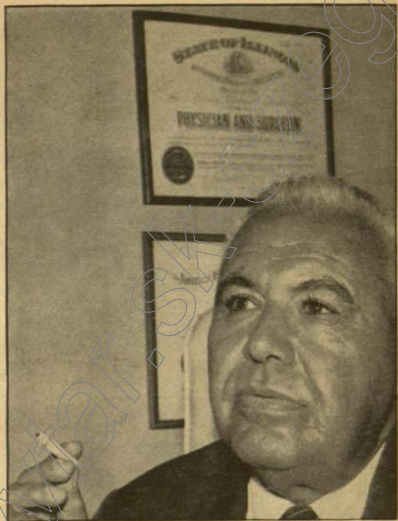


ALEXANDER, Dr. Franz

* 1891 Jan 22, Brest

+ 1964 March 8, Palm Springs, Cal.



DR. ALEXANDER says: "We may learn whether a patient should be treated by a man or a woman. We may also learn when the doctor should show sympathy and when he shouldn't. Finally, the experiment should make [analysis] more teachable" (see story).

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Emotions—Fine Tuning

Does successful psychoanalysis depend on the analyst's own personality? Can the precise needs of an emotionally unstable person be fitted to exactly the right kind of analyst?

Dr. Franz Alexander, 67, the eminent Hungarian-born psychoanalyst, formerly head of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis and now chief of the psychiatric department of Mount Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, is convinced that such matching of doctor and patient may one day be possible. To learn just how much the doctor's personality enters into the psychoanalytic process, Dr.

Alexander set up an unusual experiment at Mount Sinai sixteen months ago, backed by a Ford Foundation grant of \$250,000. Last week, as he received the Samuel Rubin Foundation Award in New York for his "outstanding contribution in the field of mental health," Dr. Alexander explained why he had singled out the doctor-patient relationship for so thorough a study.

As things stand now, he said, "all information comes from the therapist, who obviously cannot observe what goes on within himself. There is his understandable reluctance to let other colleagues see what he is doing. We want to see and understand what the doctor feels, how his idiosyncrasies creep in, and how all this influences the therapy.

What we are trying to do is break through the incognito barrier, we might call it, of the analyst."

Analysis Observed: To catch these subtle undertones, Dr. Alexander is using both men and modern electronic machines in a technique that records psychoanalysis more thoroughly than ever before. He has converted a large hospital room into an analyst's chamber with a couch for the patient and a leather chair for the therapist. In three smaller adjoining rooms are three doctor-observers and an electronic machine called "Murphy," which simultaneously records on graphs as many as nineteen separate signals onto a foot-wide roll of paper. "Murphy" and five tape recorders capture the conversations of doctor and patient and the three observers, in addition to the physical reactions of all five of them.

"We plan to see through one complete psychoanalysis and perhaps five therapy cases," says Alexander. "We have another two years of observation ahead, and a third year of working up our material. After that we will publish."

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