

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 15, 1964

BULLETIN NO. 2

To: All Members

From: Leo Rangell, M. D.

Greetings:

I would like to greet all of you after the summer break and to continue communication at the beginning of this new academic year. I must say that the interim has regrettably not been a lull but that there has been a continuous stream of activity in preparation for what lies ahead.

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Next Scientific Meeting:

You have all received by now the announcement of our opening Scientific Meeting on October 20. We look forward to this presentation by a visitor from London, Dr. Margaret Little, and her views on transference in the borderline states from which discussions can proceed in a number of directions.

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Scientific Atmosphere:

I would like to express to you the goals of this administration with regard to our scientific activity for this coming year. Dr. Sarlin is sending you a separate memo from the Program Committee on this same subject. We invite all of your views, both in whatever organized presentations you may wish to offer as well as in free and informal discussions at every opportunity. The Scientific Meetings will of course be the primary platform for this, but we also wish to encourage an open discussion of all views at any group get-togethers, formal or informal, at which this might be appropriate (such as post-graduate study groups, etc.). No psychoanalytic views, opinions, or hunches are subversive. We invite all to be free to bring ideas out into the light of day for mutually respectful discussion. We will do our part to assure such. We hope you will make the offers, and the Society will provide the opportunities.

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Committees of the Society:

Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find a finalized list of the Committees of our Society. While the completed list may look simple and routine, it took much doing and we are happy with the outcome. We have an unprecedented percentage of participation, with sixty of our members serving. Almost (but not quite) all of those asked graciously accepted the invitations with the expression of earnest intentions.

Organizational  
Work Need Not  
Be Deadly:

Administrative work need not be a deadly chore. I can tell you from long experience that a dynamic attitude towards organizational structure can reveal and make meaningful the function behind it and can bring one close to the heart of our professional and philosophical raison d'etre. Nor need this, as some fear, interfere with one's creativity; one may even find that it enhances it.

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Committee  
Meetings:

I have urged the Chairmen of all Committees to call meetings of their Committees early in the year regardless of whether or not definite projects are apparent at this time. This can be expected not only to stimulate a spirit of co-operation and group effort but also to bring to the surface areas of interest and action now latent.

Another innovation we have in mind is to encourage a progress report from each Committee Chairman to be delivered during a Society Business Meeting at least once during the coming year. This will not only be informative to the Society but might help each Committee crystallize out the area of its work.

Another meeting which I have encouraged and asked for is one between the Chairmen of Program, Extension Division, Research, Post-Graduate, and Arrangements to try to work out a clear delineation between their respective areas. Each time a potential speaker or visitor is brought to mind the need for such a clear division becomes apparent. There is obviously a good deal of overlap and common interest but also the need to separate the respective areas for practical and administrative as well as scientific purposes. This can be expected to facilitate a maximum amount of co-operation and mutual interchange.

All thoughts, questions, and suggestions which you may have about organizational matters will be welcomed by me at any time.

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The Auxiliary:

Our newly formed Auxiliary enjoyed an inauguration luncheon meeting at Scandia's on September 11, 1964. I was happy to participate in this event to install the officers and to try to indicate the principles under which such a group might operate. The new Officers who were installed at that meeting were:

- President: Mrs. Rocco Motto
- Vice-President: Mrs. Kenneth Rubin
- Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. George Leventhal
- Recording Secretary: Mrs. Neal Peterson
- Treasurer: Mrs. Norman Atkins
- Board Members at Large: Mrs. Jack Abrams  
Mrs. Seymour Pastron  
Mrs. Samuel Sperling

Representatives from our Society who will serve as liaison to the Auxiliary will be Drs. Jack Abrams and Seymour Pastron. We look forward to interesting projects and other developments from this group.

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West Coast Meetings:

For those of you who were not able to attend the recent West Coast Psychoanalytic Meetings at San Diego, I can report that they were highly successful and productive in all respects. The scientific presentations, panels, and discussions as well as the social and geographic pleasures were abundant. No small part of the pleasure was the warm and fruitful contacts with our West Coast colleagues from Mexico to Seattle to Denver and even including Los Angeles.

You will soon be hearing the first sounding-out about next year's meetings.

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Committee on Institutes of The American Psychoanalytic Association:

I hope you have all taken the opportunity to read and study the Report of the findings and opinions of the Committee on Institutes of The American Psychoanalytic Association. It was decided both by that Committee as well as by the Professional Committee of our own Institute that because of the close integration between our Society and Institute, the Society members take an equal interest and responsibility towards the findings and recommendations which were made. The Report is on file at the Society office for any of you to see as well as the copies in the possession of the Director, the Dean, the President, and the Chairman of the Committee on Mutual Problems of Society and Institute. This Report has been and will continue to be discussed at many different levels.

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Concerning Two Coming Mail Ballots From The American:

Other material which has just been received and which is on file at the Society office concerns the two mail ballots presently to be submitted for vote by the membership of The American Psychoanalytic Association. These have to do with:

- 1) The establishment of a Scientific Forum on Psychoanalytic Child Psychology,
- 2) "A Proposed amendment to the By-Laws authorizing a new qualification for membership in The Association for certain analysts who are authorized to conduct training or supervision by the Board on Professional Standards who are not physicians."

A voluminous material containing the text of the recommendations as well as the statements of numerous people and groups on both sides of these questions have been included. Much effort has been expended to produce an informed membership on these questions, and we hope you will avail yourselves of this material. The mail ballots will be

mailed on or about November 1, 1964, and will be returnable within 21 days after receipt.

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International Congress in 1965:

The next International Psychoanalytic Congress will be held in Amsterdam, July 25-30, 1965. We have received an announcement from the San Francisco group of plans which they are making for a possible charter flight. Dr. William Horowitz will take care of our possible participation in this or any other plan and has already circularized you for initial information.

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Speakers' Bureau:

Another inquiry which is planned to reach you soon has to do with the availability of speakers to answer the many requests which come our way. A co-ordinated effort towards this end will come to you soon from Dr. Richard Casady for the Public-Information Committee and Dr. Robert Dorn from the Committee on Social Problems.

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Post-Graduate Education:

Several post-graduate groups have again started meeting. You have received an announcement from Dr. Michael Rosow about the proposed program by Dr. Herbert Fingaretto.

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"Fact" Magazine:

I wonder if you know about the recent dubious and controversial questionnaire sent by the Editor of "Fact" Magazine to seek a national survey of psychiatric opinion on the fitness for the presidency of Senator Barry Goldwater. Much publicity has been given to this and much opposition has been registered about this type of activity from many psychiatric and psychoanalytic sources. I invite your interest and discussions on this subject. The matter is being taken up in a number of places. An excellent statement just received from The American Psychoanalytic Association on this subject is posted on the Society Bulletin Board for you to read. This statement, which expresses concern over such a use of professional opinion, was released to the press last week.

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Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors has continued to hold regular and frequent meetings on specific issues as well as on important matters of policy.

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I invite your calls, letters, or other communications and will endeavor to keep you all informed on whatever matters may be relevant.

Cordial greetings,

Leo Rangell, M. D.

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