

la sua vita privata (SARGENT, 48); (ALEXANDER, 25). Per di più bisogna ricordarsi che anche quando è assicurata la buona volontà del malato e dei suoi familiari, esistono degli scotomi e deformazioni a posteriori sulle reminiscenze lasciate dalla malattia stessa nella testa del malato ed in quella del suo ambiente immediato.

Agli occhi di certi autori, il « follow-up » è considerato come uno sguardo obbligato del malato verso il passato che può comportare un certo pericolo di recidiva nevrotica, e che d'altra parte può servire di pretesto per tentare di iniziare un nuovo periodo di psicoterapia o di trasmettere al vecchio terapeuta sentimenti — ostili o di benevolenza — per mezzo del « testista ». L'importanza del « follow-up » tuttavia, è così evidente

che tale complemento d'informazione, indispensabile ai nostri occhi, deve obbligatoriamente far parte di ogni studio del tipo di cui noi ci occupiamo.

Nel dipartimento di Psicologia Medica dell'Università di Liegi abbiamo iniziato un lavoro di ricerca, che vuole evitare le numerose difficoltà stigmatizzate nella letteratura. Saremmo veramente felici di poter comunicare i nostri metodi e i nostri risultati ai ricercatori che fanno esperienze in questo difficile campo. Infatti, è evidente che saranno necessari parecchi anni per raccogliere dati significativi. Se quindi, una comune metodologia potesse essere adottata da parecchie équipes, le conclusioni sarebbero raggiunte più rapidamente e senza dubbio ne guadagnerebbero in valore.

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