

CANDIDATES CORNER

Dr. Phillip Pennington was the first discussant of Dr. Brian Bird's paper on Mother-Daughter Vexation at our March 26 Scientific Meeting. He led off what proved to be a free and stimulating discussion. This new policy of inviting candidates to discuss papers at such meetings has been enthusiastically received by most candidates and members I've heard from or overheard.

Congratulations to Drs. Ronald Mintz, R.Purchard, D.Fullerton, who passed their psychiatric boards on April 13. The boards were given for the first time at the NPI Clinic at UCLA. The same week Dr. Bertram Lewin, visiting from Pittsburgh, gave three seminars to the candidates. He was most lucid in the close contact that was made possible by the small seminars, in contrast to his formal presentation to the Societies, which many candidates found difficult to grasp. Our thanks go to Dr. Evans and Dr. Friedman, who arranged the meeting with Dr. Lewin. The more contact we can have with the people behind the ideas in psychoanalysis, the richer our training becomes.

There was much expression of feelings and ideas at the breakfast several candidates had with the visiting Committee on Institutes, on Saturday, April 25. Drs. Bing, Buxton and Kaiser set us at ease and encouraged free expression of all opinions. They left the opinion that candidates should feel

freer to contribute to the literature, and that learning should not stop with graduation.

There has been good news about our tax situation. All candidates received a copy of a tax decision out of Chicago that overruled the previous Namrow-Maxwell case. Dr. R. Edelman mentioned the caveat that it is only a special case, inasmuch as the medical deduction allowed was for a training analysis that preceded entrance into courses. But a cautious optimism is unavoidable to those of us who tend in that direction anyway.

The candidates wives group concluded its series of lectures. They have heard from Drs. Ekstein, Rollman-Branch, Motto, Williams, Friedman, Tausend, and Mrs. Garber.

On February 15, the Candidates Association, together with the candidates of "the other institute", gave a gambling party at the Glen Aire Country Club. Though Dr. Friedman had cautioned us to bring our own dice, the gamble paid off and everyone had a great time. The same joint sponsorship was in evidence at the cocktail party given for all visiting and local candidates at the Ambassador Hotel Saturday, May 2. Our annual dinner dance was May 16.

The new officers of the Candidates Association are President, Dr. Jose Amador; Vice-President, Dr. Frederick Kurth; and Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Edwin Kleinman.

M. SHANE

Dr. Ralph Greenson emphasized the importance of identification in building one's self-image. That portion of the image contributed in the phallic phase conflict is not nearly enough to give a coordinated consistent account of the development of femininity. Identity is significantly affected by the absence of the father, for it is composed not only of "how I am the same" but "how I am different." In the material cited one could read the symptomatology as a restitutive attempt to restore the lost father.

Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman, agreeing with previous commentators, felt that the patient's overevaluation of the mother's power, in the clinical material, might be understood as a reaction against her emerging hostility. He felt that the understanding of feminine psychology puts too much emphasis on castration. These formulations may reflect the male formulator's unconscious anxieties.

Dr. Leo Rangell doubted that "vexation" is so characteristic only of mother-daughter relationships. He felt, as did the other discussants, that special emphasis on the phallic material (for reasons of clarity) should not obscure the oral and anal material so evident. The jump from the clinical material to the general statements about feminine psychology was too great, although, in this particular case, the phallic and castrated identities did appear to be included in superego and ego. The gaps in our understanding of feminine psychology are as great as in our understanding of male psychology.

PSYCHOTIC ACTING OUT - ROYAL ROAD
OR PRIMROSE PATH?

Rudolf Ekstein, Ph. D.
Elaine Caruth, Ph. D.

Impulsive acting out behavior has traditionally been considered an obstacle to classical analytic treatment. Action was considered as a defense against memory and reflection. Interpretations to this effect were frequently misperceived by the patients as prohibitions against such behavior.

In more recent years, it has been recognized that acting out may also be a form of communication, a language in itself for the kind of patient who cannot "think out" but must instead "act out". In such instances, it must be regarded as a thought equivalent which, if understood correctly, can become the "royal road" to the unconscious of such patients.

The personality structure of patients who choose to communicate through acting out rather than through the language and symptomatology of the neurotic patient is a more primitive one, with more limited capacity for abstract symbolic thought, less capacity for postponement and delay, and little ability for reflection and insight.

Acting out may occur on a psychotic or non-psychotic level. Psychotic acting out reveals the primary thought disorder and may be regarded as the equivalent of a trial delusional thought. It follows the logic of the primary process and like dream work may appear archaic, unpredictable and irrational.

Franz Alexander (cont.)

His approach to psychoanalytic therapy was essentially a pragmatic one. . . Whatever one thinks of his answers, he did ask the right questions. What are the essential ingredients of therapeutic success? How best to conceptualize the therapeutic process? What is the role played by the analysts' personality? Why does insight help some but not others? Just to name a few of the questions raised. One was constantly forced to challenge comfortable long standing convictions and jogged into questioning reappraisal of cherished concepts.

In his desire to investigate, and to attempt to validate various assumptions about the therapeutic process, he willingly exposed his own technique to the critical, and, hopefully, objective scrutiny of other analysts. In so doing, he encouraged others of us to expose ourselves to a similar scrutiny. Observing him with a patient, one realized that the all too common disparity between publicly espoused theory and actual practice, did not exist.

'Broadening the spectrum of dissent' is as necessary to the viability of science (including psychoanalysis) as it is to the viability of democracy. Alexander's innovations served as an anti-theoretical force impinging on classical psychoanalytic techniques. Out of this current bitter controversy, the possibility is open for the creation of some future newer synthesis, new

gestalts of understanding of psychoanalysis as a therapeutic instrument. We will need such tools to deal with our mid-twentieth century emotional difficulties, the increasing numbers of character disorders, borderlines, the ego-defectives and those who seem to be losing their identity in our bewildering rapidly-changing unstable world.

Alexander's attitude of encouraging diversity and controversy, of provoking thinking along unaccustomed lines, did create an atmosphere in which people were not afraid to disagree, and when disagreeing with Alexander's answers, were stimulated to seek out better answers. Of course, there is a danger of indiscriminate use of such freedom resulting only in a new form of wild analysis. I believe, however, that there is a greater danger from the stifling of creative thought by self appointed defenders of psychoanalytic purity.

By serving as a catalyst, Alexander stirred many to research activity, the value of which only the future can decide. In this way, Nietzsche's comment that "The errors of great men may be more fruitful than the truths of lesser men" seems applicable to Alexander.

If he was not destined to discover the new paradigm (of which Gittelsohn spoke), he, at least, did not block the road.

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Ego Constriction (cont.)

reticular formation which provides the perceptual processes with an active organizing principle. This mechanism inhibits irrelevant perceptions thus freeing attention for relevant perceptions.

The characteristics of the processes of ego constriction and ego restriction are illustrated by material from two psychoanalytic patients, illustrating the genetic, adaptive, dynamic, economic and structural functions of ego constriction respectively. Also illustrated is the relationship between the primarily visual perception of danger and the instinctual impulse - defence conflicts, as well as the origin of the chronic defensive restriction of ego functioning having its origin in repetitive, intensely cathected episodes in early childhood, which were perceived and reacted to as dangerous.

The traumatic neuroses furnish examples of ego restriction in statu nascendi following traumatic ego constriction.

FRANZ ALEXANDER, M.D.
1891 - 1964

(H. Michael Rosow, M.D.)

Because I worked with Franz Alexander on a research project (The Nature of the Therapeutic Process), and was therefore in almost daily contact with him over a period of several years, I have been asked by our editor to comment briefly on his passing.

I found him to be a likeable and vital human being. Knowing him was to feel the impact of a vital personality; he appeared ageless and indestructible. Striking, too, was the unusual combination of wide erudition and sophistication, along with a zestful, wide-eyed, child-like curiosity. These qualities, along with a contagious enthusiasm, served as a ferment to stimulate all of us to do things such as devoting about three hours on the content of each therapeutic hour, month after month.

In the often heated discussions around the conference table, he listened to disagreements and criticisms of him with courtesy and restraint, and replied without malice - although it was evident that he had not changed his mind one iota. He accepted you as a person entitled to a respectful hearing (even if you belonged to 'that other' society).

Membership Activities, cont'd.

H. Michael Rosow co-chaired a panel on "Supervision of Group Psychotherapy" at the recently held annual meeting of the "L.A. Group Psychotherapy Society" (an interdisciplinary organization of psychoanalytically oriented group psychotherapists, to be distinguished from another group therapy association in L.A. which is more 'sociometrically' oriented.) Dr. Rosow also heads a conference dealing with group therapy at the V.A.O.P. Clinic and at the O.P. Parole Clinic of the Calif. Dept. of Corrections. Anyone interested in participating in discussions of the dynamics and possible treatment modalities of acting out criminal characters is invited to attend.

Leo Rangell addressed the Denver Psychoanalytic Society on "The Dynamics of Intra-Psychic Conflict" on May 15, 1964 and conducted a Conference for the Psychiatric Staff at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the same day.

Newly Elected Members

The following candidates, having completed their requirements of training were elected to regular membership on June 18, 1964:

Justin Call, M.D., Richard Edelman, M.D., Mark Orfirer, M.D.

Allan Rosenblatt, M.D. of San Diego, a graduate of Columbia University Psychoanalytic Institute and a member of the American Psychoanalytic Association, was elected to guest membership on June 25, 1964.

Our congratulations to them and we look forward to their participation in the affairs of the Society.

American Psychoanalytic Association Meeting

Members were well represented in the scientific proceedings of the 51st Annual Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association held here in Los Angeles at the Ambassador Hotel.

Maurice Walsh delivered a paper entitled "On Ego Constriction and Ego Restriction - a Contribution to the Metapsychology of Focusing and Inhibition of Ego Functions", a summary of which appears elsewhere in The Bulletin.

Rudolf Ekstein was a member of the panel on Working Through and presented his paper, "Psychotic Acting Out - Royal Road or Primrose Path?" which is also abstracted here.

Leo Rangell chaired the panel on "The Relationship Between Child Analysis and The Theory and Practice of Psychoanalysis."

Ralph Greenson chaired a discussion group on the "Problems of Psychoanalytic Technique", and was a member of the panel on "Working Through", as was Milton Wexler.

Samuel Sperling and Lawrence Friedman were section chairmen.

Charles Tidd led the discussion group concerned with "Teaching Psychoanalytic Concepts for Medical Students."

ABSTRACT OF DR. BRIAN BIRD'S ADDRESS, March 27, 1964 to Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society (Robert Zaitlin, M.D.)

MOTHER-DAUGHTER VEXATION:
A Study of the Phallic Phase of Female Development.

After reviewing the well known conceptualizations of feminine development, Dr. Bird presented his view that the vicissitudes for the girl, at phallic phase development, are often of more crucial importance than are oedipal conflicts.

He pointed to a peculiar type of quarreling - "mother-daughter vexation" which frequently reflects a failure of resolution of ties to the mother and is evidence also of a failure in the daughter's progress toward femininity.

Vivid case material of the successful analysis of an unmarried case worker was presented. A crucial point in the treatment illustrated her vexatious argumentations as part of her need to present her antagonist as powerful (a wish to preserve a phallic image of the mother) the better to keep alive the childhood wish that a proper phallus might yet be supplied.

Certain character manifestations were seen to reflect penis-envy, and others to reflect a reenactment of the pre-oedipal period in the child's life, different from penis-envy, in which she was a phallic boy-like girl.

Dr. Bird suggests that certain masochistic trends in women reflect a makeshift attempt to construct a superego figure that preserves a phallic image and an ego figure that depicts a lesser

"castrated" image. "...the question can be asked whether giving up the mother leads normally to girls' acquiring a phallic superego and a castrated ego!"

Loosening her ties with her mother is facilitated by the retentions-by-identification of the phallic image in superego the castrated image in ego. The old aggressive ego-ideal too, plays its part in the facultative capacity of women to be appropriately active and passive as different life situations may require.

Dr. Phillip Pennington's remarks took exception to the presentation of general statements about feminine psychology which did not include more diverse areas for the formulation of that construction. He pointed to child observations as evidence bearing out his belief that a major part of normal female development is born of non-conflictual elements.

Dr. Robert Stoller questioned the oft-repeated belief that male and female development runs parallel till the dawning of phallic awareness at the age of 3 or 4. His own researches point up a clear and persistent gender-identity which exists even in the face of the absence of appropriate genitals.

Dr. Helen Tausend commented on the anal and oral material in the case material, noting that illusory penises are often seen on mothers, when the father is absent.

Dr. Elaine Pollit pointed to the particular constellations in the case material in which the absent father and the frustrated mother could well account for some of the findings.

re Alexander p. 17

bulletin of the los angeles psychoanalytic society
institute for psychoanalysis

Ralph M. Obler, M.D., Editor

Editor's Comment

We have tried to enlarge the scope of 'The Bulletin' by including in this issue two new features.

The first is to print abstracts of papers either presented at meetings or recently published by our members.

The second feature is undertaken by Dr. Robert Zaitlin who will summarize both the formal presentation as well as the discussion of papers delivered at our scientific meetings.

These changes are being made because we felt that the suggestions to include same were most appropriate.

So we welcome (and even consider) all suggestions and will publish abstracts (250 words or less) of your papers and items about your professional activities.

The Summer of Our Discontent

Since the report of the Committee on Psychoanalytic Practices two absorbing Society business meetings have ensued.

That a lot of steam has been generated is obvious and there will be much discussion reaching all facets of our Society and Institute.

However, in spite of a spate of "causes" as well as "cures" that have been offered, the reasons for this discontent remain to be elucidated. This is not to say that significant issues are not in-

olved, but with a therapeutic catharsis followed by a calming deliberation which is possible in the forums already undertaken, these issues can be resolved with benefits to the membership as individuals as well as to the Society as a whole.

Newly Elected Officers

Institute

Jack A. Vatz, M.D., Director
Lawrence J. Friedman, M.D., Dean
of Training School
Henry Lihn, M.D., Assistant Dean
Maimon Leavitt, M.D., Secretary
Leonard M. Rosengarten, M.D.,
Treasurer
Henry Lihn, M.D., Director,
Psychoanalytic Clinic
Jack S. Abrams, M.D., Asst. Director
Psychoanalytic Clinic
Hilda S. Rollman-Branch, M.D., Director
Extension Division
Alfred Goldberg, M.D., Director,
Research Division

Society.

Leo Rangell, M.D., President
Maimon Leavitt, M.D., Vice-President
Maurice Walsh, M.D., Secretary
Norman Atkins, M.D., Treasurer
Samuel Futterman, M.D., Exec. Councilor
Samuel J. Sperling, M.D., Alt. Councilor

!!! REMINDER !!!

September 25, 26, 27, 1964
WEST COAST PSYCHOANALYTIC
SOCIETIES' MEETING

VACATION VILLAGE HOTEL, SAN DIEGO

Membership Activities

Robert Newhouse recently moved to Long Beach to become Director of the Mental Health Center at El Cerrito Hospital. He writes:

"There are only two other small clinics besides ours serving half a million people. We have no intake or diagnostic interviews, and no staff conferences to decide who is to be put on the waiting list. In fact, we are determined to operate without a waiting list. Each patient is seen throughout by the one social worker he sees at the time of his first visit. When patient and therapist know they are going to go on together, they are more interested and excited than under the traditional clinic system. We take full advantage of the special importance of the first hour. We must do the most we can as quickly as possible since we have only a few hours for each patient on an individual basis. We have group therapy for those needing longer treatment. We try to see all members of a family for diagnostic purposes. We then continue with many couples and families for treatment."

Marshall Schechter has moved from this area this summer to become Professor of Child Psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. We wish him all success and hope to have an early report from him for The Bulletin.

Leo Rangell writes about an unusual trip to New York:

"I recently had the opportunity to participate in a most novel and interesting research project in New York City during the weekend of April 3-4-5. This was a first project of its kind, sponsored by the Psychoanalytic Research and Development Fund of New York. The following invited guests were the participants, in addition to myself:

Anna Freud, Robert Waelder, Phyllis Greenacre, Marianne Kris, Albert J. Solnit, Peter B. Neubauer, Joseph Sandler.

A subject was assigned in advance, that of "Infantile Trauma". The participants prepared papers on the subject, which were circulated to all the participants in advance of the meeting. The entire three-day weekend was then devoted to a discussion of the issues. There was no audience, so that the discussion could have maximum freedom. Dr. Waelder chaired the meeting. Also present, as representatives of the Psychoanalytic Fund, were Drs. Mortimer Ostow and Sidney S. Furst. Miss Dorothy Burlingame came along as a guest of Miss Anna Freud. The discussions were most stimulating and interesting. The entire proceedings were taped and will be published as a book by Basic Books.