

PSYCHOANALYTIC PIONEERS¹

Southern California
Psychoanalytic
Society

This meeting was a presentation of brief summaries of five chapters from a forthcoming book on psychoanalytic pioneers.

Introduction - Martin Grotjahn

The project of writing a book about psychoanalytic pioneers grew from an idea of Dr. Samuel Eisenstein. I joined the project, having already been interested in this topic, and Dr. Franz Alexander was added as a man who has lived with many psychoanalytic pioneers. The book has three purposes: one, to provide a contribution to the history of psychoanalysis; two, to describe the early psychoanalysts in the framework of their contributions to the psychoanalytic movement; three, to emphasize and describe the spirit of pioneering, so important to the progress of psychoanalysis.

A psychoanalytic pioneer was defined as a man who early recognized the importance and truth of psychoanalysis and devoted his life to psychoanalysis and the teaching of it. At the present time, we are at a great enough distance from the early pioneers to see them clearly, but not yet so distant that we have begun to develop elaborate myths about them.

ERNST SIMMEL by John S. Peck, M. D.

Simmel is of particular interest since he came to

1. Summary of the scientific meeting of the Southern California Psychoanalytic Society, April 15, 1963.

Southern California in 1934 and was instrumental in organizing the development of psychoanalysis in California. His early contributions related to the understanding of war neuroses, psychoanalytic treatment in a sanitarium setting, and several early and interesting papers such as "The Doctor Game" and "A Dream Screen in Statu-Nascendi." Simmel was very active in the beginnings of the Berlin Institute and helped develop important aspects of psychoanalytic training; ie, supervised psychoanalyses.

EDUARD E. HITSCHMANN by Dr. Philip Becker

Hitschmann was very close to Freud in the early days in Vienna and remained intensely loyal to him till the end of the Vienna Society. He was a witty and original man who in 1909 wrote the first comprehensive book on psychoanalysis, titled "Freud's Theories of the Neuroses." Hitschmann wrote many studies of creativity and many "psychobiographies" of prominent people. He felt creativity consisted of two steps; the first an inspiration made up of narcissistic acknowledgment of unconscious material, and the second step the elaboration of this material into a communicable form. He felt creative people all had been intense day-dreamers in childhood which, when given up, led to creativity. Hitschmann fled to London in 1938 and then to Boston in 1940, where he died at the age of 88 in 1957, having practiced psychoanalysis 18 years longer than Freud himself.

MAX EITINGON by Dr. Sydney L. Pomer

Eitingon is often overlooked and is a frequent object for ambivalence. He was a wealthy man, devoted to Freud, and really underwent the first training analysis, during frequent walks with Freud. He was a cultured, earnest, shy man who went to Berlin with Abraham, intending to stay briefly, and remained there for twenty years. He became Secretary of the Berlin Society and was always willing to give financial help to anyone in psychoanalysis. He endowed the first psychoanalytic clinic in Berlin and became the president of The International Psychoanalytic Association. In 1934, Eitingon went to Palestine, where he founded the Palestine Psychoanalytic Society. Freud described him as a faithful servant, and a helper who progressed in Freud's esteem "from friendship to sonship."

CARL G. JUNG by Sheldon Salesnick, M. D.

Jung made certain definite contributions to psychoanalysis, although his deviation from psychoanalysis is more greatly emphasized. Jung's elaboration of Bleuler's ideas about word association provided a bridge between psychoanalysis and experimental psychology. Jung's book on dementia praecox in 1906 provided an integrated view combining chemical and psychogenic ideas. Freud originally felt that Jung's ideas about myths and fables being analogous to dreams were good ones, and it apparently was Jung who brought Schreber's autobiography to Freud's attention. It was Jung's questioning

of Freud's manner of dealing with the problems of neurosis vs. psychosis and his early sexual explanations which pushed Freud into distinguishing between the self-preservative ego instincts and the sexual instincts.

PAUL SCHILDER by Dr. Isidore Zifferstein

Schilder was a true genius, a universal scholar who wrote over 300 papers covering a broad range. His goal was an eventual synthesis of all knowledge about man's relationship with himself, with other men and with the world around him.

It was Schilder's contention that experience should not be divided into discrete elements such as vision, etc., that only the whole concept can make an experience intelligible. The psychic and the somatic cannot be separated, and psychoanalysts should do their own physical examinations on their patients.

Schilder is particularly well-known for his ideas about body image, and even pioneered in group psychotherapy. He died in 1940 at the age of 54, after a lifetime of restless searching and creativity.

John S. Peck, M. D., Reporter