

DR. KNIGHT ASSAILS 'STRONG-ARM CURE'

Psychiatrist Scores 'Beating
Illness Out'—Urges 'Gentle'
Approach to Patients

By LUCY FREEMAN

The indiscriminate use of "strong-arm" methods of psychotherapy, such as electro-shock, injections of sodium amytal and lobotomy were attacked yesterday by Dr. Robert P. Knight, one of the nation's leading psychiatrists.

He condemned as "pernicious" what he called "the therapeutic attitude that the patient's illness must be beaten out of him," in addressing the closing session of the thirty-eighth annual convention of the American Psychopathological Association at the Commodore Hotel.

Dr. Knight, formerly chief of staff of the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kan., is now medical director of the Austen Riggs Foundation, which maintains a volun-

tary hospital and clinic for the study and treatment of psychoneuroses and training of psychiatrists at Stockbridge, Mass. He is also active in the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

In his condemnation of "strong-arm" techniques, he also included the practice of "intimidating psychoanalysis."

Sees Methods 'Prostituted'

Dr. Knight charged that some of the therapeutic methods in psychiatry have become "prostituted" by psychiatrists who "know no other methods" except the shock techniques and who think only of making the patient give up his complaints and subside.

These therapists operate on the theory that they "must do something vigorous to the patient, do it quickly, make it magical, and concentrate on doing something to the symptoms," he continued.

He declared that he wanted to make it clear that he was not condemning the use of these therapies as a whole because "each one has its place and purpose."

"But because some of these therapies gain support in certain types of cases and because they can be learned without too long a period of training, they come to be focussed on as the chief ther-

apeutic method of many men," he said.

One of the dangers is that these methods are then presented to the public as the newest and most progressive kind of therapy, he warned.

He issued a plea for the use instead of what he called "the gentle arm of psychiatry" which tended "to elicit from the patient his potentialities and to teach him something about further living."

Urges Rational Programs

He asks psychiatrists to "get acquainted with their patients, learn their capabilities and then develop a psychiatric program that is rational, rather than going from one strong-arm therapeutic method to another."

Dr. Ernest W. Burgess of the University of Chicago called on sociologists for further study of the change in sexual behavior in this country brought out by the findings in the book "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" by Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey.

He said the Kinsey report showed there had been "significant" although not "sweeping" changes over the years.

Dr. Gustav Bychowski, psychoanalyst, of New York, called Dr. Kinsey's remarks on sublimation

"highly controversial." Declaring that certain drives cannot be satisfied "since we no longer are living in the jungle," he said it was up to the psychiatrists to help highly inhibited persons to become less inhibited, channeling those drives into highly satisfactory cultural activities and thus providing sublimation.

3,500 Children Aid Missions

More than 3,500 children of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York presented their Lenten missionary offerings at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue yesterday afternoon. Six parishes received banners, one for the highest percentage of yearly Sunday School attendance and five for highest offerings. Bishop Charles K. Gilbert presided.

Musicians' Union to Convene

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES
ASBURY PARK, N. J., June 5.—James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, and leaders of the organization from all parts of the United States and Canada arrived here today in preparation for the union's fifty-second annual convention that opens on Monday in Convention Hall.

WOMAN FOUND IN CELLAR

Housekeeper, 68, Is in a Coma
With Diabetes, Head Injury

A 68-year-old housekeeper was found unconscious last night by her 78-year-old employer in the basement of his home in Flushing, Queens. A hammer with stains on it was found near her. The elderly woman was reported early this morning in a critical condition in Flushing Hospital.

The housekeeper was identified by the police as Miss Mabel King, who has worked for Henry Newman of 43-36 170th Street, Flushing, for twenty-two years. Mr. Newman, who left the two-story frame house yesterday morning on real estate business, told the police that he had not found the housekeeper when he looked for her after returning home about 6 P. M. His first search included the cellar.

On a second trip through the dwelling the employer saw her in the cellar. When Miss King was taken to the hospital it was found that she was in a diabetic coma and had lacerations of the scalp. The police noted that nothing in the house, including shopping money, had been disturbed.

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