In this eloquent and persuasive paper, Wolf explicates the differences between the classical conditioning theory of Pavlov and the operant conditioning concepts of Skinner, and their applications to psychodynamic theory and practice. He makes the telling point that for many people the traumatic life situations into which they are inextricably bound renders them just as immobilized, for all practical purposes, as dogs in a Pavlovian frame, and that this may explain why, like Pavlov’s dogs, they persist in their neurotic responses despite the fact that these responses are maladaptive. He suggests that transference and countertransference reactions can be seen as learned responses based on earlier stimuli, which then become generalized to similar ones in later life. He then comes to a formulation, essentially similar to Alexander’s concept of the corrective emotional experience, that stresses the therapist’s capacity to respond differently to the patient from the way previous human figures have done. Like Alexander and Marmor in the previous two papers, he stresses the mutual benefit that both psychoanalytic and behavioral psychiatrists can derive from an integration of both models.
At a time when cybernetics has come to relate the behavior of man to that of lifeless machines, we cannot possibly turn our backs on the model of something as close to man as is another mammal. The animal model is, however, a potentially double-edged weapon. It can be a blessing to the extent to which we succeed in establishing all that man and animal have in common, but it can also prove to be a hindrance to the extent to which we fail to establish the relevant features in which the two differ at the same time.

**Persistence of Maladaptive Behavior**

It is a characteristic feature of ontogenetic and even of phylogenetic learning that responses, or systems of responses, which are no longer adaptive and enhancing the needs of the organism tend to be shed and discarded. In the absence of constancy of living conditions, the maintenance of life of individuals as well as species is dependent on their flexible adaptivity, which consists as much in their capacity to extinguish and abandon patterns of behavior that are no longer appropriate to the changed conditions, as in their capacity to acquire and retain new appropriate ones. All this is in full keeping with the reward-punishment model of learning: adaptive behavior being reinforced by its own rewarding outcome is retained, whereas unadaptive behavior which cannot be reinforced by its own harmful outcome is cast off and extinguished.

In applying this “instrumental” (“operant”) model of learning to human psychopathology, we come up against the disconcerting paradox that maladaptive patterns in man, once acquired, may be retained for years in spite of their repeatedly unrewarding and even incapacitating out-