

## EDITORIAL I

### THE SCIENCES AND SOCIATRY

The United States of America has become the strategic center in the production and organization of most scientific ideas. Increasingly representatives of all sciences are traveling from all parts of the globe to the United States in order to find out what is new in science and what the ideas are which the future promises to hold.

It is the most important outcome of World War II, although the situation has been in the making for some time. This picture is in contrast to the one which the movement of scientific ideas offered after World War I. It was then American students who traveled to the old countries; the strategic centers were then in Europe. Students, in order to find out what was new and pregnant with future, in social organization and planning, traveled to Moscow, in regard to the physical sciences they traveled to Berlin and other European signalposts, for learning the new in psychology and psychiatry they traveled to Vienna.

Today the picture is reversed. Not only representatives of the vanquished countries but also of the victor countries are coming to the United States, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Russians, Hindus, Chinese, to expand their knowledge, and also to find a market for their ideas. Genius has, of course, in the sciences as well as in the arts, no geographic or ethnic barriers. It even rises more frequently among desperate and suffering than among prosperous peoples. It may also be contended that the thoughtwaves did not originate here; that they are here because the political situation in Europe and Asia has forced many carriers of ideas to seek refuge in the safe haven of the United States. But this is beside the point. They came not as much for the sake of their material welfare but rather for the safety and development of the ideas which they carried in their mind.

The facts are that the United States has been able to provide at a growing pace the *opportunities for productivity* and the *public receptivity and responsiveness* without which no pioneering effort can prosper. The effect of providing a fertile soil for idea-seeds has been that the United States is becoming itself a center of positive productivity stimulating and multiplying its own resources for scientific talent and aiding them in opening new frontiers. It is up to the people of the United States to take advantage of this historical moment. Leadership is like a great fortune. If not cared for and well directed it marches away to other people more courageous.

It has to watch the pathology of its own nation as it affects the rest

of the world. It has to invent devices by which correctives can be put to work. Improvement and pathology of human society and improvement and pathology of science are inter-dependent. Each must be watched at every turn, each situation as it emerges and each idea long before it becomes a scientific magnitude. But this cannot be done by preaching. In the present world emergency it is required from leadership of a first order that it sponsors "sociatry", the science of social pathology and catharsis to which this journal is dedicated. It turns the attention of the therapist to *both* ends of the stick, to the social atoms of which human society consists and to the whole of mankind, to each of its parts as it affects the whole and to the whole as it affects each part.

## EDITORIAL II

### SOCIATRY AND PSYCHIATRY

The frontiers of psychiatry have never been clearly drawn. Its frame of reference has been traditionally the mental healing of the single organism. (But playing with phrases like "social" psychiatry indicates a widely spread confusion as to the finality of this boundary.) The two spheres below and beyond, "Bioatry"<sup>1</sup> and "Sociatry" have logically the healing of the *species* and the *socius* respectively, as frames of reference.

The initiation of the science of sociatry coincides with the critical historical situation of mankind in the middle of our century. The aim of the new science is the prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of groups and intergroup relations and particularly to explore how groups can be formed which propel themselves into realization via techniques of freedom *without* the aid of sociatry or psychiatry. The secret aim of sociatry, and of all science, is to help mankind in the realization of its aims and ultimately to become unnecessary and perish.

Neither the laws of chance nor the laws of heredity can account for the birth of human society. Nor can economics account for it. New factors positively engaged have been discovered, tele and spontaneity. The goals of sociatry cannot be attained merely by a series of abreactions or by the adjustment of man *à tout prix* to a social and cultural order. They cannot be attained without changing this order—changing it means the setting up of a new system of values and the penetration of human society with it. This system of values must be evolved in conformity with sociodynamic and sociatric laws. The change cannot be brought about without a "revolution" in all departments of life, the most radical it has undergone since the glacial age.

---

<sup>1</sup>Bioatry, similar to Sociatry, is derived from the Greek *Bios*, life, and *Iatreia*, healing. See "Sociometry of subhuman groups," *Sociometry* Vol. VIII, No. 2.