Great Men in Conflict with the Emotional Plague*

By WALTER HOPPE, M.D.

Schopenhauer's The World as Will and Idea did not arouse any attention for a long time. Sixteen years after publication his publisher informed him that the larger part of it had to be sold as wastepaper. Much later he received ten free copies of his most popular book as a "royalty." Schopenhauer lectured at the University of Berlin before empty desks. The Universities did not take notice of him or his works. Only two years before his death was he recognized.

Richard Wagner was vehemently attacked in his native city, Leipzig. The overture to "Tannhäuser" was derided. It was regarded as a bad example for other composers. The critics said that there was no style at all in the music of "Lohengrin." The "Meistersinger" was performed before empty houses. It was sarcastically remarked that he had transformed "Rheingold" into "Rhinepoison." He himself was called the representative of dilettantism. In Paris he was so unknown that Lohengrin and Tannhäuser were thought to be composers. Where Wagner succeeded, his enemies claimed that this was the result of the claque and of generously distributed free tickets. Wagner, too, suffered from great material need.

Bizet was bitterly accused of being a follower of Wagner. Paris, knowing little of Wagner's music, then condemned that of Bizet's, which it did not like, and thus put it hopelessly beyond the pale of discussion.

Ivan Turgenev was sentenced to a month in the police prison and exiled for two years because of "disobedience and violation of the censorship laws." He had written a eulogy of the late Gogol in a Moscow paper with the permission of the highest official of the Moscow censorship bureau, but against

*This is the concluding section of Dr. Hoppe's article, begun in the *Orgone Energy Bulletin*, January, 1951, pp. 4-22.
the interdict of the censor in St. Petersburg. His greatest work, Fathers and Sons, was called an unworthy pamphlet because he supposedly had slandered the youth. Actually he was completely misunderstood.

Fyodor Dostoevski languished four months in a cell of the St. Paul’s fortress without having the least idea of what the charge was against him, namely, of having participated in discussions with some friends which were exaggeratedly called the conspiracy of Petraschewski. One morning he was led from the prison, covered with a shroud, blindfolded, and tied to a pole; the death sentence was read to him. Then the official raised his hand and read the pardon decree by which the death sentence was commuted into a prison term to be spent in Siberia. There he had to shovel snow and to carry bricks. The Bible was the only book which he was allowed to read. As a forgotten man he returned to St. Petersburg where his literary patrons meanwhile had dropped him.

Walt Whitman died in a shabby little house in Camden, N. J., in 1892 practically unknown to reading circles. Where he was known he had the reputation of being a disreputable and rather dirty old man. Actually he was immaculately clean as all his friends bear testimony to. When he published his collection of poems, not a single copy was sold. Most of the critics either ignored it, or pulled it to pieces. They wrote: “A confused muddle of bombast, vulgarity, and nonsense... He knows of art as much as a hog does of mathematics... We cannot think of a more appropriate reward for it than the whip...”. In his book were all kinds of leaves except fig leaves. John Greenleaf Whittier threw his book out of the window. This was the reception which the United States gave her foremost national poet. His crime was to speak frankly and candidly of the relation of the sexes, without witticism or equivocation. James Harlan, then Secretary of the Interior, a bigoted man who had become secretary through the influence of the Methodists, upon a denunciation of Whitman, searched Walt’s desk and was so shocked by reading his poems that he had to send his employee away.

Aris White introduced in New York in 1881 the first schools to teach shorthand to women. The women’s clubs protested, claiming that the female constitution would not permit such strenuous work.

Thomas Edison produced in 1879 the first commercially practical incandescent lamp. But the copper industry went about its usual daily routine, unaware that its future history was being written in a little laboratory in New Jersey.

Finsen, a Danish physician, found a remedy against tuberculosis of the skin in the invention of an ultraviolet lamp. He was laughed at by the professors in Copenhagen.

Madame Curie discovered radium. The special properties of polonium and radium upset fundamental theories which scientists had believed in for centuries. The discovery threw over a world of acquired knowledge and contradicted the most firmly established ideas on the composition of matter. Thus the physicists remained reserved. In order to show polonium and radium to the incredulous, Pierre and Marie Curie had to labor for four years in a shed. They had no money, no laboratory and no help in the carrying-on of this important and difficult task. In 1898 a chair of physical chemistry fell vacant at the Sorbonne and Pierre Curie decided to ask for it. But the discoveries the Curies had published for the past 15 years were not “exactly” in the realm of physical chemistry, certain captious professors asserted. His candidature was rejected. He was what they call a “wretchedly bad candidate.” Henri Poincaré in writing about the incident declared: “What can be done against a normal school and against the prejudice of mathematicians?”

Louis Lumière, the pioneer of French film production, showed fifty years ago the first film of a train entering a station. The spectators believed it was magic and left the theater panic-stricken.

Oscar Wilde was sentenced in London to two years in prison as a corruptor of youth and as an immoral man. He did not take back a single word of what he had written and preferred to enter the darkness of captivity which destroyed him. Once he was taken to another prison. Some merchants, walking back and forth on the platform of a small railroad station, recognized him and spit in his face. Everyone seemed to enjoy being able to show him contempt. When his plays were performed, his name did not appear on the announcements. Even before the jury trial every good Englishman who knew Wilde avoided him in public.

Emile Zola, who hurled his “J’accuse” against the old France under Napoleon III, was called by his enemies a man without shame and decency. Zola had to fight hard against debts and unemployment. Frequently, he had to stay in bed because he had pawned his clothes and his last suit of underwear. Sometimes he lived on sparrows which he caught at the window and then fried.

Robert Koch, the discoverer of the tuberculosis bacillus, experienced many
disappointments. Professor Cohn, botanist at the University of Breslau, sent out invitations to the most eminent medics of the school to come to the first night of Koch's demonstration. "I tell you and you will see for yourselves. It is the most marvelous discovery in the realm of microbes." But all of them, including Paul Ehrlich, had disappeared through the door. Koch was left alone. Koch went to the famous Professor Rudolf Virchow. But Virchow was unimpressed; he made a sardonic remark, and was very sniffish and cold to Koch. On the 24th of March in 1882 in Berlin there was a meeting of the Physiological Society attended by the most brilliant men of science in Germany. After his lecture, Koch sat down to wait for the discussion. But no man rose to his feet. All eyes turned to Virchow, but Virchow got up and left the room; he had not a word to say.

Metchnikoff had to fight not only against cholera, but also against the German bacteriologist, Pfeiffer, who refused to believe in Metchnikoff's theory of the phagocytes. Moralists—and there were many physicians among these—raised a great clamor against the experiments of Metchnikoff. He took two apes and inoculated them with the syphilitic virus from a human being. The moralists exclaimed: "It will remove the penalty of immorality to spread abroad such an easy and perfect means of prevention!"

Rudolf Diesel published the work: Theory and Construction of an Economic Heat Motor, a thin volume which belongs to the books which have changed the world. Diesel knew that only very few men would grasp the significance of the book and was prepared to be misunderstood and mocked. Both happened. Spoofers spoke of a paper motor which existed only in a book. Diesel crossed the English Channel a few months before the outbreak of World War I and disappeared in his cabin. The rumor circulated that he had been murdered by his own countrymen so that he could not reveal any technical secrets. Diesel's disappearance remained unexplained.

Jack London was arrested in his youth as a vagrant and sentenced to 30 days at hard labor. When he one day made a speech in a park, he was once more arrested. Several previously friendly homes were closed to him. London's house, which cost him $80,000, was ignited and burned to the ground. His debts mounted after that to $100,000. He wrote to hundreds of men and women to whom he had loaned money and who had given him the utmost assurance that they would repay the loans, asking them to pay back every cent. He received about fifty dollars. For the first time he asked himself whether or not his friends had had a good time with him and had considered him a sucker the whole while.

Schauinn, in 1905, found the counteracting agent against syphilis. When he advanced his discovery in the Berlin Medical Society, a scientist declared that in the last 25 years 25 counteracting agents of syphilis had been discovered, and president Professor Bergmann said: "We adjourn the discussion now until the next syphilitic agent will claim our attention."

Havelock Ellis's book Sexual Inversion was declared by an English court to be a "lewd, wicked, bawdy, scandalous and obscene libel" and the court ordered its seizure and destruction.

Sigmund Freud described his difficulties with his environment as follows:

"I appeared without prior notice as a speaker in the Viennese Psychological Society under the presidency of Krafft-Ebing. I treated my discoveries as routine contributions in science and hoped that others would do the same. Only the silence after my lectures, the negative space that began to form around my person, the insinuations which were brought to my attention, made me gradually realize that my claims about the importance of sexuality in the etiology of neurosis could not expect to be treated like other communications. I understood that I had disturbed the sleep of the world and that I could not count on impartiality and indulgence. Meanwhile my writings were not reviewed in the medical magazines, or, when this did occur on rare occasions, they were rejected with sneers or pitying superiority. Occasionally a colleague in one of his publications would remark about me in not very flattering terms, as 'cranky, extreme, or very peculiar.' Nobody can expect that I developed a special respect for the judgment of the world during these years when I alone represented psychoanalysis."

Carl Ludwig Schleich, the inventor of local anesthesia, writes in his autobiography: "Every period regards itself as being at the peak of human efficiency and at no time were even medicine and its representatives free of that dangerous double of knowledge, dogma. The naked fact is monstrous that a physician is ejected from the temple for discovering a benefit for suffering people that is later acknowledged. And this before a forum of 800 surgeons, all specialized colleagues! Unfortunately, this is the rule when the question is the innocent collision between a harmless discoverer and the well-protected iron wall of the academic castle, this fortress of reaction of all kind, this dragon-cave of monopolies. President Bardeleben asked the gathering after my lecture: 'Is anybody convinced of the truth of what has just been hurled
at us? Then, please, raise your hands.' What madness to put to a vote the question of whether a new discovery is true or not! Nobody raised a hand. I stepped in front of the platform. I wanted to say: 'Please, examine the facts. I can prove to you at any time that the claims are true.' I asked permission to speak. 'No!' thundered the president. Then I shrugged my shoulders and left. 'The offended one left the hall in humiliation,' the newspapers reported. Again and again the same struggle for life or death repeats itself. Don't let anyone get ahead of you, rather suppress him than give him a chance to skip you! A competition as hot as a horse race, only so much more contemptible since the welfare of the people is in question the care of which is said to be the highest goal of the administrators of the medical power bloc. All the best for the people—but not at the expense of our hard-won glory and of the methods which are the backbone of our existence!"

Paul Ehrlich discovered salvarsan. The chemists muttered that he was an idiot.

Christian Huelsmeyer 45 years ago discovered radar which has become so famous today. He obtained a patent in 1904. Huelsmeyer tried at that time to utilize his discovery but nobody was interested in it. They did not know what to do with it. Huelsmeyer, disappointed, turned to other things. Today, the Frenchman Barthelemy is considered the discoverer of radar.

Friedrich Nietzsche went beyond all his friends and acquaintances and was finally no longer understood. Nowhere was he able to find an echo, and when glory finally came to him, it was too late. He became afflicted with progressive paralysis and went insane.

A. V. Hardy discovered in Iowa scores of people afflicted with undulant fever. He was laughed at, not so much by the dairy cooperatives as by those who did not want to have the milk pasteurized. De Kruif writes that even in 1927 Hardy’s discovery could be mentioned only under one’s breath in medical circles.

Bertrand Russell was discharged from the University of Cambridge because of pacifism.

D. H. Lawrence tried several times to have his well-known novel Lady Chatterley’s Lover published without the omission of passages from the book. Three times he changed the manuscript without seeing his wish fulfilled. His positive attitude toward genital sexuality was “intolerable” to the society of his day. Only after his death an unabridged edition was finally published in Paris.

Thomas Wolfe, the man, the friend and brother of all mankind, often brought upon himself violent reactions, including threats against his life for what Wolfe, the writer, had written. People vented their feeling by denouncing him in bitter letters. They wrote that he was a monster against life. Others threatened to ride him out of town on a rail if he ever came home again. It was 1929 when the book Look Homeward, Angel came out. Its sale was disappointing. And today, after twenty years, while most books of the period are dead and forgotten, this book is still being reprinted and its total sales have far exceeded those of most bestsellers.

Sister Kenny invented a nurse’s system for treating children stricken with infantile paralysis. In June 1944 startling news emerged from the convention of the American Medical Association in Chicago. A committee of orthopedic surgeons had declared that the famed Kenny treatment of infantile paralysis was (1) not new, (2) ineffective, and (3) detrimental. The same issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association reported from Los Angeles: “The Kenny concept of poliomyelitis has given a new approach to the diagnosis as well as the treatment of the disease.” (This Journal carried in 1949 a slander against the orgone accumulator in order to protect the interests of pharmacology.) Officially the American profession appeared to have rejected the Kenny treatment, offering nothing in its place. The story of Sister Kenny’s long struggle against stubborn elements began over thirty years ago in Australia.

We did not wish to enumerate here the victims of political oppression and persecutions during the last decades.

He asked himself with horror: what is this impulse toward dirtiness, which is in the majority of human beings—this desire to besmirch the purity of themselves and others;—these swinish souls who take a delight in rolling in filth, and are happy when not one inch of their skins is left clean.—ROMAIN ROLLAND
Projeto Arte Org
Redescobrindo 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
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 compaing 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 Responsability 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
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 2 Numbers 2 3 1943
Interval 56-60 Pag. 148-152

10 Harry Obermayer. Reviews Social reconstruction Without Sex-Economy 1943
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 2 Numbers 2 3 1943
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
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 4 Number 1 1945
Interval 107-116 Pag. 105-114

15 Wilhelm Reich. The Development of the Authoritarian State Apparatus from Rational Social interrelationships 1945
International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research Volume 4 Numbers 2 3 1945
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. Swarowsky. Thoughts on the Sex Behavior of American Soldiers in the Eto 1947
McF 207 Annals of the Orgone Institute, Number 1. 1947
Interval 54-57 Pag. 101-107

19 T.P. Wolfe. Emotional Plague versus Orgone Biophysics 1948
McF 515 T.P. Wolfe. Emotional Plague versus Orgone Biophysics 1948
Interval 1-26 Pag. 1-49

---------------

Orgone Energy Bulletin
---------------

----------------------------------------
Emotional Plague and Society
----------------------------------------

01 Myron Scharaf. A Danger Tendency in Contemporary Thought 1949
Interval 19-20 Pag. 30-33

14 Wilhelm Reich. The Murder of Chist 1953
Interval 4-15 Pag. 5-27

15 Archives of the Orgone Institute. Modju at Works in Journalism 1953
Interval 44-46 Pag. 85-89