

EPILOGUE

by Joseph Meiers, M.D., Psychiatrist
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There may be those who would raise the question: What could be the purpose of publishing this translation of a 1938 memorial address to Alfred Adler given by a Belgian neuropsychiatrist? Dr. DeBusscher was himself a figure of great renown in his country and beyond. As the translator of his homage to Adler (Dr. De Busscher had transmitted his paper to me some time before his untimely death) I feel honored by the request of the Individual Psychologist's editor to state briefly my reasons why this unusual "human document" should be made more widely known.

First, there is the fact--and a rather significant one, in my view--that the Belgian Mental Health League, one year after Adler's passing, convened a memorial meeting, with their leading members as speakers, in one of Brussels' great halls; a report on it appeared in the official Revue de l'Université de Bruxelles, October-November, 1938. This may not have been known even to a large number of Adlerians, especially the younger generation.

Second is the no less interesting fact, emphasized by De Busscher himself, that he as an orthodox Freudian undertook to honor Adler--as "one of those who, in psychiatry, occupied a summit of human thought"--in itself, certainly, a rare event in the history of Western psychotherapy of the last half-century.

Last--but not least--let me state (though it may seem obvious!) that, in reviving here a significant voice out of the far-away past, we do not identify ourselves altogether with his opinions, especially not with his several views on parts of Adler's teaching, particularly with Adler's so-called "nearness" to Nietzsche's "Will to Power," as alleged by Dr. DeBusscher, and on other points. We cannot, alas, ask De Busscher for answers nor continue a clarifying discussion with him. Still, his contribution--as it stands--can become an object of fruitful investigation and debate for our generation...thirty years after Alfred Adler's death.

ADLER AND CREATIVE POWER

by Irvin Neufeld, M.D., F.I.C.S.
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After an unusually lively lecture, Dr. Adler invited a few doctors to a small Viennese café for a discussion and planning.

His lecture on the "problem child" had been sparkingly witty. His elaborations on creative power, courage, responsibility, the sense of humanity ("Menschlichkeitsgefühl" along with "Gemeinschaftsgefühl") and other topics live vividly among my recollections as unmistakable fore-runners of a "pediatric existentialism." The lecture was followed by a rather long period of questions and discussion.

Many criticisms and questions came up, especially on the subject of "creative power." His answers did not seem to satisfy some of Adler's questioners. A pediatrician--a new "Adlerian sympathizer"--declared that the whole concept of "creative power" was a most mysterious one. Adler replied, "Dr. F., the whole concept of human life is a very mysterious one; and creative power is an important part of human life, if you will." More questions on creative power were raised, but Adler answered them and many other questions and criticisms brilliantly.

In the small gathering at the coffee house, I told Dr. Adler that I doubted very much that creative power could counteract the devastating impression made upon a poor school-boy who sees his school-mates enjoying their "brunch"--ham or salami sandwich, orange and other delicacies, while he himself has only a piece of bread or an apple--or not even that. His answer was that the more fortunate schoolmates with adequate social interest would see to it that such poor boys would not go hungry. As I felt that he was evading my question, I asked him whether he did not think that this situation could leave the poor school boy with a memory of humiliation which might be even worse than hunger itself. He promptly replied in a very serious tone something to this effect: "My young man, you will admit that many such humiliated poor school boys have achieved more in life than their more lucky schoolmates. Creative power can do everything against everything. If you want to know how, think about it."

At times, I have thought I have found the answer.

A FEW PERSONAL MEMORIES OF ALFRED ADLER

by Dr. Alfred Farau, New York, N. Y.

The number of people, students and friends alike, who knew Alfred Adler personally and worked with him many years back in those wonderful pioneer days of Individual Psychology in Vienna is becoming smaller and smaller. More and more of our younger friends never met him in person at all. I myself was only nineteen when I saw him for the first time in his office. At that time, Adler, far from being a legend, the historical figure he is today, was nevertheless highly recognized as the driving force of an ever-growing group of psychologists and educators.

Adler, then in his early fifties, was a man full of vitality and humor. He was rather short in stature and--at first sight--not very impressive. But sitting near him, one was very soon impressed by the mightiness of his forehead and those ever watchful eyes of his. He was a Viennese, combining some of the best human qualities of Old Vienna at its height. He was charming. His sound scientific mind did not keep him from enjoying life to the utmost and, although he was occasionally in a bad mood or even depressed, his vitality and genuine desire to overcome such attitudes of hostility toward others would soon conquer his ill disposition. Then he would tell jokes and listen to them, and he laughed from the bottom of his