

A DANGEROUS TENDENCY IN CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT

By MYRON SHARAF

In the January, 1948 issue of the English magazine, *The New Era in Home and School*, there is an article by Lance Whyte which very clearly illustrates a tendency in present-day thinking, which, to my mind, deserves the sharpest condemnation. Let us first examine the article and then move on to the larger implications which it illustrates.

The author begins by describing the current chaos in human civilization and thought. Considering offered solutions, he rejects—we need not go into his reasons here—both religion and Marxism as inadequate. The slogan: "More education" is empty because it does not say *which* concepts are to be taught to the young generation. Other usual answers he also finds sterile.

No, says Mr. Whyte, nothing less than a "new foundation for human consciousness, i.e., for all thought, scientific or other," is necessary. This foundation must be universal, applicable for social and personal as well as scientific integration. The "new" methodology Mr. Whyte proposes is that of a non-mechanical "unitary formative process, a process in which patterns are developed and transformed according to some law which has not yet been discovered." This idea of a formative process, if justified by physics, would form the coordinating principle for knowledge already accumulated, and would replace the mechanical principles of the Newtonian outlook which furthered "the great dualism of mind and matter which has so long haunted human thought." It would be "very like what Dialectical Materialism would have been if the Dialectical Materialists had not allowed many of their conceptions to become static." Instead of analyzing systems into permanent and unchanging entities and then studying their interactions, it would study the formative processes displayed in the system comprising all the "interacting" entities.

Whyte gives an example. "When two adolescents fall in love a psychosomatic change . . . takes place in each of them, each being changed under the influence of the other. But it is impossible to describe this process as the interaction of two unchanging entities, because each of them is changing. Therefore the only way to regard it is through the conception of a *single process affecting them both and developing complementary characteristics in each of the two*. Here we have the essentials of a formative process, the two individuals *forming one developing pattern of complementary parts*." (Italics the reviewer's.)

I have quoted from Whyte's short article in some detail because it is important to note exactly what he is saying. To the student of orgonomy, all of it—right down to the example—sounds familiar, too familiar. It is an unconcrete version of what Reich has been writing for many years, most fully and over the ground Whyte covers in "Orgonotic Pulsation" (*International Journal of Sex-economy and Orgone Research* 3, 1944, Nos. 2 & 3). But Whyte's very unspecificity betrays the crucial difference: whereas his formulations are still only theoretical and do not tell us how to proceed factually, Reich's thought technique of functionalism, *the guiding line of which for over 15 years has been the principle of a simultaneous identity and antithesis in nature*, is today a proven mirroring of basic natural processes. Developed originally through a consistent study, continued over decades, of the *emotions* in general and the orgastic function in particular, the thought technique of functionalism led to the discovery of the cosmic, primordial energy, the orgone, which is itself neither mechanical nor mystical, but functional, changing, "unitary and formative." Its discovery and *practical* application proves the validity of the thinking behind it.

Here, concretely, is all, and much more than Whyte was asking for. Here is the way of thinking that can be *and has been* applied to human and social life as well as to the natural sciences, that eliminates the dualism between mind and matter, that replaces mechanism without being mystical, that is very like what Dialectical Materialism would have been if it had not become static. Here, in tangible form as opposed to Whyte's hopeful proposals, is the "new foundation for human consciousness."

And yet Whyte is strangely silent about Reich and his work. Not so much as a mention, though Reich's thought seems to permeate every line. Having written the author telling him about Reich's work and asking him whether

he was familiar with it, and having received the answer that he "had heard of it though did not know it in detail," I am forced to the conclusion that the article is another example of conscious or unconscious intellectual plagiarism.

We are familiar with such diluted borrowings from sex-economy: Franz Alexander's "Character-Analysis" (cf. "Character-Analysis" by T. P. Wolfe, *International Journal*, 1, 1942, 90 ff.), Eric Fromm's books on the fear of freedom in the masses (cf. Harry Obermayer's review of Fromm's *ESCAPE FROM FREEDOM*, *International Journal*, 2, 1943, 173 ff.), current pedagogic writings on "freedom for the child" with little mention or watered-down statements on the genital rights of infants, children and adolescents. These are only a few examples; one could cite many more. Their common factor—the factor that betrays them—is that, while taking over parts of sex-economy and orgonomy, the *central* point of the elucidation of the energy function of the orgasm is never treated. No one could use this fact fruitfully without connecting in honest, clear fashion with Reich's work. What they do is take over only what can be used comfortably within the present framework of thinking and leave behind the dangerous rest. To quote from *LISTEN, LITTLE MAN!*, they want the raisins from Reich's pie but not the thorns of his roses. Then they are hailed for their "daring," "original" thinking (but still how safe it all is!) and the real thing is ignored or fought.

It is not our intention to blame anybody. We realize why these writers avoid mentioning the orgasmic function and the orgone. But we do believe that diluted articles on "unitary, formative thinking," "self-regulation," an "organismic psychology" etc. are in the long run more dangerous than writings which are openly reactionary and inimical to orgonomy. For while the latter are transparently off-the-track and reveal themselves to all for what they are, the former give the impression to the general public of being progressive and of grappling honestly with crucial contemporary problems. This *seeming* functionalism, self-regulation, mass psychology, psychosomatic medicine or whatever could destroy the findings of orgonomy by passing them on to the public after dissecting their spine—the study of energy processes in sexuality which, with inescapable logic, led to the discovery of the cosmic orgone energy.

It is necessary to expose the basic cheat of these attempts and to demonstrate their ultimate sterility. One cannot have a genuine functionalism

without studying that which is functional within human beings, the emotions, and moving from there to the basic natural process which follows the same laws as do the emotions. One cannot have a genuine self-regulation without a clear and unequivocal orientation on the sexual life of infants, children and adolescents. One cannot have a genuine mass psychology without understanding the irrational structure of contemporary man. One cannot have a genuine psychosomatic medicine without tackling the basis of psychosomatic illnesses: the stasis of sexual (biological) energy in chronic muscular armorings. All attempts to detour logical thinking degenerate into words without substance and serve to confuse the true issues. We intend to go into this in detail in future articles. Suffice it here to say that there is no easy way. Only the very factual, consistent and dangerous work on forbidden functions yields what Mr. Whyte and others are calling for—the *real* solution of the personal, social and scientific problems which haunt our age.

Projeto Arte Org

Redescobrimo e reinterpretando W. Reich

Caro Leitor

Infelizmente, no que se refere a orgonomia, seguir os passos de Wilhelm Reich e de sua equipe de investigadores é uma questão bastante difícil, polêmica e contraditória, cheia de diferentes interpretações que mais confundem do que ajudam.

Por isto, nós decidimos trabalhar com o material bibliográfico presente nos microfilmes (Wilhelm Reich Collected Works Microfilms) em forma de PDF, disponibilizados por Eva Reich que já se encontra circulado pela internet, e que abarca o desenvolvimento da orgonomia de 1941 a 1957.

Dividimos este “material” de acordo com as revistas publicadas pelo instituto de orgonomia do qual o Reich era o diretor.

01- International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research (1942-1945).

02- Orgone Energy Bulletin (1949-1953)

03- CORE Cosmic Orgone Engineering (1954-1956)

E logo dividimos estas revistas de acordo com seus artigos, apresentando-os de forma separada (em PDF), o que facilita a organizá-los por assunto ou temas.

Assim, cada qual pode seguir o rumo de suas leituras de acordo com os temas de seu interesse.

Todo o material estará disponível em inglês na nuvem e poderá ser acessado a partir de nossas páginas Web.

Sendo que nosso intuito aqui é simplesmente divulgar a orgonomia, e as questões que a ela se refere, de acordo com o próprio Reich e seus colaboradores diretos relativos e restritos ao tempo e momento do próprio Reich.

Quanto ao caminho e as postulações de cada um destes colaboradores depois da morte de Reich, já é uma questão que extrapola nossas possibilidades e nossos interesses. Sendo que aqui somente podemos ser responsáveis por nós mesmos e com muitas restrições.

Alguns destes artigos, de acordo com nossas possibilidades e interesse, já estamos traduzindo.

Não somos tradutores especializados e, portanto, pedimos a sua compreensão para possíveis erros que venham a encontrar.

Em nome da comunidade Arte Org.

Textos sobre a praga emocional e sociedade.

Texts on the emotional plague and society.

International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research

Emotional Plague and Society

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- 01 Wilhelm Reich. Biophysical Functionalism and Mechanistic Natural Science 1941
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 1 Number 2 1942
Interval 1-11 Pag. 97-107
- 02 Paul Martin. The Dangers of Freedom 1942
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 1 Number 3 1942
Interval 34-45 Pag. 226-137
- 03 Stefan Hirning. The Place of Literature in the cultural Struggle 1942
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 1 Number 3 1942
Interval 46-54 Pag. 238-246
- 04 Wilhelm Reich. Character and Society 1936
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 1 Number 3 1942
Interval 55-64 Pag. 247-256
- 05 Gunnar Leinstikoy. The newspaper compaign in norway 1942
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 1 Number 3 1942
Interval 74-81 Pag. 266-273
- 06 Wilhelm Reich. Give Responsibility to Vitally Necessary Work 1943
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 2 Numbers 2 3 1943
Interval 1-4 Pag. 93-97
- 07 Wilhelm Reich. The Biological Miscalculation in Human Struggle for Freedom 1942
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 2 Numbers 2 3 1943
Interval 5-29 Pag. 97-121
- 08 Wilhelm Reich. Work Democracy Versus Politics 1943.
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 2 Numbers 2 3 1943
Interval 30-48 Pag. 122-140
- 09 Dorothy I. Post. Freedom is not so Dangerous 1943
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Interval 56-60 Pag. 148-152
- 10 Harry Obermayer. Reviews Social reconstruction Without Sex-Economy 1943
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Interval 81-83 Pag. 173-175
- 11 Theodore P. Wolfe. On a Common Motive for Defamation 1944
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 3 Number 1 1944
Interval 76-78 Pag. 71-73

12 Harry Obermayer. Reviews The Psychology of Facism 1944
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 3 Number 1 1944
Interval 86-87 Pag. 81-82

13 Wilhelm Reich. Some Mechanism of the Emotional Plague 1945
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 4 Number 1 1945
Interval 36-55 Pag. 34-53

14 Gladys Meyer. Review The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy 1945
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Interval 25-33 Pag. 147-155

16 Gladys Meyer. The Making of Fascists 1945
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 4 Numbers 2 3 1945
Interval 69-77 Pag. 191-199

17 Wilhelm Reich. Work Democracy in Action 1944
McF 207 Annals of the Orgone Institute, Number 1. 1947
Interval 6-21 Pag. 4-35

18 Anthony I. Swaroswsky. Thoughts on the Sex Behavior of American Soldiers in the Eto 1947
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19 T.P. Wolfe. Emotional Plague versus Orgone Biophysics 1948
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Interval 1-26 Pag. 1-49

Orgone Energy Bulletin

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01 Myron Scharaf. A Danger Tendency in Contemporary Thought 1949
McF 208 Orgone Energy Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1. Jan. 1949
Interval 19-20 Pag. 30-33

02 Notes Editorial. Orgonomy A Threat. A Warning. Regarding Rumors 1949

McF 208 Orgone Energy Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1. Jan. 1949
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03 From Recent Reviews by Wilhelm Reich 1949
McF 208 Orgone Energy Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1. Jan. 1949
Interval 23-26 Pag. 39-45

04 Chester M. Raphael. The Malboro Incident 1949
McF 209 Orgone Energy Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2. Apr. 1949
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05 Editorial A Dilemma in Self-Government 1949
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11 Reviews. Science and Common Sense. The Name of Humanity. And Biography of D. H. Lawrence 1952
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Interval 32-33 Pag. 61-63

12 Wilhelm Reich. Truth Versus Modju 1952
McF 313 Orgone Energy Bulletin. Vol. 4, No. 3. Jul. 1952
Interval 19-23 Pag. 162-170

13 On the Record. On Human Evil 1952
McF 314 Orgone Energy Bulletin. Vol. 4, No. 4. Oct. 1952
Interval 28-30 Pag. 221-224

14 Wilhelm Reich. The Murder of Christ 1953
McF 315 Orgone Energy Bulletin. Vol. 5, No. 1,2. Mar. 1953
Interval 4-15 Pag. 5-27

15 Archives of the Orgone Institute. Modju at Works in Journalism 1953
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