

FOREWORD TO PAPERS IN HONOR OF KURT GOLDSTEIN

A partitive approach to the great diversity of psychological theories may consider them all in a detached, "objective" manner as so many separate entities, and select from each what appears most opportune. This kind of eclecticism, however, merely obscures the issues involved (3). Or, the partitive approach may lead to a recommendation to "adopt an intolerant and affectionate acceptance of a particular theoretical position without reservations" (2, p. 556).

The holistic approach to the diversity of theories would consider them as organically grown and forming large clusters of essential compatibilities and incompatibilities. Eventually these relationships could be clarified by factor analysis, of which Taft (4) has made a first attempt. Meanwhile, it would appear reasonable to group theories as tending either toward positivism, or toward phenomenology (5). Being identified with the latter, and holism, we would say that within this orientation differences pertain essentially to spheres of interest and to terminology so that supplementation rather than conflict is the rule.

Founded on the Adlerian position, this Journal has been primarily concerned with the individual and with functional disorders. Adler was essentially not concerned with general psychology and organic mental disturbances. The psychology of Kurt Goldstein which is celebrated in this issue, is, on the other hand, focused exactly on these problems. Yet the two approaches are so much of a kind that where Goldstein does deal with areas of Adler's concern, he arrives at very similar formulations (1). Thus, if this issue contains topics new to this Journal, their treatment, by friends of Goldstein, is by no means alien to it.

When Dr. Hanfmann and Dr. Mintz suggested that we publish papers gathered for Goldstein's 80th birthday, we welcomed this opportunity of outlining the wider areas of that orientation in psychology of which we consider ourselves a part. But beyond this, we feel honored and proud to be able in this way to pay tribute to a man who, with "courage" and an "optimistic attitude," considers the "attitude toward the possible," the "as if," the foremost characteristic of human nature, and who has devoted his life to science in order to help human beings through a "common enterprise" (1).

REFERENCES

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