

143, HARLEY STREET, W.1
WELBECK 4787.

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Dec. 10. 32

Dear Mr. Roberts

Dr. Gillespie asked me to read your paper. I found it very interesting. Your arguments concerning the importance of the castration complex in the determination of these prohibitions are of course very sound. Probably the priesthood touches the most fundamental problem of sex differences because it gets close link with omnipotence. The present day civilisation is patriarchal. Knowledge of former matriarchal societies is known very little about, but seems matriarchy did exist at one period. In the history of the race this period must correspond to the earlier pregenital phases of psychological development in which the struggle for omnipotence plays such an important part. Psycho-analysis has not formulated definite views on the different aspects of this subject at the present time, although there are numerous ideas in many minds waiting to be collected & presented. For this reason I can only say that the presentation of individual ideas is always

valuable -

In other words I think your paper adds
to our knowledge of these problems - I have not
had time to criticise the details or
am not authorising it from a Psycho-analytical
point of view, & cannot of course advise
you as to the presentation because I
have no knowledge whatever of the
people to whom it would be presented.

Yours very truly

S. M. Payne