THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ALFRED ADLER (1870-1937)

The death of Alfred Adler, twenty years ago on May 28th, in Edinburgh, Scotland, was widely observed.

In Vienna, a memorial plaque was unveiled on May 28th. It was placed on the house at Dominikanerbastei 10 where Adler had made his home and conducted his private practice and classes for nearly 25 years. The white marble plaque was presented to the City of Vienna in the presence of some 180 persons gathered in front of the house. Among those who spoke at the ceremony were the Minister of Education; the dean of the medical faculty of the University; the chairman of the Board of Education; the president of the Austrian Society for Mental Hygiene; Dr. Alexander Mueller, general secretary of the International Association of Individual Psychology; and a representative of the Mayor of Vienna who took charge of the plaque for the city. Further dignitaries present included Professor Hubert Rohracher, head of the Psychological Institute of the University of Vienna, and Dr. Solms, president of the August Aichhorn Society.

On May 27th, a meeting was held at the Physiological Institute of the University, where Adler conducted for many years weekly meetings of the Vienna Society for Individual Psychology. Dr. Hans Hoff, professor of psychiatry and neurology and chief of the University Clinic for these disciplines, spoke on Adler’s importance for medicine, and Professor Oskar Spiel spoke on Adler’s significance for education.

On June 3rd, in the auditorium of the Psychiatric-Neurological Clinic of the University, a final meeting was held jointly by the Society for Psychiatry and Neurology and the Vienna Society for Individual Psychology at which Dr. Hoff spoke on “The Personality of Alfred Adler,” and Dr. Karl Nowotny spoke on “Method and Technique in the Practice of Individual Psychology.” Among those present were Professors Otto Poetzl, E. Stransky, and Viktor E. Frankl.

Previously, Radio Vienna had broadcast an essay in appreciation of Adler’s work, written by the late Dr. Ferdinand Birnbaum and read by his widow.

In New York, the American Society of Adlerian Psychology together with the Individual Psychology Association of New York, sponsored a public lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine on May 10th. Dr. Robert W. White, chairman of the Department of Social Relations, Harvard University, spoke on “Adler and the Future of Ego Psychology.” This address is printed as the first article of this issue.

In London, a commemorative dinner was arranged by the Adlerian Society of Great Britain with addresses by Dr. Neil R. Beattie and Dr. James Moore. In Edinburgh, where Adler was cremated, a rose tree was planted in his memory on the 20th anniversary of his death.