

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

June 16, 1966

by

Albert Kandelin M.D.

For more than three years the History Committee has acted to study, organize and preserve the history of our Society. The first two years were principally occupied with an Oral History Program; a series of recorded interviews were made with pioneer members and the tapes have been transcribed into transcript. To do this work we were assisted and advised by the Oral History Department at U.C.L.A. Subsequently many groups, organizations and industries have adopted this method, and a first Oral History Colloquium<sup>WITH NATIONAL PARTICIPATION</sup> is being sponsored by UCLA in September at Lake Arrowhead and our Committee has been invited to participate. This we plan to do and hope to update our techniques; additional interviews of prominent members appear desirable.

Two years ago the Committee began attempts to make a record of the Society's history in narrative form, and promptly discovered the agonies of creative effort. However some short pieces have emerged; half a dozen have appeared in the Society Bulletin. More writing needs to be done to achieve a basic unit narrative; perhaps this awaits the touch of a talented individual.

We now have a considerable mass of documentary material contributions of our members. Drs. Lewy and Tidd have been

especially generous. Much material from the Simmel era was found in storage in a back closet at the Institute; also we have been given additional material by Michael Hunter, Simmel's son. Here we need the services of psychoanalytic scholarship and German translation. A potential project lies in the untranslated papers of Simmel, and some unpublished.

The size of our growing archive has made for a difficult task, classifying, filing and storage. Recently we sought assistance from the Department of Special Collections, UCLA Library, to learn something about techniques. In so doing I discovered they have a collection of psychoanalytic materials, the donation of J.E.Reynolds a bookseller in Van Nuys, presumably acquired from some member of Simmel's family. This is an interesting and important collection going back in time to the years of the First War and includes many of the records of the psychoanalytic Sanatorium at Tegel.

Also UCLA is in the process of negotiating to acquire the SIGFRIED AND SUZANNE BERNFELD papers a very valuable collection relevant to the development of analysis in Europe and America. Included is original correspondence with all the leading figures of the first generation analysts, the original manuscripts of Jones biography of Freud, and materials collected by the Bernfelds for a Freud biography, etc. We may be helpful in assisting the UCLA Library in acquiring this collection.

We should commence consideration of the UCLA Department of Special Collections as a repository for our valuable papers thus availing our Society the advantages of professional

cataloguing, protection, air conditioning, etc. Our Freud letters deserve better security than a filing cabinet in a commercial building. Our committee would participate in the process of classification and transfer in association with professional archivists.

On a national level a Committee on Archives has been appointed to commence a study of analytic history, and in this we expect to participate. In San Francisco there is no formal committee or program although Dr. Windholz has taken a personal interest in their history. He has loaned some of his material to us. On a state level the State Department of Mental Hygiene is proposing a five year program to study the history of the care of the mentally ill in California; we have been approached to participate.

I hope I have informed you of the state of affairs regarding matters historical. We invite your interest and participation.