

Dudley Moore slows down his frantic enscreen pace in the role of a psychiatrist who falls in love with his pa-tient in the satiric comedy "Lovesick,"



the movies Louise Snider

'Lovesick' laughs at mixed-up world 'shrinks' inhabit

For a professional physician who died in 1939, Sigmund Freud does seem to pop up in movies looking exceptionally dapper and at

case.
In "The Seven Per Cent Solution," he treated Sherlock Holmes and helped him solve a mysterious disappearance. In "Lovesick" (PG), Freud's spirit materializes as the conscience and mentor of Dr. Saul Benjamin (Dudley Moore), a psychoanalyst who falls in the state of the st

Dr. Saul Benjamin (Dudley Moore), a psycnosnaya, who has a love with his patient.

Benjamin is suffering from a case of the blabs. His wife, his patients, his life generally — everything is blah. When a beautiful new patient (Elizabeth McGovern) enters his office and reveals her anxieties and fantasies, he does some fantasizing of his sown. Freud steps in to chide him and guide him, but does Benjamin listen? No. He dumps his wife and shocks his colleagues by moving in with his patient.

WE NOTE THAT there is more fantasy in this set than in the amorous doctor's head. His patient, a young playwright newly arrived in New York, Is living in a split-level apartment worthy of an Arab potentale.

"Lovesiek" was written by Marshall Brickman, who used to consulter scripts with Woody Allen ("Manhattan," Annel Half," Sleeper").

Brickman, however, has not been impressive as a solo writer. "Simon" was his previous film, and "Lovesiek" limps along with out any driving energy. This might be the fault of Brickman, the director, as much as Brickman, the writer.

Audiences looking for the charged-up Dudley Moore of "Arthur" or "10" won't find him here. "Lovesick" doesn't have the physical comedy and sight gags of these earlier litins. Also, Moore is subdued to the point of being comatous. The best lites in the movie go to Freud, played by Alec Guinness in a charming and witty manner. McGovern is tovely, bright and valuated bloch has the chartening and witty manner will be the polynomial procession. All his male chauvinist attitudes emerge as he carries on about his shirts not being fromed.

More than anything else, one gets the impression that "Lovesick" is Brickman's vehicle for sticking it to the spechiatric profession. The story goes off in various directions. What remains constant is the salter directed against psychoanalysts.

BENJAMIN'S COLLEAGUES are upset about more than a vio-

BENJANIN'S COLLEAGUES are upset about more than a vio-lation of professional ethics. When he opens a free walk-in-clinic in a poor neighborhood and returns \$6,000 to a patient because he couldn't help her, they are really scandalized. None of these acts endears him to his peers. In fact, the presence of so many peers prompts Freud to remark that whenever intended psychoanalysis to be a profession.

Among the other psychiatrists, there are vivid individual characterizations created by Wallace Shawn, Alan King, John Hus-ton and Selma Diamond. Each adds a different and interesting inflection to the hunge.

inflection to the humor.

However, it is all rather sly, as if Brickman is writing for an "in" group. The result is discrete satire, with special but limited appeal.

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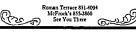
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