

MINUTES

1943

Scientific Meeting on Friday, January 23, (at 512 N. Rossmore.

Dr. Otto Fenichel about "Guilt Feeling".

An attempt is made to order the psychoanalytic findings about the functions of the conscience, and to discuss related problems. The ~~functions~~ ^{sensations} of ~~the~~ conscience are looked upon as a special form of anxiety, and are studied in analogy to the problems of general anxiety. The following table is suggested and commented on in detail:

ANXIETY

1. Trauma

Anxiety automatic and unspecific.

2 Danger

Anxiety in the service of the ego, affect created by anticipation, controlled and used as a warning signal.

3. Panic

Ego control fails, affect becomes overwhelming, regression towards state 1.

Anxiety spell in anxiety hysteria.

GUILT FEELING

(A Specific Anxiety)

1. Trauma

Feeling of annihilation automatic and unspecific, caused by:

- (a) lack of food
- (b) lack of affection (of narcissistic supplies)

2. Danger

Annihilation in the service of the ego, affect created by anticipation, controlled and used as a warning signal.

- (a) Before establishment of the super-ego: "Anxiety of loss of love" (of loss of narcissistic supplies).
- (b) After establishment of the super-ego: Conscience (regulating inner narcissistic supplies).

(3) Panic

Ego control fails, affect becomes overwhelming, regression towards state 1.

Melancholic annihilation.

The problems of the oral foundation of conscience, of defenses against guilt feelings, of need for punishment, and of sexualization of guilt feelings are discussed.

The discussion concerned especially the questions of "unconscious feelings", of the different forms in which conscience is felt, and of the biological roots of these forms.

Fenichel