

TOWARD THE FUTURE

The impact of Adler's work upon the thinking of our contemporaries cannot be fully evaluated at this time. It must remain for the future to determine. Even now a complete documentation of all the work which bears his influence would lead us into every field which attempts the study of the relationship of man to his fellows. The following pages proclaim eloquently the profoundly stimulating quality of his discovery of the individual as a social being - a being that can be understood only in terms of the community in which he is an integral part. It is in this stimulation toward the improvement of our understanding of human nature that one finds the true measure of Adler's significance.

We are happy to acknowledge our indebtedness to Adler. We recognize, as he did, our greater indebtedness to all those who have contributed to our knowledge of mankind. But we would fail in our purpose were we to forget that it is not enough to value Adler's concept of social interest. We must use it. Entering into inter- and intra-factional conflicts belies all we presume to know of improving human relationships. No conflict can last without participation from all sides. Let none of us look first for the other to withdraw. There is work to be done! And, as Adler observed, it is not to be found behind the lines.

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