

MINUTES OF SCIENTIFIC MEETING
September 27th, 1935

(961 So Manhattan Pl.)

Total attendance 33

Guests: Dr. Irish	Miss Edith Burleigh
Miss Pauner	Dr. Mathews
Mrs. Brunswick, sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Lachenbruch
Miss Caroline Newton	Mrs. Edgar Daniels
Mrs. Hunt King	Dr. Hirshfield
Dr. Caroline Fisher	Dr. Helen Hopkins

Dr. Simmel presiding.

Speaker: Dr. Arthur R. Timme, Los Angeles, Cal.

Subject: "Psychoanalysis and Psychiatry".

Dr. Simmel opened the first meeting this Fall with the following words:

With to-day's meeting, we are taking a step forward in the development of the Psychoanalytic movement in this city. When we speak of a step forward, we imply that other steps have already been taken. Any scientific movement must advance step by step. There is no way of skipping steps by jumping or by using an elevator.

Permit me to say a few words about the previous steps which have been taken, as well as the preparation of the ground which gave us the possibility of starting. To Mr. Libbin must go the credit for paving the uneven ground in this city. His pioneer work, in cooperation with Professor Epstein, Dr. Timme, and later with Dr. Brunswick, placed Freudian psychoanalysis upon a clear-cut platform. On this platform, people could meet to study the work of Sigmund Freud, purged of all the factors that previously obscured and defiled it,-- factors such as business enterprise and the various forms of charlatanism.

Upon assuming my duties as Chairman of your organization, I cannot better respond to the confidence you have placed in me than by sincerely thanking Mr. Libbin and his co-workers.

It seems to be an inner law of psychoanalysis that the profession most closely related to it and from which it sprang, is the last to become interested in it. I refer to the medical profession. We are therefore happy to have a physician in our midst who, for many years, has publicly supported Sigmund Freud's work. That man is Dr. Timme.

We believed that we could not better express our gratitude for his scientific courage than by electing him our honorary president.

Speaking of the attitude of physicians towards psychoanalysis, I know that I am expressing the thought of our members when I say that we greatly esteem the objective, yet warm interest shown by Dr. Glenn Myers and his staff.

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Perhaps some of you have wondered why I so often use the name of Sigmund Freud in connection with psychoanalysis. You may think it superfluous. It should be, but it isn't. In this part of the country particularly, there is so much obscurity as to what psychoanalysis is and what rightly deserves to be called by that name, that we wish to state definitely that psychoanalysis and Sigmund Freud are identical concepts. It is our scientific conviction that all other activities which fly the flag of psychoanalysis, be they associated with the names of Jung, Adler, or Stekel, not to mention Rank, do not reveal any further development of the concepts discovered by Freud, as they pretend to do, but are reactionary phenomena which express the emotional ~~xxxxxxxx~~ resistance of their proponents and at the same time make concessions to popular opinion.

All the emphasis these people lay upon ethical concepts, such as "prospectivity", "finality", etc., is nothing but a defense reaction against the fundamental truths of Freud, namely, that there IS an unconscious upon which the personality is built; that the personality is a mobile function - an interplay of forces between instinct-dynamics and ego-defense.

For us, psychoanalysis and Freud are identical. This does not mean that we must blindly believe every statement made by Freud. Anyone who looks through the psychoanalytic journals of the past few years will see that in scientific psychoanalytic research even Freudian concepts have been questioned. I call your attention to discussions about lay analysis, the problem of the death instincts, and the genesis of the female castration complex. You well know how carefully Freud formulates his scientific discoveries, and that he is the first to question them as soon as any contradictory evidence is presented. In this connection I refer you to the change in his approach to the problem of anxiety. The history of psychoanalysis, bound up with the name of Freud, is the history of scientific independence itself. No opportunistic consideration ever could induce Freud to close his eyes to facts, or not to reveal a truth which he has seen.

If any further proof is needed that these so-called further developments of psychoanalysis are nothing more than emotional defense reactions, let me cite the sad performance of that formerly brilliant mind, C.G. Jung. At the time that Freud's works were publicly burned by the German government, it was Jung who responded to the call of the Nazi authorities, assumed the chairmanship of the German Society for Psychotherapy, and announced that the time had come to differentiate between German and Jewish psychology.

In the by-laws of our study group which we have formulated and printed, we have expressly mentioned the name of Freud in order to differentiate our attitude towards psychoanalysis from those that are unclear, indefinite, or corrupt. This set of by-laws is the first accomplishment of this working year. The purpose of this formulation of our ideas is to show our California friends our aims and to remind ourselves of our original endeavors, should any of us forget them.

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As the by-laws show how we intend to work, so our working plan reveals what we intend to do. We expect mutually to help each other in extending our psychoanalytic knowledge through systematic discussions of fundamental psychoanalytic concepts. In this connection, some of the members have expressed a willingness to read papers. (see program in minutes of executive council meeting, July 5th, 1935) In addition to these papers, we hope that some of the members will present original papers.

We are happy to announce that Dr. Timme will open our first meeting with a paper on psychiatry and psychoanalysis.

Before I give Dr. Timme the floor, I have two pleasant communications to make. The first is that I have officially announced the founding of the Group to Dr. Brill, President of the American Psychoanalytic Association, to Dr. Jones, President of the International Psychoanalytic Association, and to Prof. Freud. I have already received an acknowledgment from Dr. Brill, who expresses his satisfaction with our by-laws and comments that the form of our organization is the best possible one to meet conditions in California.

The second pleasant communication is that Mrs. Frances Deri has overcome not only her visa difficulties, but also a serious illness. She is now here, completely restored in health, and ready to join our group. In Germany Mrs. Deri is a wellknown psychoanalyst, and she has earned an outstanding reputation as the founder and leader of a psychoanalytic study group in Czecho-Slovakia.

In the name of all the members, I bid you, Mrs. Deri, a hearty welcome.