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AAAS Affiliate

American Society of Clinical Hypnosis

The American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, a new affiliate of AAAS, was formed in 1957 by a group of scientists interested in the therapeutic possibilities of hypnosis. The society grew rapidly, reaching a membership of 2200 physicians, dentists, and psychologists. Only those with a doctorate degree and membership in their respective national professional organization are admitted to membership. While the majority of members are from the United States, 16 foreign societies are affiliated on an equal basis with ASCH. This relationship fosters the exchange of ideas and knowledge of all types—clinical, experimental, theoretical, historical, and comparative.

The purpose of the Society is to "bring together professional people in medical, dental, and psychological fields using hypnosis, and to set up standards of training. It shall cooperate with all scientific disciplines in professional and public relationships in regard to the use of hypnosis and it shall stimulate research and publication in the field."

There are 35 component sections in the United States and Canada; each section manages its own local activities and has a representative on the board of governors, which is responsible for managing the affairs of the society.

An annual scientific meeting is held at which scientific papers on hypnosis and related fields of interest are presented by members of the society and nonmembers who are interested in the aims of the organization.

In 1958, the society founded the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis, a quarterly publication which goes to each member and also to more than 600 nonmembers and institutions. The Journal publishes outstanding original articles, abstracts of scientific material concerning hypnosis from other sources, clinical reports, and book reviews. This publication offers a very convenient way of keeping abreast of not only the rapidly developing field of clinical hypnosis, but all other fields of hypnosis as well.

In 1962 the society formed a foundation, the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis—Education and Research Foundation (ASCH-ERF). This foundation is a separate corporation but its trustees are chosen by the executive committee of ASCH; it received a large sum of money from a former independent foundation.

The functions of the ASCH-ERF are: (i) To promote research in clinical hypnosis; (ii) to provide instruction to professional people in clinical hypnosis until such time that the instruction is provided by professional schools; and (iii) to help professional people better understand the psychodynamic and interpersonal relationship so important in achieving the patient's welfare.

The foundation, a non-profit corporation, conducts periodic workshops in various parts of the country. These workshops are divided into two sections, the basic section and the advanced section.

The basic section is concerned with the teaching and demonstrating of the fundamental techniques of clinical hypnosis. The application of hypnotic techniques to certain problems of the psychologically normal patient is also taught by members of this section. This is primarily a matter of teaching the patient physical and mental relaxation and acquainting the professional man with the importance of his patient as a person and not of simply attempting to treat the disease as an isolated entity.

The sessions of the advanced section of the workshop are usually taught by psychiatrists who have the following purposes in mind: (i) to satisfy the desire and need expressed by many other psychiatrists for a course in hypnosis; (ii) to emphasize the psychosomatic aspects of medicine and dentistry; (iii) to teach psychotherapeutic principles and techniques; (iv) to place hypnosis in its proper relationship to psychotherapy; and (v) to give the clinician a better understanding of the fundamental motivations operating in his patients which are frequently the underlying cause of some of the organic symptoms presented by the patient.

Although hypnosis is of intrinsic interest both as a phenomenon and as a therapeutic technique, still there is more profound motivation which brings a group of therapists together in the society. It is a point which has always been mentioned but which is often lost in the modern-day development of new drugs and various mechanical or electrical techniques; the ill person is not just ill physiologically, but he is ill psychologically as well. Drugs and devices alone do not cure. The all-im-
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important doctor-patient relationship is a powerful therapeutic influence. It is this relationship which is being submerged in the present development of miracle drugs and devices, and its absence leaves so many patients with a feeling of incompleteness in their contacts with their physician and dentist.

The study of hypnosis is perhaps the best method of re-emphasizing the importance of the doctor-patient relationship. Because the society has, to some extent, brought a revivification of the importance of the interpersonal relation between the doctor and his patient, it has flourished and it will continue to attract more and more members of the therapeutic arts.

WILLIAM T. HERON
American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Forthcoming Events

May.


20-22. Institute of Radio Engineers, Professional Group on Microwave Theory and Techniques, symp., Santa Monica, Calif. (I. Kaufman, Space Technology Laboratories, Inc., 1 Space Park, Redondo Beach, Calif.)


20-23. Spectroscopy, 14th annual mid-American symp., Chicago, Ill. (J. E. Forretze, Roy C. Ingersoll Research Center, Wolf and Algonquin Rds., Des Plaines, Ill.)


22-25. Space, 3rd European symp., Stuttgart, Germany. (U. Seeliger, Verkehrsamts der Stadt Stuttgart)
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23–24. Radiosensitizers and Radioprotective Drugs, 1st intern. symp., Milan, Italy. (R. Paolletti, Inst. of Pharmacology, Univ. of Milan, Via A. Sarto 21, Milan)


26–29. Institute of Food Technologists, Detroit, Mich. (C. L. Willey, Inst. of Food Technologists, 176 W. Adams St., Chicago 3, Ill.)


27. Operations Research Soc. of America, Transportation Science Section, Cleveland, Ohio. (L. C. Edie, Port of New York Authority, 111 Eighth Ave., New York 1)

27–29. Canadian Nuclear Assoc., 2nd intern. conf., Montreal, Canada. (CNA, 19 Richmond St. W., Toronto 1, Canada)


(See 29 March issue for comprehensive list)