

## **DEVELOPMENTAL LINES AND NEUROTIC CONFLICT: A CASE ILLUSTRATION OF AN ADULT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

When Anna Freud (1965) introduced the concept of “developmental lines” into the assessment of the totality of the child’s personality rather than isolated parts, Miss Freud was calling for inspection of the “basic interactions” between the child’s id and ego in the context of various developmental levels, as well as specification of age-related sequences of them. Whatever level reached on a particular developmental line represented “ the results of interaction between drive and ego-superego development and their reaction to environmental influences, i.e., between maturation, adaptation and structuralization. Far from being theoretical abstractions, developmental lines ...are historical realities which, when assembled, convey a convincing picture of an individual child’s personal achievements or, on the other hand, of his failure in personality development” (1965, p.64).

Peter Neubauer (1984) suggests that evaluating a child’s developmental lines enables one to study the “transformation of earlier pathology during succeeding stages, the reorganization of preoedipal and oedipal conflicts during latency, adolescence, and adult life; and it will make genetic interpretations and reconstructions of succeeding levels of development more precise” (p.27)(cf., A. Freud, 1981). Biven (1980), in an elaboration of Anna Freud’s concept, has proposed a model of a “developmental network.” He suggests we speak of

developmental “pathways” comprised of “strands” instead of “lines” to take account of a lack of correspondence between lines. In his three dimensional model, a strand may intertwine with another. One particular strand may be more important than another so that there may be considerable distortion of a particular strand without endangering the forward movement of the pathway. Biven’s contribution accommodates the interaction and different contributions of particular strands to forward movement when a particular strand might be involved in pathology.

The developmental line<sup>1</sup> that I will illustrate in particular will be that “: **from the body to the toy and from play to work.**” Also, a strand that, I believe, fits along this line, as well as along the developmental line “**from egocentricity to companionship**” will be considered, namely, a relationship to a pet. The first developmental line involves the autoerotic play of the child, progressing to the use of a transitional object, to soft toys of various kinds, to increasingly complicated play material that serve ego activities and the fantasies underlying them. The play activity gives way to pleasure in task completion and in problem solving, usually corresponding to the child’s entry into school. Finally, the ability to play transforms into the ability to work. Along this line are derived several allied activities, such as daydreaming, games, and hobbies. The developmental line involving “egocentricity to companionship” includes the progression from a selfish, narcissistically oriented outlook on the object world, to other children

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<sup>1</sup> I mostly will use the more familiar term “developmental line” insofar as this term and Biven’s terms can be used in concert with one another, I believe, without conceptual confusion.

related to as things, to other children related to as helpmates for short periods of time, to other children related to as partners and objects in their own right. Somewhere along this developmental line is the strand of relating to a living non-human object, namely, a pet. This strand is also involved in the developmental line “from the body to the toy and from play to work,” so that a pet can be the successor to a soft toy. Pets can be drawn into psychopathology as the object of a phobia (e.g., Freud, 1909) or, instead, as an object along a *philic*<sup>2</sup> direction (Sherick, 1981). Pets can be important in symbolic, object-directed, and narcissistic ways.

The following case material from the analysis of an adult male will focus on and illustrate how the developmental lines “from the body to the toy and from play to work” and “from egocentricity to companionship” were drawn into conflict. The organization of the infantile neurosis and successive adult transference neurosis and its successful resolution in analysis reflected vicissitudes of these developmental lines.

## **CASE ILLUSTRATION**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Mr. P was an over-weight, twenty-seven year old medical social worker. His red hair and freckles contributed to a boyish appearance. He had been living with a woman for a number of years with intentions of someday marrying but unable to make the commitment. He is the older of two children, having a married

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<sup>2</sup> *Philic* refers to the opposite of phobic, namely, an attraction towards an entity or situation.

sister, sixteen months younger. Father is a physician, and mother is a nurse. When Mr. P. was eighteen months old, his father had a relapse of hepatitis. He and his newborn sister were sent out of state, respectively, to a paternal grandmother and maternal aunt, for a period of six weeks while mother nursed her sick husband. Mr. P. lost his newly acquired toilet training and had to be retrained by his grandmother, allegedly in a harsh manner. His family moved eventually to the same city as his grandmother, who became a surrogate mother. She overindulged him and he felt more loved by her than by his parents. She died when he was six and a half years old, and following her death, his handwriting became messy. His teachers were unsympathetic and he began to dislike school and began a period of under-achieving. His messy handwriting likely was a revival of the loss of sphincter control following the separation from mother at eighteen months of age.

At the time of the evaluation, Mr. P. indicated that although he felt work was satisfying, he has no ambitions with regard to it, and he daydreamed about being a railroad planner. He was an avid hobbyist at model railroad building. I was impressed by the correspondence between his hobby and his career aims. I also thought it interesting that as an adult he seemed to inhibit his phallic strivings, while as an adolescent he engaged in competitive sports.

#### TREATMENT:

After the first couple of months of analysis, Mr. .P. recognized that he was feeling disappointed and angry that I was not going to take responsibility for his life. He used the metaphor of rushing water; he wished to float and go wherever

the current took him. There was an image of a brown seahorse in an internal black space. Mr. P. remembered that as a youngster he collected seahorses and that the males took care of the newborn. The wish was for me to take care of him, to carry him, to surrender himself to me. Seahorses were related to his interest in ponies, several of which his family owned. When he was involved with his pony he felt rough and intimidating, and expressed his masculinity and his defiance of his parents' preference for a girl. He went from a latency and early adolescent intense interest in riding horses, to a late adolescent keen interest in racing cars, to an adult fascination in the awesome power of locomotives.

In this early part of the analysis, resistance was based upon his expectation that he must be intellectual and rational and not deal with mundane issues, but instead deal with principles. He claimed he learned this from his father, and thought this was the way to gain father's respect. He used the metaphor of a train. He had to conduct himself in analysis along a narrow path and know his destination in advance. In this connection, Mr. P. had a childhood memory of going under general anesthesia for a tonsillectomy, and another association to a single "bad trip" after the use of LSD. The lack of structure he perceived in analysis was frightening to him. I wondered to myself when the analytic "trip" would enter a dark tunnel and he and I would encounter scary "stuff" and resistance to examining the memories and fantasized images.

After six months of analysis it was clear that he perceived his mother to be physically stronger than his father. Father was ill (hepatitis) and chronically fatigued and inactive. My analysand saw me as a hermaphrodite, someone who

combined mother's nurturance and creativeness with father's understanding. He was beginning to recognize a wish for power, namely, the kind of power he felt as a six year old when he took a train trip out West to visit relatives. On that trip, he identified with the speeding train that propelled him away from an unhappy experience with an unpleasant second grade teacher, and from his sadness about the recent death of his grandmother. During a long weekend interruption in the analysis, he became aware of feeling frustrated in wishes for closeness with me. In my absence he was crabby with his girlfriend and such feelings were familiar with past dealings with his sister. He recognized the sexual quality of such displaced fighting. I was impressed by both his strong working alliance and capacities for reflection and understanding.

He noticed a white-noise machine in my waiting room. Mr. .P. inhibited his curiosity as to what type of apparatus the machine was, similar as to how he inhibited his sexual curiosity as a boy, The machine, as well as a desk lamp that he thought resembled a crystal ball, became symbols of my power, which he coveted. Eventually, we conjectured that, despite perceiving his father to be physically weak, he must have been envious of father's larger penis and also his greater fund of knowledge. Father was described as acting like an "amateur" psychologist. Earlier in the day, he recalled a childhood memory of the pleasure he had experienced when he finally ate two eggs like his father. He presently wanted power through knowing answers (omniscience), the derivative of his childhood wish to have phallic power (omnipotence). He conjectured that his mother distorted his father's image, portraying him as omnipotent and omniscient

because of her own unconscious need to have a strong and knowledgeable man replace her own father who died when she was a latency age girl.

Mr. P. began to view analysis as a demand that he grow up and give up his infantile pleasures. It was in this context that he took a vacation after approximately a year of analysis. This train trip was a way of avoiding the intense feelings he felt towards me, as well as an unconscious attempt to be imbued with the awesome power of the locomotive. Imagining possessing such power and competitive, destructive capability, he in turn retreated to a position of helplessness and powerlessness, once again needing to believe the analyst/father to be omnipotent and omniscient.

Following the first long interruption, the summer vacation, material began to emerge of a fantasy that mother was the sexually aggressive woman who damaged and weakened her husband and could do similarly to him. He wanted me to tell him how I survived threatening women. He wanted me to be an auxiliary ego, to use a magic marker to underline the important steps he could look at when he felt he could not sustain feelings of strength, to reassure him about his wish to be a good boy rather than an adult male like me (father). Once positive oedipal wishes were interpreted, Mr. P.'s discouragement lifted and he became aware of welcomed changes in his life.

During the consultation, he had volunteered that his major masturbation fantasy was one where a woman dressed in a man-tailored suit has a handgun. A connection between this fantasy to the one above about his mother was implied but was not made yet by Mr. P. A dream suggested death wishes toward

the father/analyst and indicated that he thought a tonsillectomy at age eight to be a punishment for such wishes (an adenoidectomy at age four was an antecedent). The link between his tonsillectomy and analysis could be made, namely, that I would punish (castrate) him if I came to understand his wishes before he could conceal them. Mr. P. began to play racquetball, the first competitive sport in six years.

Mr. P. had a vague sense that he could be destructive and became aware of wanting to be revered like he felt his father to be. At his railroading club he became fearful of becoming controlling once he assumed a position of power. He had to underachieve to defend against this, e.g., in analysis by feeling unable to free associate. What emerged was a wish for me to be like grandmother and rescue him. She was powerful and idealized him (as father was idealized at home), likely because Mr. P. was a replacement for her dead son for whom he was named. Even his father acted timidly towards this matriarchal woman. Mr. P. became aware of how his pony became the successor to grandmother. His pony was feared by all but him. Once he realized that he wanted to be revered rather than just approved of, and that his conscience used that unfair standard to judge him by, Mr. P. changed his attitude toward himself. He seemed less discouraged and began to think about a career change. He regretted having given up his past ambitions to be a veterinarian, because of its link to hateful feelings for his parents. He had been very skillful with animals, as he was with his railroading hobby but here, too, he could not openly demonstrate this. It



seemed liberating to him once he realized that his superego had the same roots as that which it prohibited.

After one and a half years of analysis, he thought of buying a car and, after procrastinating, eventually acted on the evening of the day he saw me in my car. He realized that the thought of surpassing his father, an auto enthusiast, was frightening. Mr. P. imagined father was threatened by his new car. Competitive strivings with analyst/father were in conflict with loving feelings. He was offered a part-time job in a hobby shop but turned it down, believing that a year earlier he would have thought such a job to be "neat," as if he was playing all day. He had more adult ambitions now but was afraid of them. Mr. P. disclosed he had been considering becoming a psychotherapist, but felt his motive was envy of me. Such a career would get mother's applause. Near tears, he spoke about how hurt he was when the director of his department, a woman, did nothing to get him a salary increase.

After the summer vacation he grew a mustache. He said he was more accepting of his masculinity. He also grew a beard but shaved it off because it did not look good. He volunteered (negation) that it did not mean that he was not as good or as worthwhile as me (I had a beard). He had a fleeting image of himself as a father and as a husband. While his masculine self-image was more acceptable, Mr. P. had some doubts about being competitive with me. He became aware of his need to win resoundingly, and of his wish to have more adult sexual pleasures but felt he was not entitled to feel adult. It was because of superego doubts about his entitlement to feel and act adult that he did not

determine how much money he had in bonds, which his mother was holding for him, so that he could reinvest the sum and receive higher interest.

As Mr. P. was beginning his third year of analysis he began to wonder about how accurate his perception of me was, and wondered when he would be ready to end. In a dream he gave his father the role of a patient, to humiliate him. As an analysand, Mr. P. felt humiliation because of status differences with me. He identified with women as a defense against his competitiveness with his father. As a medical social worker, Mr. P. believed he was doing “woman’s work” compared to his physician-father. He became fearful that his anger would become unleashed. He fantasized flinging his newborn sister onto the floor, breaking her torso and the back of her head as if she were a doll. His father points to the door to banish him and send him away. Following this fantasy he decided to shape his life more and to be more in control of it. He recalled as a five year old child reading a book about a blind pony. This led us to speak about derivatives of castration. Around the time that he had been reading this book, his ears had been punctured in emergency treatment late one night because of fluid accumulation. He thought his mother was present when the general anesthesia was administered. He had a vague idea that mother was the one who punctured his ears. He could not recall the name of the ENT surgeon and thought that it was “Goodman,” but later realized this was inaccurate. This thought was a disavowal of the idea that his parents were castrators. Eventually, it could be pointed out how, unconsciously, his ears, tonsils and his penis were all equivalent, and that my words became the scalpel that entered his ears, and

proclaimed me the castrator. As a young boy, he believed that castration as retribution for unruly boyishness had advantages, insofar as he believed mother preferred girls and would take care of him following surgery. This was no longer worthwhile as an adult. After further working- through of his pattern of self-castration, he proposed marriage to his girlfriend. Mr. P. felt this to be a big step into adulthood.

A dream was reported: he was squirming on the couch and then he could not find his car in the parking lot after a session. His associations pointed to his embarrassment about masturbation. He felt I would castrate him if he disclosed details about his sexual fantasies. He loved me and was afraid of losing that love. He claimed he did not know about masturbation when his father admonished him for engaging in the activity, but his father thought he did, and that made him believe father to be a fool, someone easily tricked. This was the seed for rebellion, as well as the seed for excessive self-control because of fear of the consequences.

Mr.P.believed his secrets to be his "ace in the hole" and his inner strength. His "adult self" had to help his "child self" understand that if the secrets were revealed he was not abandoning the latter. He then made an admission of one of his best-kept secrets, namely, that since age thirteen he had been cutting out magazine pictures of women with guns, or drawing such women, which he then used to masturbate. He felt this to be weird and abnormal. He wondered if underneath his fantasies was an identification with father whom he consciously perceived to

dominate, humiliate and control mother. He thought he created the fantasy of a woman with a gun to control himself. Mr. P. realized, however, that his wish to be assertive was not all pathological. He told his fiancée that he wanted to resume the missionary position during intercourse so that he could penetrate her deeper. He had capitulated to his fiancée and had assumed a position during sexual intercourse that had made this impossible. He felt he could now assume control over himself. The worry had diminished that he would become a sexual criminal, a rapist, without such fantasies.

During the final year of treatment, Mr. P.'s oedipal fantasies emerged more directly within the transference. He had a fantasy of finding me shot dead by the previous patient, a female. He is unable to convince the police that he is not the guilty perpetrator of the murder. Associations led to his masturbation fantasy, a woman with a gun, and it seemed to him that there was an unconscious part where the woman has just come from killing a man. With much trepidation he wondered if the man was his father. In the fantasy, Mr.P. succeeds in convincing the woman not to hurt him.

After the attempted assassination of President Reagan, Mr. P. felt guilty and positive oedipal death wishes were interpreted. He said he wanted respect and status in enormous amounts so that he would know he was victorious over his father. A dream was reported wherein he was having plastic surgery on his urethra to correct a minor defect. What emerged was a conflict about masculine pride, because of envy of the analyst/father's bigger penis and more forceful

stream of urine. Mr. P. associated to his pony, which urinated with a forceful stream. Only he could control his pony. As a boy his responsibility was to clean out the barn. His pride and confidence in this responsibility and in handling his pony made him feel very strong and masculine. There was tacit support for this by mother but for her own nostalgic reasons -- she had grown up in the West. His parents, however, did not praise him for his phallic competence in managing the pony; they were only concerned about the mess he had to clean up. He identified with his male pony, which showed dominance over the female pony belonging to his sister. One way his pony showed dominance was by eating the other ponies' food -- my patient overate and was overweight. After we talked about this, Mr. P. bought a new cassette recorder, having been satisfied up till then with hand-me-down equipment from his father. He felt he dared to be as big as father now. He began to feel more like a professional, read professional literature for the first time, and planned to attend a workshop. He felt less depressed and more competent. His marriage was a watershed insofar as he felt emotionally to have made the transition into adulthood. As we approached the summer vacation, he broached the topic of termination. We decided to consider a date after the vacation.

When we resumed, a maternal transference emerged. As a little boy he wished he would be called "pitiful" like his sister. He would have sacrificed respect for pity. Unlike his sister, he received anger when his parents were disapproving. He had always wanted to be taken care of like he saw his younger sister cared for by mother. A mood of sadness was secretly cherished

and he would feel it when alone, e.g., as an adult when he drove his car or was involved in his model railroad hobby. The mood reminded him of the closeness he once felt with mother, and we understood it as a transitional mood. Mr. P. had a fantasy that his obesity would cause a heart attack and then he would get to be taken care of like father had been by mother when he was convalescing.

He expressed anger at me because I had not made growing up occur more expediently and with less pain. Mr. P. was afraid to experience the sadness and anger because it would signify the termination of his analysis. He watched the news accounts on television of Egyptian President Sadat's assassination and realized he liked to see a strong leader topple, and his thoughts went to me. He worried that he was an assassin. He hoped to survive by exasperating me, and then would receive only a token castration. He would push me off the road with his car and I would end up in a ditch. If I got angry after that he would punch me in the face and quit analysis. He saw Moby Dick on television and reflected on how ruinous it could be to fight against something you think is responsible for your unhappiness. When he was eight years old he already had decided not to live up to his potential, in retaliation towards his parents whom he felt did not acknowledge his masculinity. In the transference I would be the analyst/"amateur psychologist" who failed at his work insofar as Mr. P. would remain bitter, envious and underachieving in his analysis and work.

Mr. P. felt that the wish to displace his father in status and the wish to be taken care of had come together. It was not going to happen, nor did he wish it to do so. It was the perspective he had been seeking and now he was nearly

ready to set a termination date. His fear was he would be unable to sustain his gains and confidence. There were still some secrets having to do with his masturbation fantasy that he wanted to disclose.

When his sister was several years old, she and mother would play a game where mother would pretend to shoot his sister, who would then say, "You didn't get me." He would feel excluded and hurt. He felt the masturbation fantasy contained elements of this game. Also, in his fantasy it is the woman, not him, who implicitly has shot the man/father. The woman/mother is stronger than he is, which is reassuring because it used to frighten him that father was weak and could not set limits. He felt controlled, like how he felt when controlling the pony. Following disclosure of these details, he "accidentally" cut his finger while working on a model train. Within the father-transference, I pointed out the defense of turning passive-into-active. He was feeling adult and mature over the weekend and this made him fearful of castration. As a child he felt he was not supposed to be a sexual and aggressive boy. From here we could go on to understand how he viewed his mother as strong in order to compensate for a weak (ill) father, and how the gun in the masturbation fantasy was a penis. The interpretation of his fantasy of mother as a "phallic woman" was experienced very intensely. Mr. P. felt that the only thing he had to fear was self-castration. He understood how he had identified with mother's "masculinity" and father's "femininity."

As he began to see himself more realistically, Mr. P. began to consider my flaws, which made me less than a perfect analyst. He had believed that

father was supposed to steer him around life's obstacles, around the fears mother had of the world. Father acted as if he had all the answers, imagining himself an amateur psychologist. Now Mr. P. recognized father to be imperfect and that it were impossible to protect him from all dangers. He had a new attitude about becoming a parent. The spare room could be turned into a nursery room; it had been used as a hobby room that did not have to be cleaned up, causing him to feel like an indulged little boy. The spare room no longer had to be a substitute for the barn in which the past control battle with his parents had to be re-fought. He recognized that his fantasy of being rescued and transformed into a perfect being with no conflicts had not been realized, not because I was insensitive or incompetent but because it was unattainable.

## **DISCUSSION**

We are accustomed to think of developmental lines as normal aspects of personality. Analytic case material has been presented to illustrate how these developmental lines were drawn into a latency boy's childhood and adolescent neurosis and then given revived expression and worked through as an adult in his transference neurosis. This should not surprise us insofar as developmental lines are compromise formations to begin with and can be drawn into and elaborated upon in future conflict. In addition to maturation, adaptation and structuralization are involved in developmental lines and neurotic conflict can affect each.

We have shown how strands from two pathways (lines) of development intertwined



and contributed towards each other's growth. Historical realities, such as the temporary loss of Mr. P.'s mother at age 18 months, and subsequent death of his grandmother at age six, respectively, resulted in the loss of bowel control and later in messy handwriting (post oedipal revival of the original preoedipal developmental conflict [Nagera, 1966]). Both regressions contributed to his feeling of not being in control over his body. His ego was additionally shaken by his inability to control his anger when he perceived his parents to favor his sister. Already in latency, Mr. P. believed his father's prediction that he was destined to become a "criminal" because of this apparent lack of control. Father's self-imposed lack of strenuous activity because of a fear of a recurrence of hepatitis led to an unconscious view of him as castrated and added to Mr.P.'s fear of loss of control. Father did not seem to be a formidable adversary who could set limits -- positive oedipal wishes became intolerable and had to be displaced from mother onto sister and then defended against by reaction formation which intensified the fighting and exacerbated the feeling of being unable to control himself. The need for a strong parent contributed to the development of a "phallic" mother representation.

Mr. P.'s masturbation fantasy took shape in early latency. This was a developmental line shift in the direction "from the body to thoughts." Preceding this was play with toy cowboy guns, a shift on the direction from "the body to the toy." Mother's support, albeit ambivalent, of his pony riding and her origins from the West were influential to his young mind and excited the notion of a woman with a gun (cowgirl). A movie starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour (symbolic of mother?) wherein there was a cowboy/cowgirl story line also made an early impression and contributed to the first latency masturbation fantasy of rescuing a cowgirl tied to a tree. In the movie, Bob Hope, the cowboy, is corralled and lassoed, so to speak, by the competent cowgirl who clearly was more "phallic" than him. Mr. P.'s pony was another determinant of the unconscious motif of cowboys and cowgirls. Hence, the woman in his conscious adolescent masturbation fantasy dressed as a *gun moll* likely disguises her unconscious

cowgirl identity. He convinces her not to hurt him and instead to model in different poses while he photographs her. Photography, one of Mr. P.'s adolescent hobbies, satisfied primal scene fantasies -- the idea that father was injured during sex by the passionate, castrating, "phallic" woman whom my patient could control by taking "stills" of her.

After the death of his grandmother, his family moved out of the city into the surrounding countryside. Mr. P., age eight, felt isolated and lonely, away from friends he had made, with whom his active-masculine strivings were gratified. He felt acutely, also the loss of his beloved grandmother. It was around this age that we see the intrusion of neurotic conflict onto the developmental lines "from the body, to the toy, to play, to work," and from "egocentricity to companionship." His companion that satisfied his loneliness was his pet pony, likely an heir to some soft animal transitional object or toy, but also linked to his matriarchal grandmother. This strand both impeded and facilitated growth on the two developmental lines, as it was first drawn into neurotic conflict and then creatively and adaptively resolved. It came to be endowed with all the phallic impulses that Mr. P. both felt good and scared about. Such impulses made him feel scared that he would express them toward sister, in displacement from mother. He overate (as did his rapacious pony) in order to both enhance his masculinity (to be big and strong, yet fast) and to hide it. Being able to control his pony gave him a sense of phallic pride, as well as security, insofar as it was like controlling himself. His adaptive utilization of his pet pony was in accordance with the principle of multiple function.

In mid-latency, sedentary model building, rather than horsemanship, gained him unqualified approval from mother. She seemed singularly interested in not having her son's activities disturb her husband. During his adolescence the automobile became the replacement of his pony. Mr. P. competed successfully with his father, a car enthusiast who owned expensive foreign models, by driving his car skillfully and swiftly over country roads. In the transference his destructive rage towards the father/analyst culminated in a

fantasy of pushing my car off the road with his car.

In his young adult years, locomotives, the "iron horse" of the Indians (he often rode his pony bareback), then became replacement for the pony and the car. He was fascinated by their strength and power. There were fond memories of railroad trips out West to visit mother's family. Out of this developed an avocational interest and eventually a vocational interest. Phallic aims were further sublimated and neutralized in this manner. Partly, he did not pursue such a career because he believed a low priority existed in the then current presidential administration for a national railway system. His anger about this was easily stimulated into a patricidal fantasy when the President was almost assassinated. Finally, his choice of profession (work) as a medical social worker was a compromise formation between identifications with his physician-father and nurse-mother. He felt like he did woman's work but as the transference neurosis was developed and resolved he saw it more as a career. He became more of a professional and could derive masculine self-esteem. Also, as a professional he surpassed his father who remained only an "amateur psychologist." Paraphrasing Anna Freud (1965, p.64), we can say his developmental line from "the body to the toy and from play to work" conveys a sense of personal achievement and not failure when assembled as an historical reality.

## **SUMMARY**

The concept of developmental lines in connection with neurotic conflict was examined. Focus was placed particularly on the line "from the body to the toy and from play to work." Like all compromise formations the developmental line can be adaptive or neurotically colored. An adult case, wherein neurotic conflict intruded but where a creative solution ensued, was presented to illustrate the above.

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