

REPORTS

Dr. F. Oliver Braachfeld wrote to Dr. Alexandra Adler from Barcelona "in order to get, after several years of involuntary interruption, in contact again with the certainly numerous disciples of the unforgettable Alfred Adler." This is a translation of part of his letter of August 1, 1943:

"For the past year and a half I have been able to start a new activity here in Barcelona. However, I am working only as a translator of foreign books. Fortunately I am doing well since I was able to leave the terrible France. (My wife is Spanish. We are now happily married for over five years).

"I want to tell you first that Adler's book 'El Sentido de La Vida' (The Science of Living), first published here in 1941, is already in the third edition, and is again out of print. On this occasion a great number of articles and reviews were published even in party newspapers like LEGIONES Y FALANGES and your father has been quoted with acclaim. The success of this book lead also to a new edition of 'Understanding Human Nature.'

"I have not the slightest idea of what happened to our Viennese colleagues. In Budapest Professor Von Maday continues his work unafraid, and organizes numerous lectures of which I was informed through the newspapers. I would be delighted to hear about the development of Adlerian groups in America.

"My own book 'Inferiority Feeling' ('Sentimientos De Inferioridad'), dedicated to Alfred Adler, was published here four weeks before the outbreak of the Spanish War and was sold out in two months. It appeared in 1937 in Chile in a 'pirate edition.' It was supposed to be published in France the day Paris was occupied, and was immediately confiscated. I have in my possession one French copy of the proof. Then the book was supposed to be published in Marseilles. That was also prohibited through the occupation. Now Professor Baudouin will publish it in Geneva, but it is improbable that it will be published before the end of the war."

Dr. Brachfeld concludes with the hope that his letter will arrive "sometime and somewhere" and will get him again in contact with the Adlerians.

Mr. Paul Plottke writes us from Kenadsa, Algiers. We quote from his letter:

"Being rather isolated, scientifically speaking, for many years, I should be very happy if it were possible to let me have Adler's book 'What Life Should Mean to You' and a translation of 'Practice and Theory'.

"I don't know whether you know that I published papers under the name of 'Harold Wurmtoeter' in our Internationale Zeitschrift fuer Individual Psychologie after Hitler's arrival. I shall never forget the happy hours I spent with your 'Introduction' which came out in the spring of 1933, and of which I got a copy in prison, -- for I had the honor of being put for three months in 'Schutzhaft' (protective custody) by Hitler in Dresden, at the same time and place as Dr. Hugo Freund.

"Being married to a French woman and having lost my place as Studienrat, because I was 'nationally unreliable' and the Nazis thought rightly they could not count on me, we went to Paris. I got a diploma for German language and literature at the University for a thesis on 'The Most Important Characters of the Nibelungen-Lied Seen from the Viewpoint of Individual Psychology.' I had the great pleasure of seeing Alfred Adler and his wife at their last visit to Paris and I tried to interest the French in our theories by publishing a journal, 'Courage, Feuilles de Psychologie Adlerienne.' I was in contact with Schlesinger, Brachfeld (who took a Spanish wife), Alice Gerstel (who saw us on her way to Mexico), Neuer, and Sperber, who, like myself, volunteered in the French Foreign Legion at the beginning of the war. Sperber had published in German two fine studies in one volume, 'Analysis of Tyranny' and 'The Ill-Luck of Being Gifted' (Das Unglueck Begabt zu Sein).

*educational counsel --that is a title of a higher educational position in Civil Service in Germany.

"Of the time in the Legion until October, 1940-- well, let's not speak about it. I had the good luck to be incorporated as violinist in the good orchestra of the Legion at Sidi Bel Abbès. We then had the honor of being sent by the Vichy people far to the South, in workers' battalions. If the Anglo-Americans had not come in time to free us, the Vichy people certainly would have sent us by force to Germany.

"Being still at the workers' battalion, I had time enough, as secretary, to write a little book, 'Pour La Paix de Nerfs, Exposé d'une Psychologie Pratique,' and I had the great pleasure of having it accepted for publication by the Institute de Psychologie at Geneva, Switzerland.

"I am still the secretary of a big restaurant in this little mining center of Kenadsa, but am trying to get a place in the north where I can be more useful in the fight against the Axis than here."

We are certainly very glad and pleased to hear from our old and European friends, one of them calling himself the "far and lonely son of the Adlerian family." We wish them very good luck and invite our friends here in America to write to them. Their addresses are available through the Bulletin.

Mr. Brian Knight writes us from Auckland, New Zealand that he has for the past five years used Individual Psychology in his work in the field of Child Guidance and Parent Education. He has a home for children called "Educational Hostel." One of his chief helpers has been a young Viennese doctor who studied under Adler. Mr. Knight is interested in organizing an Adlerian Group in New Zealand. He wants literature, and looks forward to coming to American to learn what we are doing. We are glad to hear from new friends in other parts of the World.
