

ALFRED ADLER CENTENNIAL, 1870-1970: CONCLUSION

The New York Times Magazine, February 28, 1971, devoted its leading article to Alfred Adler. As the occasion it stated: "This month marks the close of Alfred Adler's centennial year, and a flurry of articles and tributes has not only re-awakened interest in him but evoked a certain astonished recognition . . . his ideas are everywhere" (p. 10). The article, by Maggie Scarf, a free-lance writer, deals with Adler's youth, his background, association with Freud and differences with him; the development of his own views and his therapeutic manner; his family life; and his evaluation today. It also contains statements by the two of his children, who became psychiatrists, Alexandra and Kurt Adler—well over 8000 words in all. The cover of the magazine features a portrait of Adler in his 50's—a strikingly colorful, yet somewhat strange, expressionistic painting by an unknown artist, owned by Alexandra Adler, and not reproduced heretofore. The article is illustrated further by two photographs of Adler—one lecturing, and an early one with his wife and two of his young children; by a cartoon by William Steig illustrating the inferiority complex; and photographs of Freud and of Jung, the latter in an inserted box, headed "The Third Man."

Two weeks later, March 14, Maggie Scarf added in a letter to the editor acknowledgment of the help she had received from Professor Heinz L. Ansbacher during the preparation of the article. "I have drawn most liberally on Dr. Ansbacher's time as well as on his book coedited with Mrs. Rowena Ansbacher."

The Washington Post, Washington, D. C., October 29, 1970, featured on its editorial page an article on "Alfred Adler and Individual Psychology" by Colman McCarthy, a member of its editorial page staff. The writer notes "a decided upturn of interest in Adler, from college lecture halls to quiet counsel in rooms," and that "to honor the centenary of his birth, a symposium will be held on November 14 at the Statler Hilton." The writer continues by sketching some main points in Adlerian theory and suggesting that his "teaching has perhaps more meaning now than when first devised. . . . [It] is obviously a simple theory, yet one that demands an activism of the heart that many refuse to give. Rather than follow through an Adlerian analysis where the soul is freed, many prefer Freudian analysis where the libido is released. There is less trouble with that."

The article refers to the new Washington Individual Psychology Association (see *News and Notes*, this issue), a "spirited group" in whose study groups of about 10 persons each already 250 people have participated "to examine and explain the teaching of Adler, plus the educational writings of Dreikurs." McCarthy concludes, it is in such small groups that the ideas of Adler are most likely to be understood, as "the first seeding place where *social interest* can grow." The article—the first in a series entitled "Thinkers and Their Thoughts"—is over 1300 words long and illustrated by an excellent sketched likeness of Adler signed Barrett.

Aufbau, German-language weekly, New York, April 16, 1961, p. 64, on the occasion of Alfred Adler's 100th anniversary year, devoted an article to him and the Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic, New York. The article, by Hilde Marx,

notes the recent renaissance of interest in Adler and points to the difference between his psychology and that of Freud as one between goals and instincts. The larger part describes the work of the Clinic, mentioning those connected with it, particularly Danica Deutsch, its founder and executive director. The article of about 1000 words is illustrated by a picture of Adler with his two children, Alexandra and Kurt, and a drawing of Adler by B. F. Doblin.

The American Journal of Psychiatry, December 1970, 127(6), announced in the preceding issue of this Journal (p. 173), actually published on pp. 771-786 four papers and a portrait of Alfred Adler, marking the 100th anniversary of his birth. Alexandra Adler, writing on "Recollections of My Father" (pp. 771-772), describes his permissiveness toward his children, his modesty, his quick reaction to a human emergency, his great skill as a lecturer, and his optimism toward problems of the seriousness of which he was well aware. The remaining three papers, by Kurt A. Adler, Heinz L. Ansbacher, and Helene Papanek have already been reported in abstract form in the preceding issue (pp. 161-163).

The *William Alanson White Institute, New York, Newsletter*, Fall 1970, devotes nearly a whole page to "Alfred Adler Centennial," including the Horowitz portrait of Adler. After a description of some of the centennial events, the editors reprint some of the tributes paid to Adler, especially that by James E. Chapman. The account ends with the following observation: "There is a marked congruence between the views of Adler and those of Sullivan and Fromm. Adler had an unusual talent for clarity and simplicity in presenting his ideas. This was not an unmixed blessing. As with Clara Thompson, it accounted, in part, for his being considered 'superficial.' He not only had the gift of clarity but was one of the early psychoanalytic workers to see man within and as part of a social network. This early 'interpersonal' view was too much for many of his contemporaries."—The orientation of the White Institute is Sullivanian, and Adlerians as well as Sullivanians have previously recognized their mutual kinship. In this connection it is particularly interesting that we are reminded in the same *Newsletter*, page 11, that Sullivan rejected the term psychoanalysis, as Adler had done, and yet the Sullivanians continue to describe themselves by this term.

Psychiatric Spectator, a journal of "abstracts of significant presentations at meetings of interest to psychiatrists and neurologists," published by Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, Hanover, N. J., devoted its 1970, Vol. 6, No. 11, exclusively to "Highlights" of the 11th Congress of the International Association of Individual Psychology and the 18th Annual Convention of the American Society of Adlerian Psychology. This was in recognition of the preparation by the ASAP of "a nationwide celebration in honor of Alfred Adler during his centennial year of 1970." Included in this issue of 18 pages are the greeting of the International Honorary President, Alexandra Adler, M.D.; the presidential address of Kurt A. Adler, M.D.; and 13 other abstracts.

The *Human Relations Center, New School for Social Research*, New York, Ruth Van Doren, director, on May 19, 1970, held an open meeting on Individual Psychology commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alfred Adler. Helene Papanek, M.D., director of the Alfred Adler Institute, New York, was the speaker.

The *Journal of the Otto Rank Association*, 1970, 5(2), 108-109, includes a comment on the Alfred Adler Centennial.

The *Journal of Clinical Issues in Psychology*, New York, March 1970, contains a letter by Alice R. Friedman on the 100th anniversary of Alfred Adler's birth. She points to his contributions as enlarging the psychotherapist's view so as to include the whole person with his goals, inferiority feelings, compensations, family situation, and cultural influences, and as shortening treatment by making it a form of re-education through understanding and training.

The *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, January 1971, 25(1), 165-166, contains a letter by H. L. Ansbacher appreciating and clarifying four of the points made in that Journal's commemoration, "Alfred Adler — Centenary of his Birth," of the preceding year.

George H. LaPorte edited and published "in honor of the 100th anniversary of Alfred Adler's birth" eight papers by him that appeared originally in English and had not been reprinted before. The small volume is described among the Book Notes under Adler's name.

AUSTRIA

A marble plaque was placed over the entrance of the house at 208 Mariahilfer Strasse, in Vienna, inscribed (in German): "In this house the founder of Individual Psychology, Alfred Adler, was born February 7, 1870.—Association for Individual Psychology. Austrian Society for Literature." At the unveiling, Professor Ringel spoke about Adler's contribution to psychology, his family, and his childhood years in Vienna.—After *IP News Letter*, London, 1971, 20(1), 17.

To this it should be added that not the present house at the above location is the one in which Adler was born, but that which preceded it, when also the street was named differently. This was documented by the late Dr. Beckh-Widmanstetter and reported by Ellenberger (*The Discovery of the Unconscious*, p. 580).

Dr. Milo Vlach, published the following three articles, each specifically inscribed as in honor of the memory of Alfred Adler on his 100th birthday. Dr. Vlach is a Vienna educator who became acquainted with Adler and Individual Psychology in the 1920's, has used its principles ever since in his various activities, and has propagated these principles. He was especially active in this way during the Second World War, when he was in Melbourne, Australia.

"Alfred Adler, der Heilpädagog." (Alfred Adler, Therapeutic Educator.) *Heilpädagogik*, Vienna, 1970, 13(2), 18-23.—Dr. Vlach describes Adler's life, general approach, basic principles, and activities in Vienna, especially with regard to the 28 child guidance clinics he established.

"Alfred Adler, ein Helfer der Menschheit." (Alfred Adler, a Helper of Mankind.) *Vox*, Vienna, 1970, 57(2), 1-4.—In this small periodical of the Association of the Austrian Hard of Hearing, Dr. Vlach concludes his brief presentation of Adler's life and work stating that he left a practical philosophy as well as practical psychology.

"Individualpsychologie als Weltanschauung." (Individual Psychology as World Philosophy.) *Die Osterreichische Volkshochschule*, 1970, No. 78, 16-18.—

Adler combines a teleological or finalistic, organic-dynamic, and optimistic viewpoint with Vaihinger's fictionalism. To this he added the direction-giving concept of social interest. The concept of God, according to Adler, is "the best conception so far of this ideal elevation of mankind."

GREAT BRITAIN

The *University of Aberdeen* in conjunction with the *Adlerian Society of Great Britain* arranged an Alfred Adler Centenary Memorial Lecture on September 18, 1970, chaired by Professor Malcolm Millar, head of the University of Aberdeen Department of Mental Health. The lecture was given before an audience of about 200 by Dr. Harry Guntrip, psychotherapist, Leeds University Department of Psychiatry, under the title, "A Study of Adler's Contribution to Ego-Psychology."

The lecture was preceded by Dr. E. Weissman, chairman of the Adlerian Society, giving a short appreciation of Alfred Adler and reading addresses from Drs. Alexandra and Kurt Adler, as well as a paper by Dr. Kurt Adler on "Adler's Contributions to Psychotherapy."

The University gave an official reception. This Memorial Meeting was combined with an Inaugural Meeting of the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section of the Scottish Branch of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, held on September 19. It was in Aberdeen that Adler had died in 1937.—*IP News Letter, London, 1971, 20(1), 19-20.*

ISRAEL

The German Cultural Center of the Embassy of the German Federal Republic in Tel-Aviv commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alfred Adler with an address by Paul Rom during a visit to Israel. Speaking in German he chose as his topic "Das Individuum in der heutigen Gesellschaft" (The individual in present-day society). Over 300 persons crowded the hall and many had to be turned away. It is believed that this was the only centenary celebration there. The event took place on December 2, 1970.

TAIWAN

The Institute for Educational Research Letters, National Chengchi University, September, 1970, pp. 19-22, contains an article on "The Renaissance of Adler's Individual Psychology" by Dr. You-Yuh Kuo, associate professor, department of educational psychology, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. This article is printed in Chinese characters, with English names and terms inserted here and there in parentheses, such as humanistic psychology, Demosthenes, social interest, life style, creative power, among others. Dr. Kuo wished to take the occasion of the 1970 Centenary to introduce Adler's psychology to Chinese educators, and so far as we know, this is indeed the first time that Individual Psychology has appeared in Chinese.