

## Editorial Note

This issue requires some introductory remarks. This will probably be the last issue of the *Individual Psychology Bulletin*. The American Society of Adlerian Psychology has been incorporated and is in the process of formation. As soon as this is accomplished it is planned that the new organization will take over the publication of this magazine under a new name, *The American Journal of Individual Psychology*. We will then have an opportunity to publish larger issues, representing the newest research and thinking in the field of Adlerian Psychology. You will hear from us in the Spring of 1952, and we hope to be able by that time to present our journal to you in a new form and under new sponsorship.

With this issue, we follow a pattern which has received favorable comment in the past. Two issues have been devoted primarily to a single subject. One was the subject of "Guilt Feelings" (Vol. VIII, 1st and 2nd Quarters); the other concerned "The Unconscious" (Vol. VIII, 3rd and 4th Quarters). We were not sure when presenting these issues that a compilation of papers on the same subject would not be repetitious and monotonous. The comments we received indicated the opposite. It seems that the presentation of several papers on the same subject permits a comparison of the views of the workers in the field and helps to clarify the questions under consideration.

Now we have chosen two other subjects, both of which deserve careful study and consideration, as they present some of the most difficult aspects of our psychological position. One is the question of "Indeterminism." While this concept has been recognized as an intrinsic part of Adlerian Psychology, it still presents considerable difficulties, not only to the outsider who is willing to study Adler's system of psychology, but to our own workers as well. This is one aspect which probably has created the greatest controversy among Adlerians. Many have indicated their interest in sending a contribution. For this reason, it is very likely that we will keep this subject open for discussion and will publish forthcoming papers in following issues. We welcome further comments and we invite additional remarks and contributions.

The fundamental significance of the assumption of inner freedom, creative self-determination—in short, of indeterminism, has prompted

some Adlerians, who have been well recognized as such, to express doubt as to their qualifications for being considered Adlerian, because they find it difficult to follow Adler's ideas in this matter. This fact ties the discussion of this subject to another problem, which is the second question considered in this issue. What basic concepts are characteristic for Adlerian Psychology? In other words: "What makes an Adlerian?" This question is not easy to answer. We find in the field of psychology many who express the characteristic ideas of Adler, even his very formulations, without giving him any credit; obviously they do not consider themselves Adlerian. Therefore we have no right to recognize them as members of our group. Is it then necessary to accept anyone as an Adlerian who calls himself such? Obviously there must be some limitations, depending on such a person's approach and perspectives. It seems necessary to specify the areas in which we can and should expect conformity of opinion.

Some Adlerians try to solve the problem by considering Adler's writings as a kind of Bible. Anyone who disagrees with anything which Adler said would not be an Adlerian, in their eyes. In the opinion of your editor, such a stand should be refuted; it would prevent development and growth. Still, some basic areas of agreement seem to be required. What they are is the subject of our discussion. This, too, is not finished in this issue, but only begun. We can hope that we are off to a good start and that the ensuing discussion will not only help us to clarify our own thinking, but will also give the outsider an opportunity to better acquaint himself with the basic positions which Adlerians take.

RUDOLF DREIKURS, M.D.  
*Editor-in-Chief*