

March 3, 1950

G. Henry Katz, M.D.
111 North 49th Street
Philadelphia 39, Penn.

Dear Doctor Katz:

Many thanks for your letter of February 21st and the enclosed material which are both very helpful to us.

I have little doubt that the split is going to be carried out although at present efforts are being made both by some members of the Society and some candidates to prevent it.

Please feel free to show the information I have given you to those friends of yours who are interested. I shall keep you informed about important further developments here and should appreciate any news from you.

Sincerely,

Ernst Lewy, M.D.

EL/ab

Information about the situation in Philadelphia

obtained from talks with Drs. Knight, Pearson, Markowitz and Waelder at the winter meeting of the Am. Psa. Ass. in New York, Dec. 1949.

First time I heard about a split in the Phil. Psa Soc. was from RPK when I had breakfast with him on Dec. 17,

Same day I also talked with Markowitz, Pearson and Waelder.

At the business meeting, Dec. 18th, the split was officially announced.

There had been a rift for some time, between the so-called orthodox group on one side and the what I call the "recent advancementists" on the other. The orthodoxists used to be outnumbered and outvoted by one.

The leaders of the orthodoxists are Biddle, Pearson, Katz and Smeltz, the leaders of the "recent advancementists" are English, Maeder and others.

The orthodoxists first suggested a division within the society and institute without making a complete split. This, however, was rejected by the other, some resentment probably playing a role in it.

Dr. Waelder is going to teach in both institutes. I talked with him about this being surprised at this decision. He said he felt that although he presumed that some people would condemn him for this he felt he had to do it this way. He believes that Psa is a science in which different viewpoints cannot be easily proven right or wrong as in other sciences. He also feels one ought to be tolerant and that the differences did not really warrant or necessitate a split.

Philadelphia

Some of his remarks I understood to mean that he feels personally too vulnerable to take sides in this controversy.

Very interesting was what I learned about plans of the orthodoxists --I did not talk to the other group-- to re-vamp their method of teaching. They plan to discard the customary lectures and seminars. Each student of which they will have appr. 25 will have assigned to him a so-called senior preceptor and a junior preceptor and meet with each of them weekly. The students will have to do very intensive and extensive reading which will be the basis of their theoretical instruction. They will discuss thoroughly with their preceptors what they have read. This way, they hope, the students will at last do the necessary reading they did not do properly so far.

In addition to this kind of private tutoring there will be some form of seminars once or twice months under the leadership of some of the instructors.

They also expect this new method to enable the instructors much better to know the individual candidates and how good or bad they are .

It will be left to the students to decide with what group they want to be. Only for those who are already in analysis the decision is naturally made for them to be on the side of their training analysts.

The reasons for the split were more of a technical nature, I believe. The orthodoxists accused the others of too much "fraternizing" and "socializing" with their analysands. Also of using too active technique. Also of reducing too much the number of psy hours per week. I did not hear anything about other divergences of opinion on more theoretical concepts, but I do assume that my info is complete.

Additional notes on dictation on situation in Philadelphia:

This complete split-up, of course, would have some difficult consequences for the training activities and for the students, especially in regard to the V.A. benefits. An interim solution has been arranged ~~by~~. Until the new institute will have been recognized by the V.A., it will be operating still under the auspices of the old institute that has existed heretofore. I have no further details about this.

EL/et