

ERNST SIMMEL AND SCHLOSS TEGEL

The influence of psychoanalytic theory and method on the development of psychiatry is well recognized. Its position as a force of prime magnitude is evident in several areas; one example is the clinical application of analytic principles as seen in hospital practice.

Ernst Simmel was a psychoanalytic pioneer, eminent in a wide variety of ^{in his field} professional activities. Possessing a unique, imaginative and creative ability, he explored new areas and sometimes became an innovator in applying ^{his ideas} in novel ways to a variety of problems. A favorite with him was the application of analytic theory to hospital practice and for the years between 1927 and 1931 operated a psychoanalytic sanitarium at Schloss Tegel near Berlin. Freud endorsed and favored this pioneering venture. In 1934 he migrated to Los Angeles, always dreaming of establishing again such a sanitarium, a dream still unrealized at the time of his death in 1947.

During the first war Simmel served as physician with the German Army, and this included appointment in the years 1916-1918 as director of a military hospital for the treatment of neuroses, and it was here ^{he began} his work with hypnosis and catharsis, ^{later} ~~became~~ widely known. In 1919 ON THE PSYCHOANALYSIS OF WAR NEUROSIS appeared, written in conjunction with Ferenczi, Abraham and Jones.

In ~~An~~ obituary written by Ernst Lewy ~~he~~ refers to Simmel's tragic awareness of work left undone at the time his life was ending, the result of a somewhat casual attitude about his writings. Even so there are over 60 publications, grouped by

Lewy as follows: war neuroses, institutional psychoanalytic treatment, therapy for psychoses, the psychogenesis of organic diseases, and the application of analysis to criminology.

A list of 21 papers presented to the Berlin Psychoanalytic Society between 1919 and 1931 reveal the original, fertile and creative mind of their author. Here is the classic THE DOCTOR GAME. also papers on gambling, hospital treatment, addictions, criminology, tics, art, epilepsy, analysis and education, lay analysis, and treatment of schizophrenia. He applied analysis to conventional pathology with the following: ~~PSYCHOANALYTIC~~ OBSERVATIONS ON THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF DISEASE, and PSYCHOGENESIS AND PSYCHOTHERAPY OF ORGAN SICKNESS. Especially intriguing are THE PSYCHOGENESIS OF LEG MUSCLE CRAMPS and THE PSYCHOGENESIS OF APPENDICITIS.

His first publication was in 1908, his doctor's dissertation titled THE PSYCHOGENESIS OF DEMENTIA PRAECOX; 20 years later he returned to the same subject and published several papers on the analytic treatment of schizophrenia.