

(Literature, Criticism)

Frend (witz p 133) den Drang den gehör-
-ten (witz) / anderen ... zu
erzählen. Wahrscheinlich holt
man sich ein Stück der in
Folge mangelnder Neuheit
Genußmöglichkeit aus dem
Eindruck wieder den der
witz auf den Neuling macht

— Surely a universal
phenomenon: we renew
and replenish & keep up
any emotional state by
communication to others.
This is one of ~~the~~ the various
items of the complex
(~~is~~ the literal, not the Freudian)
complex called sympathy.
And perhaps the very
peculiar sense of flatness
emptiness, stopping dead of the
related disappointment explains
in part the ill will felt

against the dissident just
as against the unsympathetic
person. There seems more
than the mere shock of
meeting with a contrary
feeling: there is the refusal
to help in keeping up ~~the~~
our game. A person
who doesn't laugh at our
joke, worse still! does
not join in our indignation,
is refusing what, ~~is~~
to the knowledge of psychology
is ~~part~~ part of the
daily bread of life.

P.S.

Chester Feb 9

~~And~~ As regards the ¹⁸¹⁷ ~~of~~ ^{official}
greater infectiousness of - jokes,
this is probably explicable by
a joke requiring less special
development in the hearer
than, say, a beautiful poem,

hence also we are ready
to try its efficacy on others.
But notice the tendency to
communicate horror
on the part of uneducated
(indeed ~~more~~ also
educated) people. Or
things which are "pathetic"
I do not think ^{laughter}
as such is necessarily
more catching; what it
is, is less liable to
inhibition or ~~it~~ interference,
a sad emotion may
lead to a demand for
practical help, hence
a certain check on
its reception; we are
apt to defend ourselves
against such sympathy,
and similarly against

gloom or fright, whereas,
except to the religious-
minded, laughter is Cactus;
paribus, safe & pleasant
~~Whence~~ provided that
as when we ~~hear~~ notice
it in strangers or "inferiors"
we do not suspect ~~it~~
~~me~~ it may be at
ourselves.

Psychologists are apt to
treat ^{as intrinsic to} any given state
or process what is
often a matter of
interference ~~or~~ by
other states or processes;
yet when you come to
think of it, when have
we experienced a psychological
phenomenon pure and simple
any more than a physical one
outside the laboratory?

4) The essence of activity
is ~~the~~ implying interaction and
reaction.