

concrete reality. In illustration of this last trend he devotes his final lecture to an exposition of the recent methodological developments in North-American sociology. This is not a treatise on method but a book about sociological trends in general and methodology in particular.

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Escape from Freedom. By ERICH FROMM. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., 1941. Pp. ix+305. \$2.50.

This impresses the reviewer as a noteworthy book in two different respects. It presents an interpretation of the contemporary crisis of civilization and of its historical background from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and Reformation and modern history, in terms of what may be called a quasi-psychoanalytic point of view. In contrast with most of the interpretations of the crisis which one picks up these days, this account shows real penetration and knowledge of history and culture history. And it is perhaps equally significant as a reinterpretation of psychoanalysis itself, which moves very far away from the original Freudian conceptions in the direction of good sense. The literary embodiment, amplification, and application of the thesis are perhaps more significant than the thesis itself, which rather lies open to common observation.

The theme is, first, that modern individualistic civilization, with its use of science and machinery, its large-scale organization and high degree of mobility, has broken up the stable framework of familiar custom and authority and essentially small-group life which characterized medieval society and other civilizations prior to our own. And, second, that as a result the individual is indeed "free" in a new sense, but he is thrown upon his own, placed in a position of great insecurity, and confronted with problems and responsibilities in the face of which he feels inadequate, helpless, and lost. The result is various movements or gropings in the direction of escape. Three mechanisms of escape are discussed at length—authoritarianism, destructiveness, and automaton conformity. In the final chapter, on "Freedom and Democracy," and even more in a lengthy Appendix, on "Character and the Social Process," there is some disposition to overwork paradox for literary effect. But the author's whole treatment of freedom reflects unusual insight and ability to get below the surface to realities. At the end, a reader may wonder whether all the profound analysis and literary display add much to the famous aphorism of Schopenhauer, comparing human beings to porcupines out in the cold; they freeze if they get far apart and stick each other if they get close together!

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Creative Factors in Scientific Research: A Social Psychology of Scientific Knowledge Studying the Interplay of Psychological and Cultural Factors in Science with Emphasis upon Imagination. By AUSTIN L. PORTERFIELD. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1941. Pp. xii+282. \$3.50.

Though not specifically identified as such, this book was apparently written as a Ph.D. dissertation; at any rate, it has some of the characteristic deficiencies

