

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY
SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Time: Friday, February 26, 1965, 8 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Speaker: John D. Benjamin, M. D.

Subject: "Some Comments on Transference and Secondary Autonomy"

The following is Dr. Benjamin's abstract of his paper:

"The proposition is advanced that it is useful to consider the varieties and vicissitudes of the transference and transference neurosis in psychoanalytic therapy from a number of conceptual points of view, in order to establish valid empiric relationships between transference manifestations within and outside of therapy, and between both of these and other phenomena.

Among such relationships the role of regression in the transference neurosis has justifiably received the most attention, though much remains to be studied even there. Equally closely related to transference in general, however, is the "repetition compulsion," using this term in its clinical rather than metapsychological meaning. After brief discussion of this distinction, it, in turn, will be related to the main topic of the paper: transference and secondary autonomy of the ego, in Hartmann's sense. The author follows Hartmann also in believing that it is necessary to go beyond the general and global concept of the ego as such, and deal with specific ego functions. The one to receive chief attention here will be the function of discrimination, as it relates to reality testing.

One particular form of faulty discrimination, for which, with some reluctance, the awkward and potentially confusing term "misidentification" is used, will be the focus of clinical and theoretical discussion. Considered as an example of lack of secondary autonomy of the function of discrimination, a "functional ego deficit," it will be examined, on the basis of clinical material, with respect to its developmental genesis, its dynamic meanings, and its predictive implications for the development, nature, and handling of the transference in psychoanalytic therapy."

Maurice N. Walsh, M. D.
Secretary

MNW: jk