D. Brunswick

## THE FENICHEL-SIMMEL MEMORIAL LECTURES

Simmel and Fenichel, Fenichel and Simmel, they are two Titans of Psychoanalysis in the generation after Freud the discoverer, who are essentially connected as founders of organized and official psychoanalytic training in the Los Angeles area. They will, I hope, always continue to be remembered here in the two titles, Simmel-Fenichel Memorial Library and annual Fenichel-Simmel Memorial Lectures. Ernst Simmel and Otto Fenichel were also associated in the earliest officially organized psychoanalytic institute in the 1920's, the Berlin Institute, Simmel as a teacher and Fenichel as a student and later as a teacher. Two or three others of the original training analysts here had been students in the Berlin Institute: Frances Deri and Ernst Lewy, and Martin Grotjahn, too, I believe.

Our younger members and students, I think, are much more acquainted with Fenichel than with Simmel, because Fenichel wrote and published much more and on a broader range of psychoanalytic subjects. A mere glance through the titles of the papers in the two volumes of the Fenichel collection is tremendously impressive, and all of it is interesting. But besides these sixty or so papers, there is the short volume on "Problems of Psychoanalytic Technique" (published in 1941), the large "Outline of Clinical Psychoanalysis" (1934) and its enlarged successor "The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis" published in 1945, the year before Otto Fenichel's much too early death. We can only be grateful that he lived as long as he did and made such great contributions to the science, the teaching and the practice of psychoanalysis.

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Simmel's interests turned more to applications of psychoanalytic theory to social problems -- war neuroses, incendiarism,
criminology, addiction, psychoanalytic hospital, anti-Semitism,
etc. And this may connect with another impression of mine, that
Simmel was more imaginative than Fenichel. I think of one of his
papers on "The Gastro-Intestinal Organization of the Libido",
read but not published, in which he turned more to fundamental
theory, and in an imaginative way. He did not strive sufficiently
to publish, and a number of us have at several times attempted to
get together a series of collected papers of his, so far not with
success.

Simmel was a great organizer, influential in the founding of the Berlin Institute, where he was one of the originators of supervised analysis by students; and then he later became the chief organizer of the San Francisco Institute and of our own Los Angeles Institute, having helped earlier in the founding of the Topeka Institute. Our Institute library owes a great deal to the stimulus of Ernst Simmel. He founded the library of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Study Group (our parent organization, as it were), which then was the first nucleus of the Institute library; and after his death in 1947, Mrs. Frances Deri bought Simmel's own psychoanalytic library from his widow and presented it to the Institute, thus enlarging our library considerably. And so it is fitting that the library is named the Simmel-Fenichel Memorial Library, with tribute also to Otto Fenichel, the great student and teacher among our founders and great contributor to the literature and bibliography of psychoanalysis.

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And it is right, because of these latter contributions, that Fenichel's name comes first in the naming of the lectureship.

As I remember it, Dr. Ralph Greenson was the originator of the idea of having an annual Fenichel-Simmel lectureship, and in this he had enthusiastic support from Hanna Fenichel and from others of us, too.

And I welcome it that our lecturer this year is one of a younger generation of psychoanalytic thinkers and teachers, who, I take it, will present to us some most interesting ideas of his for the correction and unification of fundamental psychoanalytic theory. This we should not be afraid of! And now the chairman will introduce our speaker.

D. Brunswick

11/18/11