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#### AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS IN A CASE OF HYSTERIA

DEAR SIR,

That hallucinations are experienced by hysterical patients is well known, but when Dr. Levinson (*Journal*, January 1966, pp. 19-26), asserts that the auditory hallucinations of his patient were "... disclosed to be the result of an unconscious wishing and yearning to resurrect and rejoin her mother", he is drawing a conclusion not supported by his data. In fact, the patient states: "I've had these thoughts before, so I know you're right. The voices were my mother. When you first told me I didn't really believe it. I thought you were just telling me things to satisfy me, as I do to my daughter just to keep her quiet." Clearly, it was Dr. Levinson who "disclosed" the source of her hallucinations to the patient.

The origin of hallucinations remains unknown, and it is difficult to see how psycho-analysis, building and rebuilding upon the same old theories, can add any new knowledge in this area.

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#### GENESIS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

DEAR SIR,

My previous correspondence, critical of Dr. Eva Bene's papers "On the Genesis of Male Homosexuality" and "On the Genesis of Female Homosexuality" was published in the January, 1966, issue along with Dr. Bene's reply. At the risk of prolonging a controversy beyond tolerance, I am compelled to reply to the reply.

Dr. Bene disapproved of my referring to her data-gathering vehicle as essentially an item check list. She prefers to call it a "semi-projective test". In this test a series of statements, printed on cards, is presented to the subject, including such items as "This person in the family was very pleasant". The cards are sorted into a group designated "mother" or one designated "father". For practical purposes

this is essentially the same as listing the statements in a column on a piece of paper and having the subject check off items which pertain to mother or to father. Even the author has previously (*J. ment. Sci.*, 1957, 103:541) described the test as one "which could be reproduced, it is true, in a paper and pencil form..." However, as it was originally designed for children it was felt to be less an inhibiting reminder of school if paper and pencil were not used. Presumably, the adult subjects in Dr. Bene's more recent studies were no longer labouring under the same handicap.

I emphasized that the test is essentially an item check list in order to highlight the source of potential bias implicit in any study which must rely on the validity of a subject's reply to a question about his past. Dr. Bene has also recognized this potential bias. Her hypotheses regarding female homosexuality were wisely prefaced by "according to their childhood recollections". For male homosexuality, however, reference was made to the utilization of recollections as the investigative tool, but the actual hypotheses did not include the vital words found in the "female" paper. Unfortunately, in the study on female homosexuality, between the statement of the hypotheses and the interpretation of the results, the vital qualifier distinguishing recollection from fact tended to become less distinct.

In support of my contentions, consider first the statement taken from the "male" paper's summary: "The results confirm those of previous studies according to which homosexual men more frequently than heterosexual men had bad relations with their fathers, and had fathers who were ineffectual as parents..." More precisely, this study can only confirm other studies in which subjects also reported bad paternal relationships. If the study "confirmed" did not rely on retrospective reports, but utilized a more reliable measure of the father-son relationship, then Dr. Bene's study cannot confirm the latter, for a poorer measure should not confirm a better one, rather it ought to be the other way round. Consider next, from the "female" paper, "... and so was hypothesis 5 (confirmed) to the effect that the fathers of homosexual women more frequently had weak personalities". How do we know their personalities were weak? Dr. Bene's hypothesis was that lesbians would describe their fathers as weak, not that the fathers were so. Finally, to the specific point of contention in my previous correspondence—whether the fact that more lesbians than heterosexuals report their parents as having wanted a son can be accepted as indicating that such a phenomenon truly occurred. "Hypothesis 7, which states that the parents of homosexual women more frequently want a son,