

other individuals whom he has encountered in the past and with whom he was engaged in significant relations, direct or symbolic, the more *inaccurate* will be his perception of them and his evaluation of their relationship to him and to each other. The dynamic effect of experiences which occur earlier in the life of an individual may be greater than the more recent ones but it is the inaccuracy of perception and the excess of projected feeling which is important in transference; in other words, he will be less perceiving the effect which experiences have on him the older they are and less aware of the degree to which he is coerced to project their images upon individuals in the present.

III. The greater the social distance of an individual patient is from other individuals in their common social atom, the more inaccurate will be his evaluation of their relationship to him and to each other. He may imagine accurately how A, B, C whom he chooses feel towards him, but he may have a vague perception of how A feels about B, A feels about C, B feels about A, B feels about C, C feels about A, or C feels about B. (Analogous to transference we may call these vague, distorted sociometric perceptions—"transperceptions.") His transperceptions are bound to be still weaker or blank as to how people whom he has never met feel for E, F, or G, or for A, B, or C or for how these individuals feel about each other. The only vague line of inference he could draw is from knowing what kind of individuals A, B, and C are.

IV. The degree of instability of transference in the course of a series of therapeutic sessions can be tested through experimental manipulation of the suggestibility of subjects. If their sociometric status is low, they will be easily shaken up (sociometric shock) by a slight change, actual or imagined, in the relationships of the subjects around him. It is evident that transference has, like tele, besides psychodynamic, also sociodynamic determinants.

#### CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF THE TERMS GROUP THERAPY AND GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY\*

*Editor, THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY:*

SIR: In a review of Corsini's *Methods of Group Psychotherapy*, in the March 1959 issue of this Journal, p. 840, Mr. Illing says: "Moreno

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claims for himself the first coinage of the term 'group psychotherapy' (1932), without, however, substantiating his claim, although he cites many 'witnesses' for his testimony, such as William Alanson White, Winfred Overholser, Pierre Renouvier, S. H. Foulkes. . . ."

Here follows the record in my *own* publications: *Application of the Group Method to Classification*, Congressional Library, No. 32-26884, Publisher: National Committee on Prisons, New York, 1931-32, a chapter "Concerning Group Therapy," pp. 60-61; "Illustration of Group Therapeutics," pp. 74-76; "Group Therapy in an Institution of the Insane," pp. 77-79; "Definition of Group Therapy," p. 103.

The *Group Method* monograph was the topic of a Round Table at the annual meeting of the APA, May 31, 1932, Moderator: William A. White. At this meeting the term "group psychotherapy" was first given currency by the author.

The term "group *psychotherapy*" is recorded in my book *Who Shall Survive?* with a Foreword by Wm. White, Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co., Washington, D. C., First edition, 1934, Congressional Library No. 34-18502; see p. 437, referring to chapter "Group Psychotherapy," and the definition, p. 301, "Group therapy treats not only the individual who is the focus of attention because of maladjustment, but the whole group of individuals who are interrelated."

Group psychotherapy owed its emergence to sociometry and small group dynamics which was expounded by the author between 1931 and 34; he formulated group therapy as a scientific methodology with the help of Drs. White, Whitin, Branham and Jennings. There have been forerunners of pre-scientific group methods in the U. S. A. and Europe *before* 1931. The most important influence came from Vienna since 1909. Many of these methods (psychodrama, 1911, interaction methods, 1913, psychodrama combined with group therapy, 1923) have been launched by this author and described in his German books.

It is farfetched to trace the origins of group psychotherapy to European sociologists. One could equally quote American sociologists. Every new idea has forerunners but the moment of emergence of the scientific group psychotherapy movement into scientific history, its *kairos*, was the year 1932, within the fold of the American Psychiatric Association.

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