

The Netherlands' Institute for Individual Psychology

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949

The year 1949 progressed most satisfactorily for the members and co-workers of the Institute (*Werkgemeenschap**). The growing interest of the public in general, as well as among members of the medical, psychiatric, and psychological professions is taken as a noteworthy and encouraging sign.

The Netherlands' Institute for Individual Psychology began in 1949 with 10 members and 19 co-workers. During the course of the year 3 co-workers were admitted to membership in the Institute and 11 new co-workers became associated with the group. The number of officers was increased to 7 with the election of two feminine officers.

Meetings of the Institute

The meetings of the Institute took place in the Women's Club Building, Keisergracht 580, Amsterdam. The general yearly meeting was held January 30, 1949; the morning session being devoted to internal affairs of the Institute; the afternoon session was given over to a discussion of a case history by Mrs. van Emde. Meetings were held on:

- March 6 — Dr. Müller — "The Life-Cycle of the *Ips*.[†]
Dr. Delhez — "A Case History."
- April 3 — Dr. Ronge — "Sexuality."
Mrs. Van Walsem-Kaplan — "A Case History."
- June 12 — (in the School of Philosophy, Amersfoort). A short meeting dealing with internal affairs of the Institute.
- October 16 — Mrs. Kalf-Kopteyn — "*Ips*[†] and Culture Physique."
Mr. Vindenburg — "Psychological Testing."
- December 18 — Dr. Ronge — "Freud - Adler."
Mrs. Von Sassen — "Case History."

Courses of Instruction

At the beginning of 1949, there was an enrollment of 12 first year students (6 male and 6 female); 15 second-year students (4 male, 11 female); 16 third-

* "*Werkgemeenschap*" is literally translated as "association for work." "Workshop" as used in America, would be an appropriate translation, but since there are several "workshops" within the scope of the Netherlands group, the translator has used the more formal word, "Institute," to describe the group as a whole.

[†] The translator is not familiar with the Dutch word "*Ips*" and cannot render its English equivalent.

year students (4 male, 12 female). 7 students received diplomas. For the year 1949-1950, 14 students were enrolled (2 male, 12 female).

Mrs. S. Wiegiersma, Psychologist, was requested, and consented to conduct a course in "General Character and Type Studies."

For the year 1949-1950, the third year course was dropped. The retrogression in the study courses may be ascribed to general economic conditions.

Library

At present, the library contains 113 volumes. Yearly issues of the *Zeitschrift für Individualpsychologie* were filled in wherever possible. The latest year of the monthly periodical, *Vernieuwing van Onderwijs en Opvoeding* is available. In connection with the loss of several books, the librarian, Miss L. van Dyk, has instituted a new system to prevent its recurrence.

Study Circles

Haarlem: The Kennemer Study Circle has 72 members. Six addresses were given with an attendance of from 15 to 40. Dr. Müller gave three lectures, with 27 subscribers.

The Hague: The Study Circle at the Hague has 20 members and one "supporter." In the first six months, semi-monthly meetings were held. Addresses were given by Dr. Ronge and Dr. Müller. The name "Study Circle" was changed in September to "Readers' Circle"; dues were lowered from \$5.00 to \$3.00. All costs were met out of the dues collections.

Dordrecht: The Circle at Dordrecht celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with the proper festivities. The meetings were well attended; interest is high.

Consulting Bureau

Amsterdam: During the course of the year, the Consulting Bureau at Amsterdam was moved from the Valkenburgerstraat to the Gerrit van der Veenstraat 51, in order to reduce the cost of rental. Here there is opportunity to observe children drawing, and at play. If indicated, Mrs. Boom-van der Woude will give them psychological tests. The requests for the Bureau's services are increasing. There is opportunity also for students to gain practical experience.

Amersfoort: The Adler House at Amersfoort is handling a steadily increasing number of cases. In addition to the examination from the point of view of Individual Psychology, use is made of the Binet-Simon test, the Terman Test, and the "World-Game" test of Charlotte Bühler in simplified form. Here also, the drawings of children are studied, and in certain cases, their handwriting, and that of their parents is graphologically examined.

Activities of the Institute

Meetings of the Executive Committee were held on January 8, February 5, March 19, May 14, June 6, September 10, October 8, and November 11, 1949.

At the invitation of the International School of Philosophy located at Amersfoort, it was decided to convene there again for the weekend of June 11 and 12.

The topic was "Practice and Theory of Individual Psychology," and was covered in four lectures:

"An Attempt at Philosophical Justification," Dr. A. Müller.

"Therapeutical Possibilities and Limits of Individual Psychology," by Dr. G. W. A. Arendsen Hein.

"The Rational and Irrational in Psychotherapy," by Dr. P. H. Ronge.

"Individual Psychology in General Medical Practice," by Dr. J. A. Delhez.

Professor Dr. C. A. Mennicke acted as chairman and group leader.

This was considered to be a very successful venture. The large attendance of members, co-workers, and interested persons, as well as the beautiful surroundings and pleasant hospitality, all contributed to its success.

During the year, contacts were made with several organized groups. Mrs. E. Boom-van der Woude delivered a well received lecture to the members of the Psychology Group of Trade School Teachers in Amsterdam, and another for the group "Anonymous" (the Dutch branch of the well-known "Alcoholics Anonymous" of the United States).

Mrs. G. Winter der Graaff delivered a series of three lectures in the Trade-school for Girls at Zutphen.

A very successful weekend for Institute members was held at the Youth-hostel "*de Hunehoek*," in Emmen (Dreute), November 19 and 20. Messrs. J. Vindenburg and G. H. van Asperen spoke on the subjects "General Introduction to Individual Psychology," "Individual Psychology and Pedagogy," and "Individual Psychology in Practice." The attendance from among educators and the general public from Emmen and vicinity was extremely gratifying. The discussions were animated.

The Institute was also represented at

The Fair, "Youth of Holland," held in Amsterdam August 18 to September 19. One or more members were present daily to give information or advice concerning Individual Psychology and its practice. In this manner several contacts were made. Among others, the Medical and Psychology Students' Debating Society made inquiries. As a result, Dr. Müller delivered lectures before this Society on December 1, 8, and 15, dealing with "Organic Neurosis."

At Deventer, Mr. J. Vindenburg gave a series of lectures before an audience of 125.

In Amsterdam, Mrs. C. Polak de Meyer gave successful lectures before parent groups in several public schools; also, a series of lectures before a group of women members of the Labor Party, and others.

In Hertogenbosch, Dr. Ronge was invited to address a group on Individual Psychology.

Het Schoolblad, organ of the Netherlands' Association of Teachers, has accepted articles for publication. One such article on Individual Psychology by Mr. G. H. van Asperen was published in the course of the year.

At the second International Congress for Ortho-pedagogy, the Institute was represented by Miss R. Mossel.

The Institute indicated its interest in the work of the Association for Re-interpretation of the Concepts of Crime and Punishment.

All foreign groups interested in Individual Psychology received the yearly report of the Netherlands' Institute for 1948.

Foreign Relations

Plans are afoot to create an International Association of Individual Psychologists. It is proposed to have representatives of Individual Psychology groups gather at the Congress of Psychiatry to be held in Paris, October, 1950. The representatives will meet during the course of this convention, with the aim, through international cooperation, of furthering the work of Alfred Adler. A proposal for an International Journal will be considered when and if the economic and political development of the participating countries is stabilized.

Mrs. Sidonie Reiss, of New York, has published her book, *Mental Rearjustment*.

The Institute was given the opportunity to place articles and sketches in *Het Tydschrift voor Vernieuwing van Onderwys en Opvoeding*.

M. A. Hyligers - van der Syp, Secretary