

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF PSYCHIATRY

Proceedings of the Psychopharmacology Symposium

Psychopharmacology FRONTIERS

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LONDON

J. & A. CHURCHILL LTD.
104 GLOUCESTER PLACE, W.1

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG CARD NO. 58-59898

FIRST EDITION

*Published in Great Britain
by J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., London*

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF PSYCHIATRY
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY FRONTIERS

*This Psychopharmacology Symposium of the
Second International Congress of Psychiatry
was held in
Zurich, Switzerland
on
September 2-4, 1957*

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PREFACE

THE PLANNING of such an extensive meeting as the Second International Congress of Psychiatry had to begin several years in advance. When the plenary session speakers were chosen in 1955, the use of drugs in the treatment of mental illness was a small speck on the horizon; only a handful of the sixty major speakers were to deal with this subject. But the "speck" developed into a small cyclone; and by 1956, when we proposed to the Congress Committee that a symposium be held on psychopharmacology, there was ready acceptance.

It was planned to have a round-table discussion, with audience participation, on reserpine and chlorpromazine, the only two drugs then available. But new drugs began appearing as well as an increasing number of provocative articles. Biochemists and pharmacologists began reporting their findings, and it became apparent that the base of the symposium should be considerably broadened.

It was seemingly impossible to hold a symposium with more than ninety participants, to be carried on in five languages, requiring advance copies of speakers' manuscripts, and whose discussions must then be stenotyped, transcribed, edited, and published promptly. What made the impossible possible was the fantastic co-operation of several hundred people, only a handful of whom we can thank here. The co-chairmen were hard-working as well as honorary gentlemen since they did a great deal of the organizing, soliciting and collecting of papers, chairing, etc.

To circulate manuscripts in advance would require translation, duplication, and much costly postage. A two-page letter was sent to a number of pharmaceutical houses with the hope that perhaps two or three might supply part of the needed financial support. Instead of only a few, fourteen pharmaceutical firms responded — which not only provided funds for the aforementioned requirements but made possible instantaneous IBM trans-

lation, a dinner for the participants, printed programs for notes, and a healthy subsidy for this volume which substantially reduces the cost for the reader. There was enough left over to underwrite in part the symposium on Chemical Concepts of Psychosis which has been edited by Rinkel and Denber and published by McDowell, Obolensky, Inc.

Charlotte Waldo, former bibliographer for the New York Academy of Medicine, undertook responsibility for checking bibliographic references and arranging for some of the translations. Some manuscripts were in English by contributors whose basic language was not English but who had endeavored to help by writing the best English they could. Many of these had to be "translated" from good intentions back into the native language of the author and then retranslated into more idiomatic and understandable English.

The usual unforeseeable complexities piled up. As the list of participants grew, it was obvious that the original three to four hour symposium was hopelessly inadequate and Dr. Stoll performed a minor miracle of program rearrangement by making possible the three sessions — even providing only a partial overlap with the symposium on chemical theories of psychosis.

Professor Bleuler, through one of the translating schools, produced able professionals, and Professor Meyer-Gross provided a multilingual psychiatrist. (Each translator needed a minimum of three and preferably four languages with enough proficiency to do instantaneous translations.) Dr. Michael Shepherd from London produced a typically efficient English stenotypist who recorded the free-floating discussions. The real "nerve center" of the entire operation, however, was the desk of my secretary, Mrs. Everett Kistner, who somehow managed to translate my light and airy suggestions, such as "Get photographs of all the participants," into startling realities. She has arranged, rearranged, typed, retyped, corresponded and proofread until I believe she could almost recite the entire volume from memory.

Mary Rackliffe and Margaret Mutch of the Editorial Department of Little, Brown and Company persisted through my original system of proof marking, an unfamiliar terminology, and the

anfractuosities of postal services from Jerusalem to Bombay to Barcelona and back during the two-month lecture tour during which the galleys were checked. The title and the subtitles were the inspiration of Theodore Phillips, Little Brown's Medical Editor.

For many Europeans — and less than a third of the contributors are American — this was the first scientific meeting they had attended which consisted almost entirely of unprepared, unrehearsed discussion, the deliberate aim of which was to bring together individuals with differing points of view and to have them argue much as one would in a private conversation. After the initial “shock” had worn off, some of them entered into the spirit so enthusiastically that a very junior man ended up berating the Herr Professor from his own clinic. (This is one of the few sections of the transcript which have been omitted since we understood that he wanted to retain his present position.)

Customary editorial liberty has been exceeded in a number of ways in the preparation of this volume. The manuscripts have been divided into appropriate sections. I have arbitrarily condensed some of the titles without permission of the authors. The manuscripts in foreign languages were translated into English, and many of them are published without the translation having been returned for final approval. Amendments have been made where they appeared necessary. This leaves the authors in the happy position of being able to deny any part of any statement which they wish to disown, and for which I freely assume the responsibility and blame. The same is even more true in respect to the discussions, although the participants did have an initial opportunity for correcting and amending these. I have tried to retain the flavor of the original meeting by leaving in almost everything except the occasional profanities and a few irrelevant announcements. We regret any minor misstatements which appear in the final published copy. Our apologies also to the “unidentified” participants. These are the penalties exacted for prompt publication.

When the next International Congress of Psychiatry takes place, the subject of psychopharmacology will unquestionably

have expanded to the point where no single symposium will be able to encompass all the new information, theories, and experiments available. Although the present volume lacks the contributions of a number of authorities who did not contribute because of other commitments, the proceedings are representative of outstanding investigators from more than a dozen countries at that time.

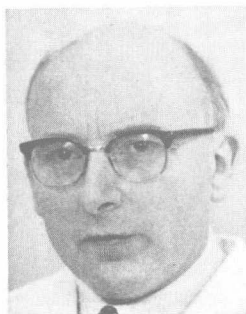
In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation towards publication of the symposium proceedings.

NATHAN S. KLINE

October, 1958



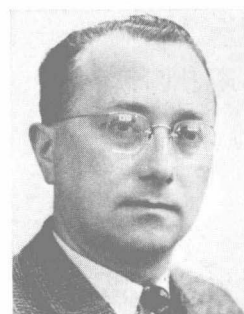
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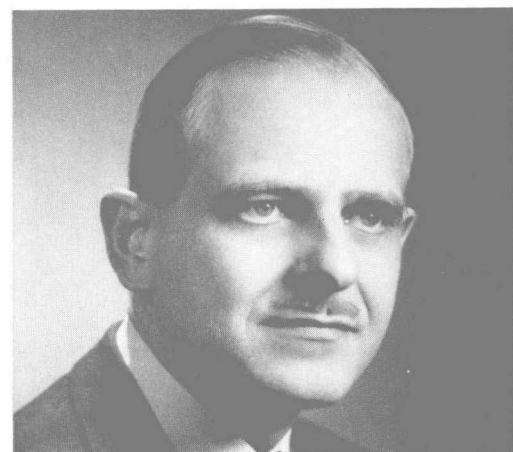
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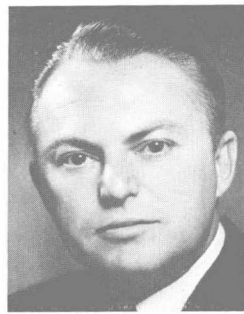
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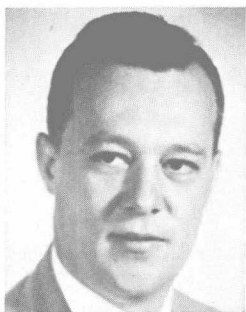
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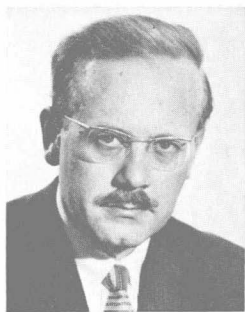
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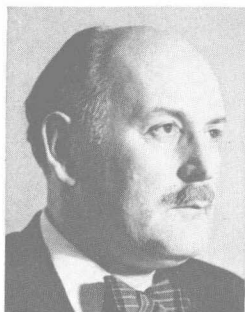
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