

WORKING GROUP B

(Psychotherapeutic and Psychoanalytical Approach)

Chairmen:

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF WORKING GROUP B

The majority of papers read to Working Group B focused on observations made in the psychotherapeutic situation. Prof. Servadio's Survey of the field was "displaced" to Group D. So was Doctor Meier's condensed report on Prof. Jung's theory of synchronicity.

Dr. Eisenbud discussed "Chronologically Extraordinary Psi Correspondences in the Psychoanalytic Setting." Several discussants agreed that the analytic approach to so-called precognition is a legitimate one and may throw light on philosophical aspects. Dr. Ehrenwald, in his paper on "Telepathy and Telepathic Tracer Effects in Interpersonal Relationships" stressed that analysis may unmask psi occurrences which would otherwise escape attention. They usually result from a complicated interpersonal relationship involving patient and therapist. Dr. Ullman's paper "The Dream, Schizophrenia and Psi Phenomena" was based on Pavlovian concepts correlating Psi with minus functions or the dominance of a "primary signalling system."

Prof. Urban reported on ESP tests in mental patients before and after shock treatment. He is also engaged in a research project on Psi factors in paranoid schizophrenia.

Dr. Daim's paper "Parapsychological Observations during Psychoanalytic Treatment," included some material not directly verified by the therapist in the analytic setting. Dr. Booth briefly summarized his paper on the "Parapsychological Dimensions in Medicine," which included a discussion of the dynamics of so-called coincidences.

The three sessions gave opportunity for lively discussions with, among others, Prof. Marcel, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Gillespie, Mr. Zorab, Prof. van Lennep and Dr. Musaph taking part.

Dr. Rose and Prof. Servadio and Dr. Daim spoke about the necessity of gathering more data and getting more psychiatrists interested in the field. Dr. Ehrenwald stressed the need to evaluate situational and dynamic factors involved in Psi occurrences in the psychotherapeutic situation. Dr. Ullman suggested publication of important papers in several periodicals in different countries.

Mrs. Goldney, Dr. Eisenbud, Dr. Kahn and Dr. Scrivner discussed the use of technical terms and stressed the need of a better mutual understanding between representatives of "quantitative" and "qualitative" approaches. Dr. Bruch asked for more material from psychoanalysts coming across Psi incidents. Dr. Rose recommended the introduction of the issue of parapsychology in the psychiatric and psychologic curriculum.

The discussion confirmed the part played by the personal involvement of the therapist in the occurrences and stressed the need for a constant analytic scrutiny of his "countertransference." There was general agreement that although the occurrence of psi may seem incompatible with our current notions of time, space and causality, the incidents are subject to the same laws of psychodynamics as apply to the dream, to the neurotic symptom, faulty actions and the like.