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SIEGFRIED BERNFELD, PH. D.
2825 PIERCE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, 23, CALIFORNIA
FILLMORE 9171 - FILLMORE 0681
February 9, 1946

Dr. Ernst Simmel,
555 Wilcox Ave.
Los Angeles 4,
California.

Dear Dr. Simmel:

I regret very much that I cannot comply with your wish although I understand quite well your aim and reasoning. I do not object to a Fenichel Memorial Meeting as you plan it. I would not suggest such a meeting myself and I have my personal unjustified idiosyncracies against such meetings in general. But I fully appreciate the purpose and effect of it. I would attend such a meeting and would help to make it a success. But I would not speak at a memorial meeting. I never have. I have never written any kind of obituary even. I not only feel an aversion to being a funeral speaker but I am sure I am not fitted for such a task.

Please reconsider your alternative: either I will speak or you will cancel the meeting. If your reasons for having the meeting are valid the fact that I am not available as a speaker should not interfere.

My suggestion is that the next California meeting of our Societies or a portion of this meeting be dedicated to Fenichel: that it consist of a short eulogistic address and several scientific papers which do not refer to Fenichel but which are of a kind that he would greatly have enjoyed listening to. I would be glad to give one of these papers and can offer a choice of three yet unpublished articles. I think that the eulogistic address is the place to say something about Fenichel's position in the science of psychoanalysis. I would not be the eulogistic speaker and cannot give a paper on Fenichel's scientific work.

Cordially yours,

N.B. Dr. Bernfeld has dictated this letter. Since he is to be out of town for two days he phoned and asked me to mail it without his signature in order to avoid any delay.

Dorothy Valentine
Dorothy Valentine
Secretary.

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