

# INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL

## EDITORIAL

Forty years ago Alfred Adler published *Individual Psychology in the School* (1), a collection of lectures held before Viennese school teachers. The purpose of these lectures was "to help the teachers introduce the basic principles of Individual Psychology into the everyday life of the schools" (p. vii). Adler considered the book "a supplement to the practical work of Individual Psychology . . . in the school counseling centers (*Schulberatungsstellen*)" (p. vii).

Adler felt that in the form of these centers an agency had been created which was "capable of correcting the mistakes in a school-child's development. Teachers, physicians, parents, and probably also children are participating with ever increasing zeal and devotion, and are enjoying these school counseling centers. Their significance is becoming increasingly recognized" (p. viii).

It is noteworthy that Adler replaced in this book the term *Erziehungsberatungsstelle*, which has generally been translated as "child guidance clinic," with *Schulberatungsstelle*, which can well be translated as "school counseling center," a term corresponding better to our most recent conceptions.

Today the Adlerian approach to school guidance and counseling is indeed "becoming increasingly recognized." This is to a large extent through the untiring work of Rudolf Dreikurs in his actual demonstrations of the method. He has truly been following Adler's understanding that in this area the written word is "a supplement to the practical work." The scope of such practical work has now been enormously expanded through video tapes of two of the demonstration courses of Dreikurs by Vermont Educational Television.

The following two papers offer further support to the practical work of the school psychologist-counselor. The first, by Peter Scarth, is a systematic outline of the relevance of Individual Psychology to the functions of the school psychologist as these are understood today. The second, by G. Edward Stormer and Jonell H. Kirby, reports all the aspects of a comprehensive demonstration program of Adlerian group counseling in an elementary school system. A third paper, by Stephen W. Pollack, may be included here as it reports the place of Adlerian principles in a center of re-education.

## REFERENCE

1. ADLER, A. *Individualpsychologie in der Schule: Vorlesungen für Lehrer und Erzieher*. Leipzig: Hirzel, 1929. Pp. viii + 114.—This is one of the few books by Adler not yet translated into English.