are others—who have revolutionized scientific thinking in the last hundred years.

The curious thing is that so much attention should have been paid to Freud the man. Nothing like the intense interest and indeed bitter controversy associated with the life and personality of Freud are to be found in the case of Darwin or Einstein. It is one virtue of this book by Erich Fromm, himself a well known psychoanalyst and writer on the subjects that engaged Freud, that it helps to explain that fact.

In the first place, Freud's subject was man, and it is natural that his own life should have been considered, by himself and others, as a test case in the application of his theories. Hence Fromm begins by examining Freud's relationship to his mother—a standard Freudian move—and attempts to account for certain features of Freud's personality as the outcome of this relationship.

He considers Freud's relations with his wife, friends, and father in the same way, building up a more and more complete picture of the Freudian personality as he proceeds. One of Fromm's main conclusions is that Freud, the supposed apostle of sex, was a man whose "own sexuality was quite inhibited."

The trouble with such claims is that a great deal of evidence is needed to substantiate them—more than the author is able, in such a short book, to provide. Fromm is on stronger ground, however, in describing the second main source of the interest attached to the life and personality, as opposed to the scientific achievement, of Freud. This has to do with the development of the "psychoanalytic movement."

For Freud was not content merely to publish his ideas in the ordinary way that scientific ideas are published—in papers, books, lectures, and the like. He thought it necessary to propagate them more actively, and formed an international organization devoted to this purpose.

Freud demanded, and got, unswerving loyalty from his co-workers and disciples. Those who deviated, it is charged, even for the best scientific reasons, were summarily purged and made the object of violent attack by the remaining faithful. The passions generated in this atmosphere are still being expressed.

Fromm himself seems not entirely free of heat in speaking about some of Freud's close associates, Ernest Jones, for example. And insofar as that atmosphere was the direct result of certain features of Freud's personality—Fromm makes a good case for the point—it is naturally the personality on which much of the passion has been focused.

Fromm's account of Freud is neither complete nor unbiased. But it is lively, clear, succinct, and always interesting.

## RECORD OF PRE-HISTORY

**THE FOSSIL BOOK: A Record of Prehistoric Life**, by Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton [Doubleday, 428 pages, \$12.50].

The mineral collector and the amateur gem cutter have been well served by popular writers, but the fossil collectors now have for the first time a readable, handsomely illustrated, and remarkably comprehensive survey of the realm of prehistoric life.

The Fentons—husband and wife—have written extensively about geology and rocks, but they have undertaken a more difficult task in this book, because the evidence of ancient life is fragmentary and its meaning often is in dispute among scholars, and the necessity for using technical names and terms makes the pages formidable for the light reader.

Within such limitations the authors have done a service to amateur students of fossils and to all those interested in the earth sciences. RUSSELL MACFALL

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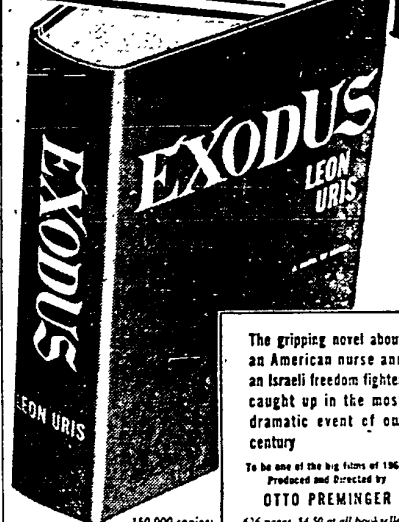
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