

DISCUSSION GROUPS

A group on *Diagnostic Problems* met on both afternoons. It was moderated by Dewey Gilbert, M.D., Loyola University, Stritch School of Medicine; and Frank J. Macchitelli, Ph.D., and John C. Stumpf, Ph.D., VA Hospital, Hines, Ill.

In the first session, in explaining the Adlerian approach to diagnosis, the moderators emphasized understanding the patient's present life situation, his way of influencing people in his situation, the purpose of his behavior and symptoms, his life style. Techniques that were described included "the question": What would be different in your life if you were rid of your symptom? The use of "guessing" in the interview was discussed, and cooperation between the interviewer and the patient was deemed crucial in determining understanding. Drs. Macchitelli and Gilbert role-played a diagnostic interview. The discussion which followed raised questions, among others, as to how the symptom was created by the patient, and how it helps him to move closer to his goal. How is the patient presently meeting his life tasks?

In the second session the moderators focused on specific problems with patients, submitted by the group members. These were assisted in redefining the problem in a more encouraging way, so as to rekindle their efforts and to show them that diagnostic labels and prognoses couched in negative terms often set up negative expectations, discouraging the therapist and impeding effective treatment.

Since this was the last period of the Conference, there were many questions regarding pertinent literature, workshops and institutes in training Adlerian counselors and psychotherapists, and the location of Adlerian institutes.

A discussion on *Group Psychotherapy* was led by Bina Rosenberg, M.D., Alfred Adler Institute, Chicago, who described basic principles of group dynamics and therapeutic leadership during the first part of the session. During the second part, the participants, some 25 in number, constituted themselves into a therapy group, with volunteers taking turns as therapists, and Dr. Rosenberg offering a didactic, running commentary.

A group on *Problems of Childhood* was moderated by Howard J. Klapman, M.D., Illinois State Pediatric Institute, and Rev. Robert L. Powers, Alfred Adler Institute, Chicago. Gerald J. Mozdzierz, Ph.D., VA Hospital, Hines, Ill., conducted a group on *Social Movements*, while still another group was under the leadership of Ronald J. Pancner, M.D., Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana.