

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BULLETIN NO. I

To: All Members

From: Leo Rangell, M. D.

In the interest of direct and fruitful communication, I will send these Bulletins from time to time to keep you informed whenever a sufficient number of relevant items warrant it. I would like to take this opportunity to greet all of you before the inactivity of the summer vacations takes full hold and to bridge the gap in this way until the fall. I should like to inform you of what has been going on of interest since our last official meeting.

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Minutes:

Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find the Minutes of the last two meetings simultaneously; i.e., Dr. Sidney Fine's Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 18 and Dr. Maurice Walsh's Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 25. You will see at once that these are both atypically lengthy and detailed. Please be assured that you will not be burdened with such completeness during more routine meetings the rest of the coming year. We have decided to permit such a detailed recording at this time because of the special nature of these past two sessions.

In each case (with the first Minutes, Dr. Sperling's outgoing Presidential Address can be considered as part of the proceedings) these records can be looked upon as a continuation in extenso and a further documentation of the provocative and challenging report distributed earlier by the Committee for the Study of Psychoanalytic Practice. Both for those who were not present at our last meeting as well as for those who were, we are sure that a recording of the extensive discussions which took place will be found of value towards achieving a still further understanding. An opportunity to digest these expressed opinions will in itself constitute one of the "actions" prompted by the Committee's report.

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Board of Directors of Society:

For your information, the Board of Directors of your Society, consisting of the Officers and the immediate Past-President, has already held several productive meetings in the short time since our last Business Meeting. These were held in the spirit of establishing a cohesive group to direct the functioning of the Society rather than individuals alone. Among the matters taken up were decisions as to which committees remain necessary and which may have become superfluous, discussions

about potential committee personnel, and various specific functions of the Board of Directors, including its function as the Society's Grievance Committee. The Board will continue to meet and to be in close touch to conduct the interim business of the Society.

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Committee for the Study of Psychoanalytic Practice:

Among the items considered, of special interest is the fact that, in accordance with the charge given to it at the last meeting, the Board considered extensively the fate of the Committee for the Study of Psychoanalytic Practice. After considering the spectrum of opinions expressed by the membership, it was decided to accept the report with our profound thanks and not to reappoint this Committee, whose term expired at the time of our recent Annual Meeting. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board, concurred in by Dr. Horowitz and Dr. Rosengarten, Co-Chairmen of the Committee, that the function of the Committee has already been achieved, at least as much as can be done at this particular point. It was felt that the "study" has been completed, in fact in a most commendable way, and that further meetings for the expression of opinion were not as likely to be as fruitful or timely as were the two in the past. The Board agreed with the opinions expressed by many that what has been done has been most productive and that it is imperative to prevent cloture, but what is in order now is not further content but its applications, in whatever forms these are indicated.

Further Channels:

To that end we feel that the following continuing channels are open for the necessary actions which may need to follow. First, all relevant matters which apply to the relationships between Society, Institute, and Education Committee will come under the scrutiny of the Joint Committee of Society and Institute to Study Mutual Problems. This Committee will consider both the broad principles involved as well as whatever technical and organizational implementations may be indicated. Though its orientation will be from the long-range point of view, the Committee will consider this part of its work urgent and crucial and will keep the Society informed of its ongoing deliberations.

As a more specific follow-up action, the Society has received an invitation from the Education Committee to present to it whatever opinions or problems may be relevant to the training situation. We look favorably upon this invitation and intend to select a group which will be representative not only of the Committee on Practice but of the general membership of the Society to bring such matters before a forthcoming meeting of the Education Committee.

Other channels for action and change will fall into the domain of specific existing Committees, which we hope have been alerted to take note of specifically relevant segments of the discussions which apply to their areas of interest. Thus many points made about "image" and public relations will be of moment to the Committee on Public Information, on community activities to the Committee on Social Problems, on scientific development to the Committee on Postgraduate Education and the Program Committee, etc.

In addition, all of your elected Officers, including myself, stand ready

to receive subsequent opinions along any or all avenues opened up by the Committee's report. Whenever indicated, such data will be brought to the attention of the Society. There is also our function as a Grievance Committee when indicated, as mentioned above.

Lastly, every Business Meeting of the Society is a Plenary Session, during which continuing free interchange of opinion is not only possible but welcome. And in addition to all of the above, there is, perhaps most beneficial of all, the continuous inter-member exchange which we hope has been stimulated by all the discussions to date.

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Re Committee Appointments:

I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to let me know of your particular interests and where you each would like to serve your Society best. You will certainly understand that it may not be possible to grant each his first choice, but it is our wish to use each of you in his maximal and most comfortable capacity. For your information, a list of the Committees which will function this coming year is as follows:

- Arrangements Committee
- By-Laws Committee
- Committee for the History of the Society
- Committee on Hospitals
- Committee on Mental Health
- Committee for Postgraduate Education
- Committee for Public Information
- Committee on Social Problems
- Correspondent to the Bulletin of the Philadelphia Association for Psychoanalysis
- Correspondent to the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association
- Editorial Board of the Bulletin of the Society and Institute
- Housing Committee
- Joint Committee of the Society and Institute to Study Mutual Problems
- Membership Committee (by election)
- Program Committee

Would you please notify me, either directly or through Jean Kameon, of your wishes.

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Congratulations:  
Society Bulletin

Congratulations to Dr. Obler and his Editorial Staff for the second number of the Society Bulletin which has just appeared. This is an additional source of communication and can serve as a vehicle for the transmission of news, the expression of opinion, and abstracts of scientific products. Any suggestions for improvement or expansion will always be welcome.

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Committee for  
the History of  
the Society:

I will be meeting throughout the summer with the Officers and with key Committee Chairmen. This week I will be meeting with the Committee for the History of the Society, in which Dr. Kandelin and his dedicated group are continuing to make progress. This is a very interesting project which has been coming up with interesting findings as well as meeting vexing obstacles. Incidentally, it seems wise to change this Committee from a Standing to an Ad-Hoc Status, until its assigned work is accomplished, rather than to interrupt its continuity from year to year. This accordingly is being done.

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And with that the summer is upon us! Though too little of it is left, I hope you enjoy it, and we look forward to a productive and happy psychoanalytic year ahead.

Best regards.

Cordially,

Leo Rangell, M. D.

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