

TO OUR FRIENDS

One significant little item in this issue deserves your special attention. It is the report of a paper published by a staff member of the Institute for Juvenile Research in Chicago. (We owe special thanks to Dr. Ansbacher for having brought this paper to our attention.) It indicates a very important development in this country, namely an almost official acknowledgement that Individual Psychology is alive and is stimulating scientific research. The Institute for Juvenile Research is one of the biggest institutions of its kind in the whole world, in fact, a super child guidance clinic. We have not had the pleasure of receiving much recognition from this quarter in the past so we are especially gratified. The Middle West, and especially Chicago, was heretofore quite under the influence, not to say dominance, of other psychological schools. But we are sincerely pleased with the apparent trend toward mutual acceptance and cooperation. We have had several occasions during the past year to experience appreciative gestures of acceptance and recognition.

It might well be that the war itself with increased needs for psychiatric-psychological understanding and treatment will bring better understanding of all methods available for psychotherapy and rehabilitations. As all technical sciences make rapid progress, spurred by the vital necessities of warfare, as medical research has brought, and will continue to bring, astounding results with new discoveries and new treatments -- so psychiatry may as well benefit greatly from the increased need, and may unify techniques of school of thought for the benefit of suffering mankind.

This situation also presents, however, additional responsibility for us who work in the field of psychiatry, psychology and education, and who are trained to apply the method of Individual Psychology. Two suggestions seem to arise logically: One is concerned with the digestion of current literature. It would not only be extremely interesting, but also very helpful and encouraging, if all our friends and coworkers would bring to our notice articles, books, and personal experiences which indicate that Individual Psychology is better understood and more accepted than it has been in the past.

Some of our students are now involved in a study of American textbooks, to demonstrate the superficial knowledge and often complete misunderstanding of experts in their fields who pass judgment on Individual Psychology. Whenever you run across such statements about individual psychology, share your reaction with us. We will all benefit by it.

And a second suggestion: We are all more or less effective in changing scientific and public opinion on Individual Psychology. Our work speaks for itself. However, we are obliged to bring this work to the attention of those who ought to know about it. We cannot refrain from encouraging each other to write and publish papers and articles in scientific magazines and journals. Some of the leading magazines have been closed to us in the past. Changing conditions, however, will probably give us better prospects of having our papers accepted for publication. Many of our teachers have access to educational magazines, our physicians to medical journals. We would like to hear about your articles, and to report them to our readers.

The times require fullest efficiency from every one of our workers. Now is the time for you to contribute to your utmost ability. Many of us work harder today than we have ever done before. Let us plan and arrange our work that it has the greatest significance possible in helping others. Each one of us should realize that others are waiting for his contribution.

R.D.

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