LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Thursday April 18, 1963, 8 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Dr. Sperling, President. There were forty-four members present.

1. The minutes of the meeting of March 21, 1963, were approved as distributed.

2. Membership Committee:

Dr. Robert Zaitlin was elected to Active Membership by the unanimous vote of those present.

3. Possible Introduction of Mexican Psychoanalytic Association into the West Coast Psychoanalytic Societies:

Dr. Sperling presented the matter of the Mexican Psychoanalytic Association joining the West Coast Psychoanalytic Societies in their annual meetings, which is to be voted upon by the membership of each constituent society. In response to Dr. Brunswick's inquiry regarding the status of the Mexican Association, Dr. Futterman replied that Drs. Wexler and Ekstein as well as himself have all visited the Association, presented papers to it , and all were favorably impressed by the level of interest, thoroughness, competence, etc., of the membership. There is another group at the medical school in Mexico City which is in some conflict with the Mexican Psychoanalytic Association, and it is felt that this move would strengthen the position of the latter as the official liaison with The American Psychoanalytic Association. A letter from Dr. Wexler commented favorably upon this matter.

A motion to invite the participation of the Mexican Psychoanalytic Association in the West Coast Psychoanalytic Societies was made by Dr. Rollman-Branch, S/Dr. Brunswick, M/C unanimously.

4. Proposed By-Laws Changes:

Dr. Ourieff, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, reviewed the three areas of suggested change in the By-Laws relating to membership: (1) procedure for Guest Membership, (2) provision of Life Membership for those Active or Accredited Members reaching the age of 70, (3) Honorary Membership; i.e., Life Membership prior to the age of 70 at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The other contemplated change relates to the substitution of the office of President-Elect for that of Vice-President, following the advice of past Presidents and the example of The American Psychoanalytic Association and other organizations. This would provide active continuity of office, familiarization with functions, and continuing participation in the Board of Directors. It would also provide opportunity for more members to hold the office of President since it would insure that the Presidency was held for only one year. Dr. Sarlin noted that a previous committee had made a similar recommendation, which was defeated. Dr. Vatz added that The American is considering altering the current arrangement, since some feel that a one-year term of office is insufficient to carry forward programs. He added that the Presidents

of our Society have strongly wished re-election for a second term and that the officers generally do their best work in the second term and offered the suggestion of election for a two-year term. Dr. Barnard stated that the suggested changes in The American are part of a larger effort at reorganization and so perhaps not pertinent here; also the intimacy of the local situation allows the two officers to work in close harmony. Dr. Dorn noted that the one-year term led to frequent changes in committee assignments and that this was disruptive to continuity. Dr. Rollman-Branch felt the Vice-President's position is equivocal and ineffectual and the office of President-Elect would be advantageous, although perhaps the term should be longer. Dr. Mandel felt a two-year term was preferable and raised the possibility of electing the President-Elect every-other year. At Dr. Sperling's request an informal vote indicated approximately even division regarding the proposal for a President-Elect. There was a similar division over the two-year term. Regarding the membership proposals, the membership was predominantly in favor of Life Members being permitted to hold office. After some discussion as to the election to Honorary Membership, it was agreed this should be by action of the Board of Directors.

5. Announcements:

a. Dr. Sperling read the invitation of Dr. Namnum to our members to attend the First Pan-American Congress for Psychoanalysis, which is to take place in Mexico City on March 5 to 7, 1964. For further details see letter on bulletin board.

b. Dr. Futterman summarized a letter from Dr. Rascovsky regarding the status of psychoanalysis in Latin America. For details, see the report in the Society office.

c. At the request of Dr. Fenichel, Dr. Sperling announced that the School for Nursery Years is attempting to gain accreditation for their nursery-school teachers' training and to this end intend to assemble a library of at least 3000 volumes. They request donations from Society members of appropriate publications, which may be left in our Society offices. Please note your name and address and enclose it with the contribution so that your donation may be acknowledged by the School. For further details, see notice on bulletin board.

d. Dr. Sperling announced the following appointments:

1) Dr. Horowitz, Co-Chairman, Committee for the Study of Psychoanalytic Practice.
2) Dr. Bird, Chairman, Committee on Hospitals, following the resignation of Dr. Mott.
3) A Nominating Committee consisting of Drs. Mandel, Chairman; Sarlin; and Tausend. Members are requested to forward their suggestions to the Committee, which will offer its recommendations at the next meeting.

e. Dr. Harrison announced and circularized a questionnaire regarding the activities of the members and requested immediate return so that the data may be utilized for the St. Louis meeting.

6. "Action for Mental Health":

Dr. Barnard first presented a succinct review of the history of the Joint Commission and of its ensuing report. (For details, see Dr. Barnard's outline in the office and the published summary of "Action for Mental Health.")

Dr. Harrison, for the Committee on Public Information, discussed the question of psychoanalysts participating in this program. The activities questionnaire will give relevant data regarding current activities of this nature and may be utilized for public information and future planning. He referred to the "Position Statement" of The American Psychoanalytic Association and the further exposition in the report of the Committee on Public Information and summarized the report of the conference on the role of psychoanalysts in the prevention of mental illness. It was the consensus of this conference that psychoanalysis has much to contribute to research and action programs for mental health, especially as a conceptual tool. A pilot project was suggested for the training of psychoanalysts in public-health aspects of psychiatry. He added that in the public press psychoanalysts are rarely identified as such, particularly in connection with community activities, and wondered if this was our preference or a tendency to be remedied.

Dr. Dorn, Chairman of the Committee on Social Problems, emphasized the necessity of collating and making available to other agencies, such as the Joint Commission, information on areas of potential and current contributions by psychoanalysis to mental health programs. We should determine the basis of the orientation of the report of the Joint Commission and work toward remedying the situation and gaining recognition and opportunity for our role and function.

Dr. Sperling reminded the membership that our particular problem in this meeting was to inform our Councilor as to the memberships views on these issues and, more specifically, whether we should actively participate in the program and attempt to effect a change in its orientation or hold aloof from it.

Dr. Lomas noted that of the six members of the Committee on Preventive Psychiatry of the American Psychiatric Association, three were analysts; facts such as this clearly indicate the interest and involvement of psychoanalysts. He noted that analysts often hesitate to volunteer services to the community because of ignorance of available opportunities, how to secure them, and so on. This Committee and the California Department of Mental Hygiene are sponsoring centers for training in community psychiatry, and he felt that psychoanalysts best contributions might be in the areas of teaching and consultation.

Dr. Barnard stated that we should be active in those areas where we have special competence and specific contributions but that there are other areas, which are included in the report, about which we have an informed opinion, but perhaps no greater competence than others. She expressed serious reservations about certain aspects of the report, especially in relation to treatment of the chronically ill and the training of "counselors." Most effective action can be taken at the local level, especially since there are marked variations in different geographical areas. Psychoanalysts should make a special effort to maintain effective contact with ancillary workers.

Dr. Futterman would have the appropriate authorities made cognizant of the fact that in areas where there are sufficient psychoanalysts, they play an effective and even dominant role in medical schools, clinics, hospitals, and other community agencies emphasized in the report.

Dr. McDowell supported the involvement of psychoanalysts in mental-health activities, but because of certain reservations regarding the over-all social and economic implications, did not favor our support of this program.

After further review of the issues by Dr. Futterman and considerable discussion by others, the membership overwhelmingly approved Dr. Harrison's motion, S/Dr. Barnard, that:

> "The Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society supports the 'Position Statement' of the Executive Council of The American Psychoanalytic Association with the emendations noted in the report of the Committee on Public Information relating to the participation of The American Psychoanalytic Association and individual psychoanalysts in the program proposed in 'Action for Mental Health.'"

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Maimon Leavitt, M. D.
Secretary

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