

## REVIEW

Ackerson, L. Inferiority attitudes and their correlations among children examined in a behavior clinic. J. gent. Psychol., 1943, 62, 85-96.

Inferiority attitudes or feelings as a clinical description first appeared about 30 years ago under the name of "organ inferiority" with the publication of Alfred Adler's study of "Organ Inferiority and Its Physical Compensation." Adler at first seemed to consider actual physical or anatomical inferiority to be the most potent cause of mental reactions and "compensations", but soon modified or enlarged the concept to include constitutional and mental inferiorities and social or cultural factors.

The purpose of the present study is to determine whether physical, mental or social conditions of objective inferiority correlate highest with an attitude of inferiority. The clinical notation of inferiority attitudes was correlated with about 120 traits or conditions noted among 2,113 boys and 1,181 girls examined consecutively at the Illinois Institute for Juvenile Research. These children were typical of the intake of the usual child guidance clinic. Among the reasons for their referral to the clinic were: suspected mental defect; enuresis; conduct problems such as disobedience, truancy, or stealing; and general nervousness. All children were given an extensive examination by a psychiatrist, pediatrician, psychologist, and psychiatric social worker. The notation of inferiority attitudes was always a staff notation usually made on the responsibility of the staff psychiatrist after normal examination of the child. For several weeks during the time these children were examined, Adler was himself a guest member of the staff. It may be assumed then that the notation was made with considerable care. The correlations calculated were tetrachoric or bi-serial correlations and ranged from - .59 to - .33.

On the basis of the data it is concluded (1) that physical, mental, and social conditions of objective inferiority do not per se give rise to inferiority attitudes; (2) that higher intelligence tends to be associated with inferiority attitudes; and (3) that traits

or conditions in which social pressure may be operative are more likely to be associated with inferiority feeling.

Dr. H. L. ANSBACHER.

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Mr. Paul THATCHER writes: "It may interest you to know that our group in Ogden has arranged with the local public library to purchase and install upon its shelves most of the works on Individual Psychology now in English print.

"When school starts next fall it is planned that we shall mail to every school teacher and social worker in Ogden a list of the titles and a recommendation that the books be used.

"The librarian has suggested a series of lectures by the writer in connection with this project, but pressure of work and the U.S. Selective Service are too uncertain to permit definite plans."

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Dr. Lydia SICHER reported to us about her work in Los Angeles. She seems to be quite active and apparently very successful. She mentions in her last letter some of her activities as:

Lectures in Los Angeles for the Rehabilitation Program for the Red Cross, and for the Association of Occupational Therapists. The high point of her work seems to be a course for physicians in which a great number participate, some of them very prominent. This course has been received with great enthusiasm, reports indicate.

Besides that, Dr. Sicher has extended her activities to Bakerfield, California. There she gave the inaugural address at the occasion of the opening of a new school for crippled children; she also held some conferences with Public health officials, with the staff of the Association for Spastic Children, and with officers of an army camp nearby.

We all can be very proud of the work that Dr. Sicher has been doing. In serving the public in California she serves all of us. Congratulations, Lydia, and much luck!