CARL GUSTAV JUNG—DEFENDER OF FREUD AND THE JEWS

A Chapter of European Psychiatric History Under the Nazi Yoke

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During recent months a wave of misinformation concerning certain periods in the early development of modern analytical psychiatry and psychology has swept through professional periodicals and popular informative literature. Since these publications have received a great deal of attention in professional circles, it seems important to correct the information which they conveyed. This present article is intended to be a historical report based upon published material available in the libraries of the United States, with the exception of some quotations from personal letters by Carl Gustav Jung. The authors of the misstatements this paper aims to refute will not be mentioned here, although their assertions will be included in this presentation.

This report concerns mainly the Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Gustav Jung, whose rôle in the development of modern psychiatry is generally recognized as highly important—even if one notes that dogmatic and fanatical representatives of other schools have repeatedly attempted to minimize his importance. Academic recognition does not always constitute the perfect criterion for scientific achievement, but it may be emphasized that Jung has received more honor in this country than any other non-American psychiatrist, including Sigmund Freud. Although most of the attacks upon Jung’s name have come from fanatic followers of Freud, a correct evaluation of Jung’s rôle in the development of psychoanalysis is of greater importance for an objective understanding of the history of the “psychoanalytic movement” than that of any other person. This is particularly true if the historic perspective is continued beyond the point where Freud closed his own chronicle, that is up to the years when psychotherapy was threatened in Europe by the outbreak of the Nazi movement, or until about 1935.

*The author, a child psychotherapist, writer and editor, was personally acquainted with most of the principals named in this paper. He studied for a time with Freud and later with Jung, with whom he was closely associated for many years. He is not, however, an adherent of either the Freudian or the Jungian school.
It seems important to emphasize, (as part of the introduction to this report), that its author is not a member of the association of the pupils of C. G. Jung, nor has Dr. Jung himself been consulted in regard to the presentation of the historic facts attempted here. The author has undertaken this writing on his personal initiative, because he believes that it is important for American psychotherapists to have objective information concerning certain momentous developments in their science.

CARL GUSTAV JUNG AND SIGMUND FREUD

It has been repeatedly asserted that Jung started out as a disciple of Sigmund Freud and subsequently became a traitor to his master. Freud himself—in his brief "History of the Psychoanalytic Movement" which he wrote shortly after the separation between himself and the Zürich psychiatrists, Bleuler and Jung, and which he doubtless undertook as a justification to his more faithful pupils and himself of the break with the Swiss—wrote a significant objective report of the beginning of their relationship. We learn that Jung belonged to the Zürich school of psychiatry and that the first contact with Freud had been made by the head of the school, Eugen Bleuler, during 1907; that it was Jung's invitation which brought together Zürich and Vienna to the first Psychoanalytic Congress in Salzburg (1908); and that Freud and Bleuler joined as editors* (Herausgeber) of the "Jahrbücher für Psychoanalytische und Psychopathologische Forschungen," for which Jung took over the task of managing editor (Schriftleiter) in 1909. Freud also emphasizes the importance of the work Jung had already done before he came in touch with him. Very correctly, he points out that it was the problem of the "complex-theory" which offered Jung the point of contact with him. Their break and the controversy in which Freud presents a highly subjective personal opinion in reference to the early history of his movement will be discussed later.

*The translator of the Modern Library edition of Freud's work, Dr. A. A. Brill makes the mistake of saying on page 947 "published by Bleuler and Freud and edited by Jung." Bleuler and Freud signed as Herausgeber and Jung as Schriftleiter. Herausgeber means editor and Schriftleiter must be translated as managing editor.