

"DR. MILTON LESTER, THE MAN AND THE PSYCHOANALYST"<sup>1</sup>

Southern California  
Psychoanalytic  
Society

by

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Speaking on this occasion is a difficult task which activates disturbing emotions and gives a chance to continue the work of sorrow, grief and mourning.

Dr. Milton Lester was a man of strength, courage, and understanding who approached psychoanalysis as a serious task. In his training analysis, Lester was characteristically on an intense search and insisted on doing the analyzing himself. He continued a relationship with his analyst after formal termination, and they taught a seminar together. Here, Lester showed his courage to disagree in his search for the truth, and his intensity and seriousness were sources of stimulation for all who participated.

Lester's paper, "The Analysis of an Unconscious Beating Fantasy in a Woman," which won the Freud Prize in 1957, showed the results of Lester's careful and conscientious work. The analysis clearly showed the organization of the defenses in layers, and a new layer was uncovered with each transference interpretation. Rarely has the Freud Prize been awarded to a more deserving paper.

Psychoanalysis was a way of life for Milton Lester, and it helped him deal with the last period of his life. Freud

1. Summary of a paper presented at the Milton Lester Memorial Meeting of the Southern California Psychoanalytic Society, February 15, 1963.

said in an obituary for a younger friend: "I write these lines for friends and fellow-workers who knew and valued him as I did. They will find it easy to understand what the loss of this friend, so much younger than I am, means to me; and they will forgive me if I make no further attempt to express what it is so hard to put into words."

John S. Peck, M. D., Reporter