

## P PSYCHOLOGICAL RAILLERY IN 'THE WAY OF THE WORLD'

Though the comedy of manners flourished long before Freud came into existence. Yet the characters of this type of comedy present plenty of psychology in the way of thinking and behaving. The comedy of manners presents the life of aristocrats who were 'men of real culture' and who were 'artists in living and artists in words'. Naturally, its characters have an intense desire to show off their wit and psychological raiIIery. Like Wycherley and Etheridge, Congreve presents a lot of psychological raiIIery in his plays. But while Wycherley employs psychological raiIIery to moralise and Etheridge to present pure fun and amusement, Congreve employs it to moralise and to amuse.

The lightest type of psychological raiIIery has been presented in the conversation between Millamant and Mirabell. Mirabell highlights the psychological truth when he says that the act of affecting cruelty is contrary to a woman's nature. He adds that the true vanity of a woman lies in tickling and stimulating the sensibility of men. The remark of Mirabell has a psychological bearing. The immediate and psychologically witty reply of Millamant is very delightful. She says that one's cruelty is one's power and if one shakes off one's cruelty one serves a death warrant to one's power. If one is without power, one appears to be old and ugly. This witty remark of Millamant has a psychological bearing.

Mirabell says, "Beauty is the lover's gift; it is he who bestows your charm". But the witty remark of Millamant shatters the vanity of the superiority of male over female. She says, "Lord, what is a lover that it can give?" The raiIIery presented in the reply of Millamant is an index to the mind and nature of Millamant. It also presents the desire to