

SEXUALITY

Wilhelm Reich. 'Der masochistische Charakter'. *Internationale Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse*, 1932, Bd. XVIII, S. 303-351.

The author discusses the genesis of masochism and supports his views with detailed excerpts from the analysis of an extreme case of masochistic character formation. He criticizes adversely Freud's later theories with regard to the Death Instinct, the Repetition Compulsion and Primary Masochism, and upholds and elaborates the old theory that masochism is sadism turned inwards. He holds that the conflict which is fundamental to masochism is one between the libido and the patient's environment (the 'patriarchal civilization' of Western Europe). It is not between two essentially opposed internal forces, such as Eros and the Death Instinct. He regards this as of importance both for the theoretical understanding of masochism and for the therapeutic treatment of cases. He criticizes also Alexander's views on the 'need for punishment'.

Reich enumerates the four chief traits which characterize the masochist, namely: (1) the sense of suffering; (2) the tendency to self-abasement and self-injury; (3) the passion for tormenting others as well as the self; (4) the tendency to awkward, ungainly behaviour. He works out the contributions of constitutional predisposition and fixations with regard to each of them.

Skin erotism is a factor of great importance. The painful experiences, such as flogging, which the patient phantasies or actually experiences, have this in common, that they lead to a warming of the skin as well as to pain. One of the foundations of masochism is a feeling of disappointment in love, which was originally a feeling of loss of contact with the warm skin of the love object. The masochist's demands for love are exceptionally great and perhaps unfulfillable, and possibly a physiological basis for this is to be found in some peculiarity of the vasomotor nervous system which controls the dilatation and contraction of the peripheral blood vessels.

The pains to which the masochist subjects himself in reality or phantasy also signify punishment, but are not desired as such: they represent a milder form of punishment than that expected as the result of any sexual pleasure, and so come as a relief. Sexual pleasure is also itself felt as a form of punishment, and is feared as such while it is sought for as pleasure.

The part played by anal and urethral fixations is also of importance. The patient in the case described had received exceptional attention from his mother in connection with the evacuation of his bowels and bladder, but when he proceeded to show a more genital interest in her he received severe rebuffs. His first attempts at genital overtures to his mother took the form of exhibiting his penis. The rebuff in this connection caused an extensive regression to anal and urethral fixations, for exhibitionism in

connection with these zones had been regarded as praiseworthy and encouraged. A severe conflict, however, took place even on the anal and urethral levels owing to an identification with the patient's father, who had severely punished him for dirty behaviour in the presence of strangers.

Reich regards a repression of phallic exhibitionism as specific in the formation of masochism. It led in the patient to more inhibitions in sublimation as well as to various reaction formations.

Oral fixation is also of importance in increasing the insatiability of the masochist's demands for love.

The paper contains some general recommendations as to technique, and an account of certain special measures which the author found it necessary to employ in the case described.

Adrian Stephen.

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M. Wulff. 'Über einen interessanten oralen Symptomenkomplex und seine Beziehung zur Sucht'. *Internationale Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse*, 1932, Bd. XVIII, S. 281-302.

Five cases are described in which the symptom complex occurred, four women and one man, differing clinically in other respects and including hysterias, obsessional neurosis, paranoid character, impotence with stuttering. All manifested periodic 'eating and sleeping mania' (*Esssucht u. Schlafsucht*), in which enormous quantities of sweet things, cakes, unappetising remnants, scraps of paper, etc., were devoured, while persistent, unrefreshing sleep, disturbed by erotic dreams or onanism, accompanied the process of digestion. There were alternating periods of abstinence with diminished sleep. The eating and sleeping bouts were accompanied by erotic excitement, and by a state of profound depression, inactivity and neglect of the person, feelings of guilt and disgust at the subjects' own body, fattened by eating. Fasting removed the guilt and led to elation, well-being, energy and self-satisfaction, but without erotic excitement. Guilt and disgust followed the yielding to the cravings of hunger, and the cycle recommenced. Familial and external factors reinforced both oral fixation and its relation to erotic stimulation at the genital level. The onset was usually at puberty with profound reaction to the physical changes.

The exciting cause, as in melancholia, was loss of a loved object or a narcissistic wound, but the author distinguishes the cases from melancholia clinically and psychogenetically. The melancholic's symbolic incorporation of the object is largely sadistic, whereas these cases in which ingestion is actual, manifest a regression from the genital to the oral level in an attempt to retain the object, but the love cathexis in phantasy is largely undisturbed. Eating represented a perverted sexual act. In addition, the cases manifested marked castration complex, and the ingested substances were

International Journal of Psychoanalysis
Volume 14
Year 1933

VIENNA PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL SOCIETY

Third and Fourth Quarters, 1932

September 28, 1932. Dr. Paul Federn: 'The Ego-Cathexis in Parapraxes'.

October 12, 1932. *General Meeting. Election of the Council* for the coming year: Prof. Freud, President; Dr. Federn, Vice-President; Dr. Nunberg and Anna Freud, Secretaries; Dr. Bibring, Treasurer; Dr. Wälder, Librarian. Dr. Federn thanked the retiring Secretary, Dr. Jokl, for his seven years' work in the service of the Society.

Election of Officers (a) of the Training Institute: Dr. H. Deutsch, Director; Dr. Jekels, Assistant Director; Anna Freud, Secretary; Aichhorn, Drs. Bibring, Federn and Hitschmann, members of the Committee; (b) of the Clinic: Dr. Hitschmann, Director; Dr. E. Bibring, Assistant Director.

October 26, 1932. Dr. Robert Wälder: Report of the scientific proceedings of the XIIth International Psycho-Analytical Congress at Wiesbaden, September, 1932.

November 9, 1932. Dr. Siegfried Bernfeld: 'Psycho-physiological Investigations'.

November 23, 1932. Dr. Ernst Kris: 'An Artist of Unsound Mind' (Franz Xavier Messerschmidt).

December 7, 1932. Dr. Richard Sterba: 'The Effects of Analytic Therapy on the Ego'. (Read before the Congress.)

December 21, 1932. (1) Dr. R. Sterba: Further remarks in conclusion of the paper read on December 7.

(2) Dr. Otto Fenichel (Berlin): 'The pre-Edipal Phase in Girls'.

Anna Freud,
Secretary.

II. REPORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

BERLIN PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL INSTITUTE

Fourth Quarter, 1932(a) *Lecture Courses*

1. Dr. Carl Müller-Braunschweig: Introduction to Psycho-Analysis. Part I. Analytical Normal Psychology. Seven lectures. (Attendance, 36.)
2. Dr. Jeanne Lampi-de Groot: The Interpretation of Dreams. Seven lectures. (Attendance, 19.)
3. Dr. Jenö Harnik: Theory of the Specific Neuroses. Part II. Perversions, Psychoses, Disturbances of Character. Seven lectures. (Attendance, 14.)
4. Dr. Ernst Simmel: Psycho-Analytic Technique. Part I. Seven lectures. (Attendance, 18.)

5. Dr. M. Wulff: Neurotic Disturbance of Function in Early Childhood up to the Latency Period. Five lectures. (Attendance, 16.)
6. Dr. Wilhelm Reich: The Psychology of Instinct and Characterology. Five lectures. (Attendance, 27.)

(b) *Seminars. Practical Exercises. Discussions*

7. Dr. Otto Fenichel: Seminar on the works of Freud: writings on theory. Part I. (Seven seminars of two hours each. Attendance, 25.)
8. Dr. Felix Boehm: Seminar on the works of Freud: *Drei Abhandlungen zur Sexualtheorie*. (Seven seminars of two hours each. Attendance, 26.)
9. Dr. Müller-Braunschweig and Dr. Simmel: Seminars on technique. (Alternate weeks. Attendance, 16-18.)
10. Dr. Eitingon and others: Practical therapeutic exercises.
11. Dr. Fenichel and Dr. Reik: Discussion of recent publications. (Alternate weeks. Attendance, 51.)
12. Dr. Siegfried Bernfeld (or, in his absence, Steff Bornstein): Practical problems of psycho-analytical pedagogy. (Seven sessions. Attendance, 41.)

(c) *Study Circle*

13. Educational Study Circle. Bernfeld (or, in his absence, Bornstein). (Three sessions. Attendance, 30.)

FRANKFURT PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL INSTITUTE

Winter Term, 1931-1932

1. Dr. Landauer: Elements of Psycho-Analysis. Part II. (Attendance, 27.)
2. Dr. Landauer: Study Circle for the discussion of Freud's introductory works. Part II. (Attendance, 22.)
3. Dr. Meng: Analysis of children and adults as an Educational Problem. (Attendance, 24.)

Summer Term, 1932

1. Dr. Meng: Introduction to Psycho-Analysis. (Attendance, 30.)
2. Drs. Fuchs, Landauer and Meng: Seminar on Freud's *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. (Attendance, 16.)
3. Dr. Landauer: The Choice of a Career and Neurotic Impediments to work. (Attendance, 14.)

Winter Term, 1932-1933

1. Dr. Meng: Introduction to Psycho-Analysis. (Attendance, 8.)
2. Drs. Fuchs and Landauer: The Contribution of Psycho-Analysis to the science of Character. (Attendance, 19.)

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