

Telephone: RODNEY 6333

The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital

Chairman :
Mrs. F. C. ORMEROD, C.B.E.

House Governor :
K. J. JOHNSON.

Patron :
H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

THE MAUDSLEY HOSPITAL,
DENMARK HILL,
S.E.5



February 19, 1962

Eric Berne, M.D.
Carmel, California

Dear Dr. Berne:

Many thanks for your most stimulating paper. There are several points about it which I think would strengthen both its value and its impact without altering its essence. I take it your thesis is that the incidence of endogenous psychoses is equal throughout the world and that varying incidence and prevalence rates have been due to the lack of careful and skilled observations in the past. Following from this you have then attempted to demonstrate the validity of this thesis on the basis primarily of Fijian data, personal observation, and a consideration of native forms of psychopathology and psychotherapy.

I would suggest that you begin your paper with the general thesis you conclude with, and a consideration of the importance and complexity of epidemiological work in proving this thesis. Next, I would suggest that you discuss at greater length the Fijian data as an example of what can be done in this field, the value of this and the difficulties involved, viz.: native customs, culturally bound psychopathology, lack of personnel etc. with some elaboration of that critical problem which culturally acceptable albeit abnormal behavior presents for the diagnostician and epidemiologist. Here you might elaborate on your personal experiences in the field demonstrating how successful a trained person can be in elucidating psychopathological processes. Your conclusions will then follow directly from your paper. I would also suggest that each of the 5 categories described on pages 5-7 be presented together with their expanded versions described on pages 7-13 for greater fluidity of style.

In line with these general suggestions I would suggest the following deletions and expansions:

✓ Pg. 3 Elaborate on Suva asylum, e.g. a description of it, examples of first patients kept there, type of staff, types of treatment.

✓ Pg. 5 Line 4-Give example

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✓ Pg.5 Line 12- What happened in 1958. You might describe developments and reasons for them.

✓ Pg.5 Bottom- Give example of anecdotal account of cannibalism. Does cannibalism go on today? Give examples of "native behavior."

— Pg.6 The data on Fiji could be elaborated since this is the strong point of the paper.

✓ Pg.7 Cargo cults-elaborate. Not all the readers are familiar with these.

✓ Pg.8 Lines 10-11 Elaborate on some of these customs

✓ Pg.8 Bottom- Elaborate on patrol officers-their observations.

✓ Pg.10 Describe a. Your experiences leading to these important conclusions.

✓ Pg.11- Top line- This point should be proven.

✓ Pg.12 Line 5- Describe experiments

✓ Pg.15 Again it would be most illuminating if you could briefly describe the promotion of cargo cults, delusions, hallucinations, etc.

✓ Pg.16 Line 1 "Apparent" psychopathology- Elaborate

✓ Pg.16 How does sorcerer train assistants. Elaborate on Carpenter- give example from his book or a quote. Elaborate on pubertal rites. Describe in a few words the treatment of the sorcerers. The relevance of such treatment techniques for incidence and prevalence rates.

✓ Pg.16 Last line-Most important point-Needs elaboration. How cultural factors interfere with diagnosis.

— Pg.17 Elaborate here. from South Pacific. Exclude Eskimo data.

— Pg.17 Which British colonies?

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— Pg.18 Why are Fijians reluctant to seek treatment? Is this due to specific cultural factors?

— Pg.20 Lead sentence seems to be the most critical contribution to the anthology. Could you elaborate on this?

oh
Deletions:

Pg.5 Line 5 . This statement has political implications. There must be reasons for this relative to colonial administration. Alone, without explication it adds an unscientific tone to the paper.

Pg.7 "Favorite forms of psychopathology" -implies conscious choice. Particular might be better word.

Pg.7 Piblokto doesn't seem relevant to the South Pacific.

Pg.8 Line 5- "Caucasian proprieties"-This is an opinion, not fact

Pg.8 Line 6 "Even to anthropologists"- a number of contributors are eminent anthropologists and such an opinion would detract from the value of the inter-disciplinary collaboration that is going in to making up this anthology.

Pg.8 "Paramedical" section -"surprising naive~~te~~ of anthropologists" -I think this may offend readers and detract from the impact of the paper.

Pg.9 "It is doubtful if any qualified psychiatrists serve colonies.." Isn't there a qualified psychiatrist on Papua-B.G.Burton-Bradley.

C
Pg.9. Comparing French with British-sounds too political and not really relevant to the main argument you are presenting.

Pg.9- Bottom paragraph-Top Pg.10. Castigating other workers doesn't add to the weight of your paper.

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Pg.13 Kramer's comments on Redlich and Hollingshead and Eaton and Weill don't seem relevant to this paper.

Pg. 14 1.Psychiatric care- This material about what goes on elsewhere doesn't seem immediately relevant to the South Pacific.

Pg. 20 Discussion of Trinidad and French Guiana does not seem relevant to the South Pacific.

Pg.20 Are the figures on New Zealand yours? If not,I don't think they strengthen the paper in that they seem unrelated to the kinds of material you have presented to support your conclusions on the Fijians.

Pg.23 Same comment applies here.

Pg.22 Last four lines- the sentence is unclear.

Pg.24- Last line is redundant and repeats what you said in the previous sentences with an additional note of apology.

I hope that you find these comments helpful in preparing this paper,which I hope to put at the beginning of the anthology emphasizing as it does the fact that mental illness is abundant in the most "unlikely" places,which will add weight to the theme of the other papers-that native healers do indeed have mental illnesses to treat and are not merely performing ornamental functions.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,
Ari Kiev
Ari Kiev, M.D.