

Scottish hospital the physician had been intrigued by the title of a speech to be made at the local medical society by Dr. Adler. The evening of the event, he had changed into his street clothes several minutes before he was off duty in the emergency receiving room so that he could arrive at the lecture hall on time. Impatiently he heard the wail of an ambulance siren arriving just five minutes before his turn was over. Hastily he donned a white hospital coat and prepared to check in a case. The ambulance driver told him it was a man who had dropped dead on the main street of the city. Tragically, the interne recognized Dr. Adler from the announcement which attracted his attention to the meeting.

Adler's untimely death thirty years ago deprived the world of one of its most productive citizens. Fortunately, his ideas, ideals and methods for "Understanding Human Nature" continue to be carried forward by those who seized the torch he lighted. Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go in both education and clinical work to the time foreseen by Adler when he wrote, "The new positional or contextual psychology founded upon the experiences of Individual Psychology will prove its rightness . . . and will force the present dispositional or constitutional psychology to strike its colors."

We must persist, even as Dr. Adler persisted, in spite of all difficulties.

ADLER'S SENSE OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT

by Nahum E. Shoobs, New York, N. Y.

Alfred Adler was an ethical descendant of the prophets of old. His wisdom was at once farsighted and immediately practical. He was as preoccupied with helping man make his community a good place in which to live as he was devoted to helping the individual patient. And he was a pragmatist in the sense that he tested behavior as to whether it helped or hindered others.

For example: At Dr. Adler's suggestion, I would at times submit to him my initial interview with a patient. One such patient was suffering from both depression and a thyroid imbalance.

I can still see Dr. Adler taking off his pince-nez to read my report on this young woman. Finishing his reading, he replaced his pince-nez and said quietly, "Shoobs, you are qualified to treat her, but since she requires medication, I believe a psychiatrist should take care of her." I observed, "But she hasn't much money." Adler remained quiet. "I can't ask a psychiatrist to treat her for nothing," I continued. Then Adler in his own gentle way said, "Well then send her to me."