

## Historical Review

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I am happy to be privileged to address you on the occasion of the launching of the American Society of Adlerian Psychology. It might be well to look back over a period of years in order to appreciate better the significance of present developments.

The School of Individual Psychology is now some fifty years old. It was in 1902 that Alfred Adler was invited by Sigmund Freud in Vienna to join his discussion circle. During this period Alfred Adler had been exploring the influence of physical handicap on the mind. From 1902 until 1911, the circle of psychiatrists and psychologists worked with Adler on the elaboration of their ideas until, in 1911, they realized that their ways of thinking were too much apart to make a joined continuation with the others possible. Consequently, Alfred Adler left the circle of Freud and, with a group of his pupils, founded his own school. Thereafter he developed his system of psychology independently.

In 1919 he founded several child guidance centers in Vienna; in 1922 the *International Journal of Individual Psychology* was started and published in Vienna. It continued in publication until 1938 when temporarily Hitler took over "education." In 1949 the *International Journal of Individual Psychology* reappeared and was published in Vienna again for three years.

The American edition of the *International Journal of Individual Psychology* was founded in 1935. Alfred Adler was the editor-in-chief and he was ably helped by Dr. Erwin Krausz, Mr. Sydney Roth, and Mrs. Edith Menser, all of Chicago. After Alfred Adler's death in 1937 the Journal was temporarily suspended and came to life again in 1940, first as the *Individual Psychology News*, then as the *Individual Psychology Bulletin*, under the skillful editorship of Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs, who ever since has been its editor, through its various forms and steady improvements. Now we are about to have the *American Journal*

*of Individual Psychology* published on a national basis. It will serve to unite us more closely, as it will be the official organ of the American Society of Adlerian Psychology.

In 1926 Alfred Adler was invited to lecture at Columbia University and later also joined Long Island Medical School. Beginning in 1926 he visited Austria only during the summer. He frequently expressed his apprehension and anticipation of horrible developments in their formation, which he was not to witness personally, due to his sudden death in 1937 in Aberdeen, Scotland, while lecturing at the University.

Alfred Adler travelled widely through the United States while lecturing at various institutions. Over and again we meet people who tell us about having heard and met Alfred Adler and about the influence he exerted upon them and their work. Following is a brief survey of past and present developments in the United States.

The New York Society for Individual Psychology had been functioning since Adler's arrival in 1926. It was incorporated in 1943 and has been operating ever since on a well organized basis. The Society maintains the Institute for the Training in Individual Psychology, and the Alfred Adler Consultation Center, both at 333 Central Park West. The Consultation Center, in its third year of functioning, administers counselling to some 1,000 clients, under the able leadership of Mrs. Danica Deutsch and Mr. Ernst Papanek as director and co-director, respectively. It was Mrs. Deutsch and her loyal staff who took over the organization of this meeting and they have done splendid work.

In Chicago, the Individual Psychology Association was organized in 1934 with Dr. D. G. Campbell as its president, and Dr. Nita Mieth Arnold his successor. Since Dr. Dreikurs' arrival in Chicago in 1937, several Community Child Guidance Clinics were founded under his leadership and he later became President of the Chicago group, which also conducts a Training Institute.

Another well organized group functions in Los Angeles, where Dr. Lydia Sicher is the guiding figure. The group sponsors, among other activities, a nursery school, a Counselling Center, and a Training Institute in Individual Psychology.

There are many Adlerians in various cities, out of contact with each other, and not organized as to their activities. Many have expressed their desire to be more closely connected and identified with us; they are actively interested in and contribute to the development of our school of thought. The necessity to organize the various groups

and members on a national basis became more and more urgent. It was, as so often, the organizational genius of Dr. Dreikurs, which is basically responsible for our being here today. The amount of work he has put into the new organization can hardly be realized. Let me, in addition, mention Dr. Irvin Neufeld, our corresponding secretary, whose work made the foundation of our Society possible at this time, and Dr. Janet Greene, our Treasurer. Thanks is also due to all our other Board members, Dr. Heinz Ansbacher, Dr. Kurt Adler, Dr. James Howard, Dr. Sibyl Mandell, and Dr. Lydia Sicher, and also to all our other committees, who devotedly co-operated in the launching of the Society; and last, but not least, to the charter members who contributed spiritual and financial support to make our work possible.

We welcome the co-operation of all interested in our work. Various types of membership are open to all interested in Individual Psychology and its further development. We can look forward to ever intensified activities, to scientific progress, and to an increased acceptance of our work.