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Hitler, who could mirror the needs of the German people and then exploit their deprivations and desires to his own ends. Kohut also found the rejection of his innovative theories by some colleagues in the psychoanalytic field traumatic. However, his observations on group dynamics were largely drawn from observations of large group phenomena. Freud (1921), and before him Le Bon (1895), had clearly described the destructive, primitive, emotionally exaggerated and intellectually wanting behavioural patterns in large social groups. Kohut feared that the same potential dangers were inherent in the small psychotherapy group and could be damaging to the patient.

With a distinguished selection of international contributors the authors discuss the application of the basic theory to the realities of current group psychotherapy practice. A succinct chapter by Harwood outlines the elements of self-psychology and how these have developed and been modified in recent years. She also demonstrates by reference to clinical vignettes how the group is a rich setting for the exploration of self-psychology concepts.

Many of the contributors refer to the compatibility of self-psychology with the group-analytic concepts of Foulkes, and Pines emphasises the complex and multi-faceted structure of the individual which "the group as self" provides. He contrasts the object-relations view that the psychological precedes the social with the Foulkesian view that the social precedes the psychological. Self-psychology is based upon the essential on-going development of the individual through the empathic interaction with significant others.

Among the clinically related topics covered are the selection of patients for inclusion in the group, the timing of the introduction of the new patient and the regressive phenomena that can be triggered in the current patients when such an event occurs. Transference to the therapist, and to other group members, occurs and has to be explored as it shifts through various phases in relation to developing relationships and past experience. An important chapter by Silvers on the co-therapy model stresses the value of introducing various aspects of co-therapy which allow for examination of the multiple-selves and the relationships to significant others in the network of successive care-givers.

The book is one of a series in the recently introduced *International Library of Group Analysis*. I cannot recommend it too highly for its clarity and the depth of its intellectual understanding of the topic.

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