**PSYCHOLOGY**

**Therapeutic Play Helps**

Planned play sessions are being used in child psychiatric therapy and are proving helpful to both parent and child in understanding problems.

► PARENTS can help the treatment of their emotionally disturbed children by learning how to conduct therapeutic play sessions.

In a report to the annual meeting of the American Group Psychotherapy Association in San Francisco, four therapists described how these “do-it-yourself” sessions not only help the child, but also enable the parents to learn facts about themselves.

Parents spend the first ten weeks of the program mastering play technique in group sessions of six to eight persons. Later a standard group of new toys is purchased to be used only during the play periods.

Initially, each play session with the child lasts for a half an hour and is then increased to 45 minutes two or more times weekly.

The investigators have found that after these play periods the parents’ perception of the child is more accurate because of the absence of normal daily pressures for this short span of time.

“Having been taught to respond in new ways to their children’s behavior in the play periods leads to the loosening of consistent negative reaction patterns,” the investigators reported.

**PSYCHIATRY**

**Homosexuals Need Help**

► SOCIETY should not be misled by propaganda efforts of organized homosexual groups trying to gain “acceptability” for homosexuality, a psychotherapist warns.

Dr. Samuel B. Hadden, who has been treating homosexuals successfully for the past ten years, told the 22nd Annual Conference of the American Group Psychotherapy Association in San Francisco that “these groups resent every suggestion that homosexuals are sick and they foster an education program designed to make homosexuality a socially acceptable pattern of behavior.”

With the support of these organizations, the homosexual often sees himself as an "unfortunate individual," confined to his way of life because of a glandular imbalance or some other problem that he can do nothing about.

Therefore, Dr. Hadden said, he excuses himself from all efforts to alter his pattern of sexual preference.

“There is a growing body of evidence,” the psychiatrist pointed out, “that the psychotic pattern of sexual adjustment is but a symptom and is associated with other neurotic and characterological disorders in a high percentage of cases.”

Although he has treated homosexuals since the 1930s, Dr. Hadden’s most “gratifying” results have come in the last ten years when he began to use group psychotherapy with groups composed entirely of male homosexuals.

In almost every case of homosexuality, Dr. Hadden has found some type of disturbance in the boy’s relationship with his mother.

Often, because of her over-dominance, the boy was deprived of the opportunity to make friends and play in groups early in his life.

Thirty different homosexual studies showed that the homosexual recognized himself as being maladjusted when he started school.

Group therapy sessions eliminate the unspoken hostility that often drives homosexuals from mixed groups, said Dr. Hadden.

Many homosexuals forced into treatment by their families or the courts will often rationalize their existence, he said. However, older members of the therapy group attack these rationalizers in such a way that the homosexual soon admits that he hates his way of life and is ready to do anything to undergo change.

Dr. Hadden, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, believes that depriving the homosexual of “the rationalization that he believes that he is happy in his homosexuality” is the most vital feature of group psychotherapy.

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