INTRODUCTION

In the present-day civilization man has reached a stage - that of science and technology - of which he may immensely feel and also will feel proud. Indeed, life itself on this planet seems to be impossible without science in one sense. I think it needs no proof as well as explanation, but then how far has man achieved in the realm of exploration of what we call human psyche, particularly in that of abnormality? It may be supposed that the answer will lie much in the negative. This has been supported by the fact that abnormal persons, especially the neurotics, are on the accelerated increase. Here is an incidence of major maladaptive behaviour patterns in the United States in 1970: "10,000,000 or more labeled as neurotics; 2,000,000 or more suffered from the psychoses; 200,000 or more attempted suicide; 4,000,000 or more considered to be antisocial personalities; 1,500,000 juveniles and adults arrested in connection with more than 5,500,000 serious crimes; 500,000 men and women in federal, state and local penal institutions; 9,000,000 labeled alcoholics; 1,000,000 or more dependent on 'hard drugs'; 6,500,000 mentally retarded; 5,500,000 emotionally disturbed children and teen-agers." 1

Another similar survey made in 1977 is also here. "Between 20 million and 32 million Americans needs mental

1. Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life - James C. Coleman, p. 10
health care a new report to the Government says, but help is often unavailable because of inadequate community services, costs that are too high or the stigma of mental illness. "The time has come for mental health care to become part of a broader effort to deal with human needs", concludes the preliminary reports of the President's commission on mental health, released yesterday. The actual number of neurotics is not specified in this survey although there is a fair chance that its number may be almost doubled.

The situation is not perhaps much different from those in U.K., Canada, India, etc., where democracy and capitalism are jointly practised. Of course, increase in number may be partly caused by the lack of implementation of the ideas of the already explored areas. However, lack of exploration is a sure and certain factor in the heavy increase of neurotic persons in the world. Such a change in incidence can be extended to the degree and nature of neurosis. This is mostly due to the fact that the development of science and technology has attained a monumental status, thereby having impact upon the social set-up - its values, meanings, purposes, organisations, etc. Man finds it unable to adjust to the fast and unwarranted changes - sometime for the worse - in the social set-up. Science and technology develop on the one side; while, on the other side, spirituality, morality, old values, etc., still have a firm foothold in the human psyche. These

2. Amrita Bazar Patrika, dtd. 17th September, 1977, front page
two trends are always in a state of tug-of-war for gaining one's supremacy over the other. The result is that neurotic symptoms begin to develop either explicitly or implicitly or both. So, on the one hand, we have the blessing of science in our struggle against the mighty forces of nature; while, on the other hand, we have the curse of science in the sense that there is degradation in moral and spiritual fervour and also increase in complexity of social organisation. So long as this situation is at issue, the importance of study on neurosis is overall. Hence the need of my study on the topic.

My study will be done with special reference to psychoanalysis. This, again, is not a blind selection. The thinking of psychoanalysis (School) is not a piecemeal study but a system of a high order or at least an attempt towards that. Not that all others are piecemeal but that some are piecemeal and difficult to be comprehended. Psychoanalysis does not fall within this category. Besides, nowadays, psychoanalysis seems to undergo a show-down inspite of its magnificent past show-ups. This may be due to several factors, unaccountable for the moment, but it is factual. I have an idea to trace the said factors wherever relevant. The one incentive to study with reference to psychoanalysis is that Freud, the chief exponent of the school, is first a physiologist and then a psychologist. We may say that he was much influenced by the physiological knowledge that he had in the preceding years of his medical training. I feel this is important. The other incentive, so to say, again goes to Freud, he being a thinker who survived the First World War and its serious impact upon the human
community and, therefore, upon the human psyche. This is an exciting situation. Hence my reference to psychoanalysis. The last incentive is that Freud was primarily connected with neuroses, not to speak of his conclusions. "The turn to depth psychology through the problems of psychoneuroses is a Freudian insight; it might have been reached otherwise, it came through the challenge of psychology by psychoanalysis."  

The study is limited into the etiological aspects. The study of neurosis, whether it is confined or not confined to any specific school or theory, can be done in various aspects, i.e., its prognosis, incidence, treatment, symptomatology, etc. My study will be on how etiology looks like in psychoanalysis in the light of modern trends. I will not study the Freudian concepts but the problems arising in between the concepts will be studied. In the present-day research etiology becomes one of the most important areas instead of its slightly being neglected in the past few years. The so-called treatment can be effected at its best with the full knowledge of etiology coupled with changes in its several phases. Dr. Garfeld remarks, "It seems reasonable, and it has been an article of faith in the past, that basic areas of psychology may have definite relevance for our understanding of clinical problems." Opinions are also varied on the possible causes of neurosis and it seems reasonable that I shall try to make them organic or

3. Freud: His dream and sex theories - J. Jastrow, New York, p. 8
synthesize or at least attempt to do so. As had been stated in the beginning, with the change in the nature of neurosis comes the change in the etiological pattern. This also needs to be incorporated in my study. Hence my study on the etiology.

It seems needless to do any more empirical, experimental or practical study in the field of psychoanalysis. It is, probably, for the fact that enough had been done, keeping aside the case of conclusions arrived at. Rather, it is high time to critically co-ordinate the findings of such studies and to frame afterwards a new hypothesis or theory as may be found relevant. "While", says Dr. Garfeld, "there may have been some needless controversies concerning the relative importance of basic and applied research, each clearly has its sphere of utility, and both are needed. In the long run, however, no field can progress successfully without some increase in knowledge derived from basic research on the problems encountered in practice." 5 So the nature of research will be descriptive, i.e., what Freud said, what his critics said, what the modern trends are, etc., will be incorporated, although, of course, a special reference will always be made to Freudian views as psychoanalysis is primarily concerned with Freud. But this is not all. A critical analysis in each and every stage after description will be made.

5. Clinical Psychology - S.L. Garfeld, p. 394
It may be said that speculations about the etiology of neurosis may be categorized broadly under two major heads: (a) social level, (b) psychological level. Over and above the social and psychological factors, physiological factors may be added. It is commonly believed that no organic disorder is detectable in neurosis save the functional disorder. What I mean by physiological factors is not the organic disorder, but the nature of physiological set-up presupposing no inherent defect in the normal functioning of the whole-being of the organism. This coupled with the social and psychological realities, constitutes the etiology of neurosis. This is the sole and real mission for which I am undertaking this unique research work.