

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GROUP-ANALYTIC SOCIETY (LONDON) TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1981, FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT

You will see from the Officers' Reports that a lot of useful work has been done in the last year and I am sure that you would wish us to extend our thanks to the Officers and other Members of the Society who put their shoulder to the wheel and kept it there. We can feel happy, for instance, at the vitality of our Scientific Meetings programme; with our European communications strengthening in our collaboration with the Italian Society over the Rome Symposium this year; at the indications we received at the Copenhagen Congress, of the increasing impact that group analysis is making on practitioners of other techniques of group psychotherapy; and with the fact that one of us, Dr. Malcolm Pines, has been elected President of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy. This will have a great influence on the Congress to be held in 1983.

However, you will also see that all is by no means well with your Committee. Many of us are offering our resignation to you, some because of conflicting engagements which cannot be altered but most of us are, to different extents, afflicted, as our Honorary Secretary expressed it, with a mood of anxiety and fatigue and are in need of a shake-up. We feel that the status of the Society needs critical examination - our financial dilemma, our relationship to the Institute and to Overseas Members. It is not my function here to elaborate on this but only to ask you all to help in clarifying issues and to throw your weight into re-vitalising the Society if, after due consideration, you feel that it should not be allowed to wither away. It is in the hope that new people may do better than we ourselves have done that we proffer our resignations. Although some current Members of the Committee may accept re-election as from the Annual General Meeting, this would spring from the new outlook that the Meeting might generate.

Whatever happened to group dynamics, you may ask. I think that the Honorary Secretary has indicated what may be at the root of our malaise. We have not yet resolved our transference relationship with Dr. Foulkes, our loss of leadership, and have not yet found resurrection in our collaboration together. Some of us are thinking favourably of the possibility of going into retreat for a day's free or associative discussion on our condition. This approach to our difficulties might be explored further in the discussion at our Annual General Meeting. It is my hope that as many Members as possible will come along to this Meeting to help us with our evaluation, that this Annual General Meeting might have a special part to play in shaping the future thinking and planning for our Society as a whole.

M. L. J. Abercrombie

M. L. J. Abercrombie (Mrs.)
Honorary President
Group-Analytic Society (London)