



As little as a pendulum  
can only swing to one side,  
as little can the social drives in the human being  
come to expression only one-sidedly.  
It is simply a matter of fact that,  
as a result of human nature,  
the anti-social drives are in opposition to the social drives.

GA 186/p.160

And that will, indeed, cause  
more and more difficulty in our age,  
because the other thing, the anti-social aspect, is actually what is natural (...)

The fundamental of all social life  
is the interest of one person in another.  
p.167

## Newsletter for the co-workers of the anthroposophical medical movement September 2011



Study of medicinal plants, psychotherapy and projective geometry at the IPMT in Dornach, which was attended by participants from 13 countries.

### Dear friends

As the preparations for the annual conference in Dornach continue to take shape, I would like to say a word still about the key concern underlying the conference together with the request to support our work here in your thoughts.

The newsletters from January to summer 2011 focused on the connection, as characterised by Rudolf Steiner, between the depths of the earth and the developmental behaviour of human beings, supplemented and extended by Friedrich Glasl's conflict research.

As the anthroposophical medical movement, we are not only involved as human beings in general in the fields of social conflict of our time. On the contrary, the associated pathologies and therapeutic approaches embody our professional concerns.

The question as to what hinders or promotes community building, how individuals experience themselves as being more or less healthy in social processes, represents far-reaching medical tasks – not just in respect of the individual but also regarding the context, the institution, in which he lives and works, as well as the whole of the earth and humanity.

Three of Rudolf Steiner's research results – with regard to body, soul and spirit of the individual and the community – can encourage us to look more deeply at this question:

#### **1. The aspect of geographical medicine (GA 178, 15 and 16 November 1917):**

In America, the magnetic forces of the earth act from the magnetic north pole along the north-south axis of the mountain ranges more strongly than in other regions of the world. Hence the Double, incorporated in the electromagnetism of the human organism, is not only the "originator of all physical illnesses which spontaneously arise from inside" (p. 61) but also the force which places the human being in a relationship with the inside of the earth and is thus also responsible for natural disasters, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. That the people who inhabit the north and south American continent therefore bear a greater responsibility than others for the health of the earth and humanity, because their Double is placed in a more direct and intimate relationship with the deeper layers of the earth, is a fact which is of far-reaching significance for the cultural impulse of anthroposophic medicine. It also throws a new light on the reference by Rudolf Steiner about how essential it is to love America and the Americans in particular.

#### **2. The aspect of the social and anti-social equilibrium in the human being (GA 186, 12 December 1918):**

In the age of the consciousness soul, the anti-social drives predominate. The latter are reflected in a self-assertive attitude towards others, placing the focus on oneself, as well as in the developmental requirement of our time to put oneself at the pinnacle of one's own personality: *Internally the anti-social drives must be at work so that the human being can develop to the maximum; externally, in the life of society, the social structure must be at work so that the human being does not lose the human being in the context of life (p.164).* Hence the establishment of healthy social structures – particularly in therapeutic institutions – takes

on the greatest importance. What, then, can the individual do to cultivate the social drives in view of the anti-social necessities?

- Develop an interest in the other person
- Without hate or love bring a picture of the other person to life within oneself
- Experience oneself in one's soul as the product of the encounters with others – ask oneself what one owes to the people who have furthered or hurt us or placed obstacles in our path.
- Take account of the differences among people all over the world, not imagining them as all being the same, e.g. in the sense of the slogan: workers of the world unite.

### **3. The spiritual aspect: Michael's battle with the ahrimanic beings in the spiritual world in the years from 1841 to 1879 and their fall to earth into the reality of human life (GA 177, 14 October 1917):**

Rudolf Steiner is born in the middle of this period, Ita Wegman towards its end (1876) and Goethe – who died in 1832 – experiences this whole decisive battle with the dragon in the modern era in the spiritual world. Before this period, materialism was a more general cultural phenomenon; since 1879 it has become a “personally tinged, ahrimanic, materialistic view of the world” (p.150). Now personal ambitions arise to interpret the world in a materialistic way. 1841 - 1879 - 1917 are decisive historical waypoints in this respect. How is the battle with materialism expressed in the way medicine currently operates? And what are the social consequences of that? The transformation into businesses with primarily an economical orientation and the academic refusal to accept spiritual realities in research and practice are striking.

**For anyone who wishes to look at our conference programme again and think along:**

[http://www.medsektion-goetheanum.org/EYED2/files/file/pdf/DE\\_JK\\_2011.pdf](http://www.medsektion-goetheanum.org/EYED2/files/file/pdf/DE_JK_2011.pdf)

#### **Other recent links:**

“While 150 years after his birth the suspicion of occultism continues to haunt Steiner's anthroposophy, the ‘fruits’ of its practical application approach every closer to our every-day lives: in the Waldorf school movement, that refuge where increasing numbers of parents are seeking to take their children to safety; in the cult of the organic, giving us back a piece of ‘world that is still intact’; or in turning to alternative medical practice to escape the crime scenes of conventional medicine.”

**Mehr:** <http://www.dradio.de/dkultur/sendungen/langenacht/1544935/>

<http://www.individuelle-impfentscheidung.de/>

impf-info.de: Contributions to an informed vaccination decision

<http://www.impf-info.de/>

#### **New publications from the Ita Wegman Institute by Peter Selg**

*"Ich bin anders als Du". Vom Selbst- und Welterleben des Kindes in der Mitte der Kindheit.* ("I am different from you". About the perception of self and the world in the child in mid-childhood) 120 pages, paperback. ISBN 978-3-905919-32-5. 30 CHF/20 euros.

*Die Grundstein-Meditation Rudolf Steiners und die Zerstörungen des 20. Jahrhunderts.* (Rudolf Steiner's **Foundation Stone Meditation** and the destruction of the twentieth century.) 120 pages, 8 illustrations, hardback with dust jacket. ISBN 978-3-905919-31-8. 36 CHF/24 euros

**Individuelle Pädiatrie, Leibliche, seelische und geistige Aspekte in Diagnostik und Beratung Anthroposophisch-homöopathische Therapie** (Individual Paediatrics. Physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of diagnosis and counselling. Anthroposophic-homoeopathic therapy) by Georg Soldner and Dr. Herrmann Michael Stellmann, 4<sup>th</sup> revised and enlarged edition 2011. XXXIV, 984 pages. 2 illustrations, 24 tables. Hardback.

**Conference notice: Loss of speech and gain of speech** – Working with the being of the word in childhood and old age – 27 to 30 October 2011 – at the Goetheanum.

Conference on therapeutic creative speech for creative speech artists, physicians and therapists, with English translation.

Subjects: Speech development from anthroposophical and neurological perspectives; case studies on Parkinson's disease, stroke, restricted perception of the word sense, the effect of the word in therapeutic experience; working groups on stroke, high blood pressure, working with parents, initiating speech, the first seven years, speech acquisition of the forces flowing in the human constituent elements, to name but a few.

In collaboration with the Medical Section and the Section for the Art of Eurythmy, Speech, Drama and Music: Michaela Glöckler and Margrethe Solstad.

With warm greetings –  
*Michaela Glöckler*