

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Thursday, March 26, 1964, 7:30 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

A Special Business Meeting was called to hear the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Executive Council of The American Psychoanalytic Association, which had been established to study the problems involved in the formation of a section on child analysis in order to further the scientific development of the psychoanalysis of children in the United States. Dr. Rangell, a member of this Committee, summarized the background conflicts that led to the creation of this Committee and succinctly reviewed the pros and cons for the establishment of such a "section on child analysis of The American Psychoanalytic Association."

After an exhaustive discussion of the pros and cons, the Committee members agreed that the decision to establish a special section should properly depend on whether adequate safeguards against its potential disadvantages could, in fact, be devised as its proponents maintain. The Committee believed that such safeguards were possible, and they included specific recommendations:

1. The section be called "Scientific Forum on Child Analysis of The American Psychoanalytic Association."
2. Participation in this Forum should include all interested members of The American. It should not be limited to participation by practicing child analysts. All members of the Association interested in child analysis and child development should be urged to join whether they practice child analysis or not. In addition, other carefully selected individuals should be included who are either child analysts or students of child development and allied fields.
3. They recommended that the selection of such other individuals be the responsibility of a committee, all of whom shall be members of The American Psychoanalytic Association, as well as participants in the proposed Scientific Forum.
4. They recommended that the word "member" not be used in referring to the individuals comprising the proposed Forum. An alternative term such as "participant" or "associate" is preferable in order to avoid misunderstanding.
5. They recommended that if the Council approves establishment of such a Forum, the matter be referred to the entire membership of the Association for approval by mail ballot.
6. The proposed Forum be established by, and under the control of, the Executive Council. They recommended also that provision be made for close liaison of the proposed Forum with both the Committee on Postgraduate Development and the Program Committee.
7. They recommended that there be a review of the Forum after it has been in operation for three years in order to evaluate at that time how well its objectives are being realized and its possible disadvantages and dangers are being avoided.

These recommendations will go before the Council and if approved, will be discussed further by our Society prior to a general vote by the membership of The American.

Dr. Miriam Williams told of the attempt to solve this problem locally. She said that there is a group called "The Child Psychoanalytic Study Group," consisting of about 26 or 27 members, which has opened its doors to people from the Hampstead Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic, etc., who are qualified child analysts. This group has been meeting on a monthly basis for several years although it has been temporarily discontinued. She also indicated that qualified persons not members of local Societies or The American Psychoanalytic Association can participate as guests of The American. For these reasons she questioned the advisability of having such a Forum.

Dr. Rangell commented that it was necessary to have a forum for just the people that Dr. Williams had mentioned. These people do not have an official group or an official identity. These persons, consisting of child analysts and people interested in child development, have expressed their interest to him in having such a group.

Dr. Van Dam expressed the view that rather than "allow them" to come to meetings if they want to, they should actively be encouraged to come and participate in the meetings.

Dr. Mott moved that we accept the Ad-Hoc Committee's report. This was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Ruben, however, felt that this committee report should have much more discussion. She was of the opinion that a forum would not necessarily lead to new scientific productivity. It was finally decided that our Councilor use his own judgment at the Council. If the Council approves of the Ad-Hoc Committee report, then a further discussion will be held at a Society Meeting before any general vote of The American Psychoanalytic Association.

Announcements:

Dr. Sperling announced the following:

- a. There will be a memorial meeting for Dr. Franz Alexander on Sunday, May 3, 1964, between the meetings of The American Psychoanalytic Association and the American Psychiatric Association. Many psychoanalytic and psychiatric groups were going to sponsor this memorial meeting, and we too had been asked to be a sponsor. After some discussion on this, the Society resolved to accept, along with the other groups, a joint sponsorship of the memorial meeting.
- b. The Resthaven Auxiliary invites us to "go to bat for Resthaven's psychiatric hospital" by going to the Dodger-Giant baseball game on Friday, May 1, 1964. You can buy reserved-seat tickets for \$5 (all seats between home plate and first base) from them and go to the game via special bus. For details see announcement on bulletin board in the Society office.
- c. The Southern California Psychoanalytic Society is offering a special scientific program on Thursday, April 2, 1964, 8 p.m. sharp, at the Institute building, 9024 Olympic Boulevard, Beverly Hills. Dr. Herbert Rosenfeld of London, England, will speak on "The Psychopathology of Narcissism; a Clinical Approach." Discussants: Alex Blumstein, M. D., and John A. Lindon, M. D.

New Business:

Dr. Sperling recommended that the local societies sponsor a cocktail party for members of The American Psychoanalytic Association during the convention to be held here. It was thought that approximately 250 out-of-town guests and 250 local people would come to this party. The estimated cost of the cocktail party would be approximately \$2000 to be divided by both societies. After considerable discussion the party plan was voted down.

Sidney Fine, M. D. for
Maimon Leavitt, M. D.
Secretary

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