LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Thursday, December 19, 1963, 8 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 p.m. by Dr. Sperling, President. There were thirty-two members present.

1. The minutes of the meeting of November 21, 1963, were accepted as distributed.

2. Report of the Treasurer - Dr. Fine:

It is anticipated that the Society will be able to meet its expenses without raising its dues.

3. Report of the Councilors to The American Psychoanalytic Association - Drs. Futterman and Rollman-Branch:

The Councilors' reports are on file in the Society office.

In addition, Dr. Rollman-Branch remarked that the question of guest speakers for our Society is under constant review. The matter of expenses in regard to such speakers is of considerable importance, since the geographical distance necessarily entails additional reimbursement. Further co-operative arrangements with other Western societies would help in this respect. Dr. Rollman-Branch inquired as to the feeling of the membership regarding occasional joint meetings with the Southern California Psychoanalytic Society in instances when selected out-of-state speakers were available. There was some variety of opinion, predominanatly favorable, expressed on this point without a specific conclusion being reached at this juncture.

4. Report from the Public Information Committee of The American Psychoanalytic Association - Dr. Harrison:

This report is on file in the Society office.

7. Announcements:

Dr. Sperling requested alteration in the sequence of the agenda to permit the following announcements to be made:

Dr. Sperling announced the following:

a. There is thought of starting a Society newsletter and he requested an expression of sentiment from the membership regarding this possibility. Substantial interest was expressed and the matter will be investigated further.

b. The Committee on Child Analysis is about to start a new course which will be open to interested members, who should contact Dr. Van Dam.

c. The annual Christmas party will be held Friday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m., in the Reiss-Davis auditorium. Spouses are particularly invited.

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d. Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman reported from the Board on Professional Standards regarding its study of the Pittsburgh Institute and the general investigation of university affiliated institutes, of which there are now four. The Board was much impressed by these institutes and their arrangement and noted the complete independence the institutes maintain. The success of the arrangements seems to depend largely upon who organizes the situation and for what purpose.

Dr. Friedman also reported briefly on the Committee on Institutes regarding the study they have been making of the individual institutes and of the relationship of the institutes to The American. The institutes are primarily maintained as training schools, and there has been discussion and review of the relationships between this and various other functions of the institutes.

e. Dr. Friedman announced that Dr. Richard D. Evans will be moving to Santa Barbara in the near future but will maintain his status as training analyst, that Dr. Fenichel was reappointed training analyst, and that Dr. Lewis J. Fielding has been appointed training analyst. He also stated that the Chairman of the Child-Analysis Committee has been invited to regularly attend the meetings of the Education Committee, since there is no training analyst in the former group.

f. Dr. Casady announced again the meetings of the Latin-American Psychoanalytic Societies and inquired as to interest in the possibility of a group flight and other related travel arrangements. Upon the positive responses of the membership, he indicated that he will pursue these matters.

5. By-Laws Committee - Dr. Ourieff:

Two questions have been raised by the Board of Directors for consideration by the By-Laws Committee and the membership: at present the quorum consists of one-third of the membership, and because of the growing size of the Society and the difficulties of achieving this quorum regularly, consideration is requested for reducing the required vote to one-quarter of the membership. Also, regarding delinquent membership dues, the question of procedure in such cases requires clarification. In regard to the latter point, the By-Laws Committee is recommending the following provision: that dues unpaid by April 1 be considered delinquent and voting privileges be rescinded as of June 1. After three years of non-payment, the delinquent member would be subject to disciplinary action as provided in the By-Laws. Dr. Horowitz urged efforts towards increasing attendance rather than decreasing the quorum. Dr. Sarlin suggested the possibility of compulsory attendance. Dr. Sperling noted that The American is considering action on delinquencies and we should as well. There was further active discussion without definitive action at this time.

Dr. Lawrence Friedman remarked that he had requested previously that changes in the By-Laws be withheld pending consideration of a reorganization plan. He has submitted such a proposal to the Society and Institute for consideration, but it has not appeared on the agenda. Dr. Sperling replied that it had not been understood that it had been submitted as a proposal for action but rather for information. With this present understanding, the proposal will be considered by the Board of Directors for the agenda. Regarding dues of newly elected members, the Board of Directors has recommended that the dues be pro-rated on a quarterly basis beginning with the next quarter following the election. Dr. Ourieff noted that this action does not require alteration of the by-Laws but can be done administratively. This proposal of the Board of Directors was moved by Dr. Futterman, s/Dr. Vatz, m/c unanimously.

6. Ladies' Auxiliary Ad-Hoc Committee - Dr. Pastron:

Dr. Pastron suggested postponing consideration till the next Business Meeting because of the lateness of the hour.

8. New Business:

a. Dr. Rollman-Branch reintroduced the matter of occasional co-operative meetings with the Southern California Psychoanalytic Society, noting that we have often had the same speakers appearing before each Society separately. Various members raised inquiries regarding past mutual arrangements and financial aspects. Dr. Lawrence Friedman noted that in the instance of the one jointly sponsored meeting (Anna Freud) the arrangement was between the two Education Committees, not the Societies. Dr. Futterman urged such an arrangement on an occasional trial basis, and Dr. Rosow moved that "efforts be made for joint meetings with the Southern California Psychoanalytic Society, with speakers to be selected by the Program Chairman," s/Dr. Ourieff. Dr. Sperling urged further discussion before instituting such a policy, noting that members do attend each others' Society meetings and that the arrangements in the past have tended to be rather one-sided. Dr. Friedman remarked that finances are not the issue but rather that it is important for two groups of analysts who co-operate in many national-association affairs to attempt to function better on a local level; it would be a healthy move if the two Societies could occasionally and selectively arrange such joint events. Dr. Sarlin reiterated that the Program Chairmen would be in the best position to select the instances, depending upon the speakers available and that such arrangements need not affect the presentation, but Dr. Sperling commented that such an arrangement would limit the number and choice of discussants. Dr. Friedman commented that this could be safely left to the discretion of the Chairmen. Dr. Ourieff called for a vote on the motion. Dr. Sperling wished to note his protest against such action by the relatively small number of members present, following which the motion passed.

Dr. Malin moved, s/Dr. Atkins, that "a committee be appointed to explore the reorganization plan submitted by Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman and to contact the Institute for the purpose of forming a joint committee to study this plan." Dr. Sperling offered extended remarks and suggested that such action should more properly come from the Institute; it would require certain actions by the Institute relative to their voting situation, and if the majority of training analysts were opposed, then there could be no further consideration. Therefore such action is pointless unless the initiative comes from the Institute first. He urged again consideration of the motion, partly since such a small number of members were present and there was not adequate opportunity for discussion of the plan at this time. Dr. Friedman noted that the motion calls only for a committee to study the plan, not for action upon it. In the circumstances it is appropriate that such a motion be presented, and it is necessary that it be acted upon. He expressed his concern that the reaction to the proposal has been ignoring and inaction. Dr. Sperling reiterated that the presentation of the proposal had not been understood as a call for action but only as information; such an important issue as this should be placed on a future agenda for the information of members and action after due consideration rather than on the very limited consideration here and now available. Dr. Malin stated that such a committee could help to bring to the membership the importance of this issue and encourage democratic consideration. Dr. Ourieff commented that if there were a preponderant conviction on the part of the membership of the Society, it would necessarily be influential

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in the considerations of the Education Committee and the Institute. Dr. Malin's motion carried.

b. Dr. Fine moved that the Society approve the expenditure of $225 toward the purchase of a new addressograph; s/Dr. Rollman-Branch, m/c.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Maimon Leavitt, M. D.
Secretary

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