

Our International Congresses

PAUL ROM, *London*

In 1957 an International Congress for Individual Psychology will be held in Europe, the seventh of its kind. So it should be pertinent to give a short survey of the international gatherings which preceded it.

Our first International Congress took place in Munich in 1922, just ten years after the publication of the epoch-making work, *The Neurotic Constitution*, with which Alfred Adler founded our school of thought.

The Second International Congress of 1925 was held in Berlin, and the following year saw such congresses in Düsseldorf and Vienna. The Fifth Congress of 1930 again was in Berlin, when over a thousand visitors made it manifest that our School had become an important factor of great fertility not only in the field of learning but in all spheres of life. Especially through the ardent work of teachers and educators, Individual Psychology had become a world wide and a mass movement which the madness of National Socialism and its result, World War II, could stifle but never annihilate.

After this war, the revigorated groups of several countries began to form new contacts. Through the initiative of Paul Plottke, Adlerians from Switzerland came in 1948 to Paris to meet there French and Dutch Individual Psychologists as well as Mrs. Sophie Lazarsfeld, on visit from New York, and discussed various problems. Shortly afterwards, in August, 1948, further international bonds were knit in London when Dr. J. Bierer convened a private meeting of all Adlerians who had come for the International Mental Health Week; and in 1950 it was again in Paris where numerous Individual Psychologists met informally, coming from Austria, France, Great Britain, Holland, Switzerland, and the United States. In appointing the writer—who since then has published the Individual Psychology News Letter—as provisional International Secretary, they opened the way which led to the Sixth International Congress of 1954 in Zürich. In 1918, Adler had delivered in this beautiful town a lecture on “Individual Psychological Education” before the Association of Physicians.

In the quarter of a century which had elapsed between the Fifth and the Sixth Congress a great number of very active members of

our School had met death, amongst them: Alfred Adler, Ida Loewy, Hedwig Schulhof, Margaret Hilferding, David Oppenheim, Arthur and Martha Holub, Alexander Neuer, Otto and Alice Rühle-Gerstel, Ferdinand Birnbaum, Othmar Broser, Leonhard Seif, Charlot Strasser, Béran Wolfe, Myra Munkh, Carl Furtmüller, Leonhard Deutsch, Paul Fischl, F. G. Crookshank, D. Mitrinovic. The audience of the opening session honored them by standing one minute in silence.

After the scientific proceedings at which twenty-four speakers from nine countries read papers on various problems, a delegate meeting adopted the Constitution and By-Laws of the newly created *International Association of Individual Psychology*, and elected the following:

COUNCIL

Chairman, Dr. Alexandra Adler, New York; *Secretary*, Dr. Alexander Müller, Zürich; *Treasurer*, Dr. Chr. Wolfensberger, Zürich. *Members*: Dr. J. Bierer, London; Prof. O. Brachfeld, Merida; Danica Deutsch, New York; Prof. R. Dreikurs, Chicago; Ernst Papanek, New York; Dr. A. Spencer-Paterson, London; Dr. P. H. Ronge, Amsterdam; Dr. H. Schaffer, Paris; Ruth Smith, London; Prof. O. Spiel, Vienna.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF THE I.P. NEWS LETTER

Chairman, Paul Rom. *Members*: Muriel Burrows (co-opted), R. Smith, Dr. A. Spencer-Paterson, Dr. E. Weissmann.

Scientific Advisers: Dr. Lydia Sicher, Dr. K. Nowotny, P. Rom, Dr. V. Louis, Dr. D. Moraitis, Dr. N. Beattie, Dr. J. Moore, Paula Cogan, Dr. F. Friedmann.

Honorary Members: Mrs. Raissa T. Adler, President; Miss Phyllis Bottome, Frau Maria Birnbaum, Mrs. Sophie Lazarsfeld.

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Prof. H. Biäsch. The Seat of the *Secretariat* is 88, Neptunstrasse, Zürich, Switzerland, and the address of *I.P. News Letter*, 39 The Vale, London, N.W. 11, U.K.

All delegates of the next congress will have to report about good progress of Individual Psychology in their country, for indeed, (as Adler formulated it in 1922) "perhaps there are more dignified teachings of an older academic science. Perhaps there are also newer and more sophisticated ones. There is, however, certainly none which would be of greater usefulness for all people." (Preface, 3rd ed. *The Neurotic Constitution*).