

the course of this give-and-take relationship, Neuer became a psychologist, and Adler a philosopher. Henceforth, the two had an identical viewpoint. Adler felt, and often said, that Neuer was the one among his disciples who understood him best.

Neuer became a psychiatrist and a practitioner of Adler's method. Naturally, there was a personal touch in his way of treatment which was entirely his own. It was characterized by caustic witticisms, a sort of humor quite different from Adler's. With a pun, or even with a cynical remark made in a slang not to be translated, he would lay bare the threads of a neurotic structure so that the patient, while laughing, was deeply struck with a truth.

This man, a great teacher and a great scholar, surpassing all of us in knowledge, was, at the same time, modest to the point of humility. He could have written scores of books, just jotting down those things he knew better than anyone else, thus becoming the Plato of his Socrates, Alfred Adler. In fact, he did not write more than about a dozen short articles and pamphlets, most of them explaining, in a popular form, Individual Psychology. Virtually nothing of what he taught us in his lecture courses has ever been published. He always felt that what he said still was not final; critical of himself more than of others, he saw the potential objections and counter-arguments, and did not want to put into writing and into frozen print what he himself did not accept as a final formulation. So he died leaving nothing but the memory of an extraordinary man to those who knew him.

Life did not give him much outward success. Some time in the twenties, he moved from Vienna to Berlin. Just when success was within his grip, Hitler came, and he had to quit. Back to Vienna he went, then to Paris, to Palestine, and back to Paris again. There, the Nazis caught up with him. While never being actively interested in politics, he knew and everybody knew, that Adler's spirit and his teachings were incompatible with totalitarianism and dictatorship, be they red or brown. They would have killed him, if they had known what he really was. Fortunately for him, they did not understand him.

And they could not have killed the spirit, anyway.

Dr. Erwin Wexberg, New Orleans.

A FIGHTER FOR YOUTH

Kindness, modesty, human understanding and friendly interest - these are the characteristics of Ida Loewy's personality which come to the minds of her friends when they speak of her. That she also had the spirit of a fighter may seem at first surprising. Tumult and shouting are not the marks of the fighter, but the firm, determined belief in a cause. Ida Loewy was a disciple of Alfred Adler. She was truly devoted to his teachings which she mastered thoroughly.

She loved children. Her love was not superficial and pampering and thus weakening - it was a curative and helping love. And if she had to be, and she had to be many times, because "problem-parents" are just as frequent as "problem-children", then this small and quiet woman could indeed "get tough". She avoided offending the "adults", she never condemned high handedly, but knew instead how to make many parents realize

through a joking remark past mistakes in the upbringing of their children.

There is an old saying "Where there are mighty ones, be on the side of the weaker." Ida Loewy interpreted it "Where there are parents, be on the side of the child." The children felt that, and she was able to get in close contact with even the most difficult youngsters. She never talked down to the children's level. Her charges sensed that she was on their level, and she soon gained their confidence.

I have seen her work in a most artistic way in her child guidance clinic. We worked in close touch with each other in the criminal-psychological work shop (Arbeitsgemeinschaft). This had been formed in Vienna at the suggestion of Alfred Adler under my direction after the 5th International Congress for Individual Psychology at Vienna in the fall of 1930. It was amazing how fast Ida Loewy learned her wayabout in the field of adolescent delinquency. Her article in the special edition of the International Journal for Individual Psychology (Vol.9, No.5, September-October 1931) "Impressions at the Juvenile Court" shows that her keen power of observation equaled her understanding of humanity. She closed her article with the following sentences:

"They (the judges) seek out the delinquents' greatest desires and their deepest despair and realize that there hardly ever exists spiritual wretchedness (Verwahrlosung) unless the youngster has been previously mistreated. They recognize that the deeply rooted inferiority feeling of today's youth makes them strive especially hard for recognition, with which their social feeling could not keep up. Thus only the useless side of life was left to them in which to find recognition.

"The uncovering of all the youth's previous achievements - and there is none too unimportant to be mentioned - instills in the youngsters faith in their chances of advancement, and makes them see the uselessness of their misbehavior, that was directed toward a fallacious goal. Instead of emphasizing self-control they are taught the value of consideration for their fellowmen, because this consideration alone enables them to get out of themselves and to find others.

"Modern education has discarded bodily punishment; it is to be hoped that it soon will also discard mental punishment. Slowly intensified training of courage and of character traits, advocated by Individual Psychology Child Guidance Clinics, will lead youth to their recovery. 'All human faults are expiated by pure humaneness'."

Pure humaneness in the service of the fight for youth - that was the work of Ida Loewy, and on her grave there might be written:

Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God,

Dr. Edmond Schlesinger

IN MEMORY OF IDA LOEWY

Whenever my thoughts wander back to the years gone by, to the associations I had, the friends I made, there are certain memories that invariably come back. There are two recollections that stand indelibly in my mind, when in my thoughts I converse with Ida Loewy. She, with a heart as pure as a child's and an interest for her fellowmen which is rarely found was often my great helper in guiding children, as I was proud to be her helper in many cases where medical advice was needed. If ever there was a person who combined "motherly love" for all these children under her care with psychological wisdom it was Ida. I never saw a child resisting for even the first interview the kindness, benevolence and the educational tricks that poured from her in an interminable flux.

Two incidents are unforgettable: Once she sent a child to my clinic to state whether the symptoms the boy showed were physical disturbances or nervousness. The boy, 12 years old, was the older of two children. The younger one was 9, much taller than his brother, good-looking and healthy, while the patient was small, pale, shy, with intestinal trouble that caused much disturbance at school. The child's mother brought a whole battery of medical tests with her. The child had been examined by the best physicians in town and by all the specialists in the field of his illness. The result of all the internal, laboratory and X-ray examinations was nil. Unfortunately for the child, I believed in the tests; fortunately, Ida didn't. Maybe I was still blinded by the respect for medical science, and certainly I knew the excellent reputation that all the physicians enjoyed who had seen the child before it came to see me. Quite against my usual caution I examined the child for his psychical "over-structure", disregarding for once the principle of clarifying the "structure" totally. There were many nervous ill-adjustments in the child so apparent that I let myself be fooled. Not so Ida. With her ardent desire to help the child, to see more clearly, another attempt was made to discover a physical ailment. And when it was discovered, a very rare type of spasmodic obstruction of the bowels, an operation helped to remove the physical trouble. Then radiantly Ida set out to help the child to remove his complexes. I don't know where the child is now, I don't know whether his people are still alive after all the changes that have taken place, but if they are somewhere in this world, I hope that mother and child never will forget that it was Ida's "genius of the heart" that solved the riddle.

The second incident was Ida's illness that after two operations and two years of suffering put a stop to a life that was lived in full accordance with what she taught: Individual Psychology. The first operation had been very painful but Ida had gone through it courageously, loved by all the nurses in the hospital and, as she said, badly pampered by everybody around her. After the second operation she said to me, "You know, I am quite amazed at one thing. I was always so convinced that by training one could learn everything. So I had hoped I would have learned from my first operation and would have known better how to be ill. I am afraid I am not doing a better job than the first time".- And she was quite worried because she did not like her pains better than the first time, and did not get well faster.

She did not learn to be ill, that is true. In all her sufferings she never developed the "soul of a sick person"; she always retained the same calm spirit, even in moments of discouragement, the same interest in her children at the clinics of whom she wanted to know how they were getting along. And she accepted death as she had accepted life: as a problem that had to be faced courageously.

Dr. Lydia Sicher, Los Angeles.

Mrs. Olga Matfus, Ida Loewy's sister, sent us the following biographical data, which we think will be interesting to many of Ida's friends.

In school she was always in every class the smallest but always the best student. Few of her friends know that her secret ambition was to become an actress. Whenever she played in amateur theatricals, she showed great talent and sometimes gave very touching performances.

As a human being, she put herself entirely in the background and with increasing maturity and development sacrificed everything for the ethics of social life. Although she considered this the only possible way for herself, she never demanded like sacrifices from her fellowmen. She looked only for the good in everyone, and overlooked their shortcomings. Her desire to help in every situation was unique, and she showed this tendency even as a child. Once when her sister, who was two years younger than she, lay sick in bed with a sore throat, Ida would come home from school and try to cheer her up with making faces and telling funny stories.

Every child who came in contact with her instinctively felt Ida's desire and talent to help. A two-year-old child with a very unruly disposition was brought to Ida. She succeeded in a very few consultations in starting the child in the right direction so that the parents were able to manage the child alone. A year later there was a relapse, and the mother in desperation said to herself, "What shall I do with the child?" The little rascal immediately said, "Call for Miss Loewy" This was a whole year after the child had seen Ida Loewy. Ida herself was amazed at it.

CHILD - HOME - SCHOOL

Anna Heinrichs and Assja Kadis

The child guidance work (Erziehungs Beratung) founded by Alfred Adler, which is actually a Child-Family Consultation Service, presents in its records valuable material, that could be utilized and would be helpful to many parents and teachers in solving the every day problems in the child-parent relationship.

We are fortunate in having in our possession some of the notes and quotations from the child guidance clinic of Ida Loewy. Ida Loewy was through her unique personality and her talents one of the outstanding collaborators of Alfred Adler. In her interpretations to mothers and children she materialized the basic ideas of Individual Psychology and thus revealed common errors so frequently disturbing the relations between children and parents.

We will publish for the first time, beginning with this issue, quotations taken from records of Ida Loewy's clinic. We hope it will stimulate parents and teachers to ask questions which will be answered in this column of the News under the heading of Child-Home-School. The vast treasure of Ida Loewy's remarks in typical situations shall thereby help now, as it has done so often during her lifetime.

AN EVERY DAY PROBLEM

Mother, "Jimmy, please take your elbows off the table! I have told you that many times. You are old enough to know that!" Jimmy (eight years of age) slowly removes his arms. Mother, "Take that bubble gum out of your mouth!" Mother nags Jimmy and Jimmy annoys mother. Both, mother and son, continue on the wrong track.

IDA LOEWY, "If I frequently started for Vienna and I always arrived in Prague, I would know that I had taken the wrong road; and of course I would be more careful the next time. On the road of education, however, we rarely reach our goal, yet we do not change our direction."

Mother noticed Jimmy's behavior, but she did not understand the meaning, the "idea" behind it. Jimmy's bad table manners expressed his feeling of insecurity, because he believed that he had lost the love of his family, as there was a new-born baby in the house.

This basic fact was revealed to the mother. She then understood the meaning of Jimmy's protest. After realizing her error, she changed her method. No more nagging on her side and no more trouble making on Jimmy's part; but mother had to explain to Jimmy that he did not need to have bad table manners to regain the feeling of security. Her new aim was to assure Jimmy of the love of his family. He then could accept and observe the routine of good table manners. Mother and son were now on the right track to reach the common "goal" - good manners.

IDA LOEWY, "Do not center your attention upon the symptoms, but seek the goal they tend to. Expose this "goal" to the child and thus help him see the pointlessness of his misbehavior."

"DER GAUNERVATER"

(FATHER OF THE ROGUES)

In memory of my friend Hugo Sperber.

Among the many famous Viennese attorneys who since the introduction of jury trials to Austria put their knowledge and eloquence at the disposal of the outlaws of society there was none more original as a person, non a more understanding aid to delinquents than Dr. Hugo Sperber. And with pride he called himself a disciple of Alfred Adler. These delinquents (the Viennese called them "Gauner") knew what a friend they had in this man and these stepchildren of fortune bestowed on him the fond nickname "Gauervater" (father of the rogues).

Sperber, like any modern criminologist, did not recognize the existence of a born criminal. He considered law breakers as a product of social factors expressed in family, education, unemployment and so on, and thought of crime as an expression of social discouragement. As defense counsel he saw society sitting next to his client on the bench, the society "which lets the unfortunate become guilty", as he used to say. It never occurred to him however, to shroud this basic thought about criminology behind high sounding phrases or philosophical explanations while delivering his defense before the court. He realized that that would impress neither the judge nor the jury. Instead, he preferred to "ridenterem dicere verum", to jestingly speak the truth, and to uncover the false pathos of the prosecution with a joke, moving the judge to understanding and leniency. Such stunts became known all around the courts. They were told and retold, and some published. Some, not well acquainted with Sperber, considered the philosophic humor of the great criminologist as the quaint jokes of a wit. They were mistaken. Sperber's humor was spontaneous and was effective just because it was so unlabored.