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Die Reise der Psychologin Barbara Burks ins Nazi-Deutschland 1936

Der Name Barbara Burks ist bekannt aus den Aktivitäten der American Psychological Association, Emigranten in den USA zu helfen, die von den Nazis aus Europa, vor allem aus Deutschland, vertrieben waren. 1938 gründete die APA ein Hilfskomitee, das zunächst "Committee on the Assistance in Employment of Refugee Psychologists" und später dann "Committee on Displaced Foreign Psychologists" hieß, der Name, unter dem es bekannt wurde. Der Präsident der APA, Gordon Allport, gewann Barbara Burks für dieses Komitee, dessen Leitung sie 1939 übernahm. Mit dem Tod von Burks am 25.5.1943 stellte das Komitee seine Arbeit ein.

Die Arbeit des Komitees und von Barbara Burks, einer Schülerin von Lewis Terman, die unter seiner Leitung über genetische Faktoren in der Entwicklung der Intelligenz arbeitete, wurde bereits ausführlich gewürdigt.¹ Was aber bewegte gerade Barbara Burks außer einem, von Ash erwähnten, Gerechtigkeitsgefühl, die Unterstützung der Emigranten so aufopferungsvoll anzugehen? Warum bemühte gerade sie, eine nicht-jüdische Psychologin, sich so sehr um das Schicksal ihrer jüdischen Kollegen? Ein Hinweis zur Beantwortung dieser Frage liegt vielleicht in einem Dokument, das jüngst in die Bestände der "Archives of the History of American Psychology" einging.²

Barbara Burks begab sich 1936 auf eine längere Reise nach Europa, in deren Verlauf sie psychologische wissenschaftliche Institutionen in England, Frankreich, der Schweiz und Deutschland aufsuchte. In Deutschland hielt sie sich einige Tage in Marburg, zehn Tage in Leipzig und einen Monat in Berlin auf. Dabei konnte sie nicht nur einige Eindrücke über den Zustand der Psychologie gewinnen, sondern auch Eindrücke vom sozialen und politischen Leben im NS-Staat. Für einige US-amerikanische Kollegen schrieb sie nach der Reise einen vertraulichen Bericht, von dem nun ein Exemplar wie-

1) Mitchell G. Ash, Aid to Emigré Psychologists in the United States, 1933-1943: A Research Note. In: H. Carpintero & J.M Peiró (Hg.), La Psicología en su Contexto Histórico. Ensayos en honor del Prof. Josef Brozek. Valencia, 1984, 51-61.

2) Ich danke dem Leiter des Archivs, Prof. Dr. John A. Popplestone, für den Hinweis auf dieses Dokument und die freundliche Genehmigung zu seinem Abdruck. Es befindet sich in "The Gardner and Lois Murphy Papers".

dergefunden wurde. Die zehn Seiten über Deutschland sind im folgenden abgedruckt. Der Bericht enthält darüberhinaus Schilderungen ihrer Eindrücke und Gespräche in Genf, Paris und London.

In Deutschland lernte Burks vier Psychologische Institute kennen: Marburg, Leipzig, Universität Berlin und Technische Hochschule Berlin, ferner einige Institutionen, an denen Psychologen arbeiteten: das Institut des Psychiaters Ernst Kretschmer in Leipzig, das Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Anthropologie, menschliche Erblehre und Eugenik, an dem Kurt Gottschaldt arbeitete, und das Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Hirnforschung; den dort zur Zeit ihres Besuches beschäftigten klinischen Psychologen Wolfgang Hochheimer erwähnt sie aber nicht. Außerdem traf sie in Berlin noch die Psychologin Hildegard Hetzer, die in dieser Zeit als psychologische Gutachterin beim "Verein zum Schutz der Kinder vor Ausnutzung und Mißhandlung" tätig war.

Burks' Bericht enthält ihre Eindrücke von der wissenschaftlichen Forschung an den genannten Instituten, wie etwa eine skeptisch-freundliche Auseinandersetzung mit der Ganzheitspsychologie Felix Kruegers, atmosphärische Schilderungen des akademischen Lebens und in dem Teil über Berlin auch Eindrücke von den politischen Verhältnissen und dem Schicksal der Juden in Deutschland.

Es ist ein subjektiver Bericht, ein Bericht darüber, was Burks gesehen hat und was ihr zugetragen wurde. Sein Wert als historische Quelle dürfte daher gerade in den atmosphärischen Schilderungen liegen. Denn manches erfuhr sie nur vom Hörensagen, wie etwa die Angabe (S. 7 des Berichtes), daß J.B. Rieffert im Konzentrationslager sei, eine Angabe, die sich aus anderen, umfangreichen Quellen zum Leben Riefferts nicht bestätigen läßt. Angemerkt sei noch, daß es sich bei "Wallek" (S. 4) offensichtlich um Albert Wellek handelt.

1936 mußte Burks noch ihre Freunde bitten, dieses Papier nicht zu veröffentlichen, weil dies einigen deutschen Freunden und vielleicht auch ihr selber Schwierigkeiten bereiten könnte. Und das, obwohl sie den Bericht schon selber zensiert hatte, wie sie in ihrem Vorspann erwähnt. Heute sind die Bedingungen für eine Veröffentlichung glücklicherweise anders, und ich hoffe, daß der eine oder andere Leser dem Bericht einiges Interessantes entnehmen kann.

INTO THE THIRD REICH

Before I embarked for a journey of several weeks in Germany I was warned that I must be discrete and taciturn within the borders of Hitler's Reich. And before I left the borders, I was warned by my new German friends that for their sakes, if not for my own, I must be discrete and taciturn when I regained my own country and the breezes of freedom. An ill-timed comment on the decadent scientific Germany of today, and I would find it impossible to get a visa should I wish to visit Germany again. An ill-timed reference to some of my sources of information, and the results might easily be very grave to persons who are obliged to live out their lives under conditions of a dictatorship that uses secret police, concealed dictaphones, frontier censorship of mail, secret trials, prisons and concentration camps as instruments for maintaining loyalty and public morale. It will therefore be understood if I request the small group of friends to whom I am sending these news notes not to quote in print any part of this section on Germany, and to use discretion in any use that is made of it, despite the fact that it has been rigorously censored and "denatured" by myself to avoid the violation of confidences.

In a country where science is being regimented in the service of propaganda, the question immediately arises, what is left of scientific Germany; what can one take away in the way of valuable scientific ideas or methods? If the present trends in Germany continue -- which they probably will for a long time unless organized internal dissension (unlikely), or a war (less unlikely), removes the Nazi party from power -- I think the answer a few years from now will be, "nothing". At present there are some centers -- not many -- where significant work of interest to one in my field is still being done. In addition, the German scene is of tremendous interest to any one whose research problems are concerned with acculturation phenomena. I suppose nowhere else but in Russia has a nation so self-consciously set about the job of shaping its youth to fit a cultural mold. It is practically an experimental cultural situation carried out on a gigantic scale.

Marburg

My first step, a brief one of several days, was at Marburg, where I visited the laboratories of both Kretschmer and E. R. Jaensch. Having been advised ahead that it would be tactful not to mention Jaensch to Kretschmer nor Kretschmer to Jaensch, I was cautious, and found a hospitable reception at both laboratories. I left with some interesting, and to me valuable, impressions of laboratory approaches to personality measurement, but with even more skepticism concerning "types" than I had on arrival.

At Kretschmer's laboratory Enke has more or less a monopoly on psychological testing. Among his well-known tests which were shown me or demonstrated for me: a tapping test scored not only for speed but for excursions of the tapping finger from a stationary point; "Spaltungsfähigkeit" tests in which the subject turns a wheel with one hand and grips with the

other, or adds figures and performs a motor task at the same time; a psychogalvanic hook-up to test the speed with which a subject reaches a constant skin resistance after lying down; tolerance for pressure from a needle; counting colored squares briefly exposed, with and without permitting the subject to regulate for himself the speed of exposure. "Normal" pycniks (i.e. non-hospital patients) as compared with normal leptosomes make more excursions on the tapping test, are less able to "do two things at the same time," are more excitable but quiet down more rapidly, and are less influenced by being allowed to work at their own speed. Athletics, upon which Kretschmer and Enke have just brought out a new monograph, tend to fall in an intermediate position, though not upon all the tests. Kretschmer and Enke seem no more anxious now than in their earlier work to introduce controls of age and race -- and without these, I think their work is and will remain ambiguous. (See Kleinberg's 1934 investigation in which the Kretschmer typology failed to prove up when such controls were introduced.) Both men, as well as their fanatically devoted assistants, take the viewpoint that the existence of the types is securely established, and that the chief work remaining to be done is to extend their tests and establish more and more psychological differentia. They are also interested in studying patients -- few according to their statistics -- whose body build and mental disease type disagree. They believe that the prognosis for recovery in such cases is poorer than it is in more typical cases. An episode from one of Kretschmer's clinics which I attended may not be of much significance, but to me it did stimulate some amused speculation as to possibilities of bias in the mental diagnoses of the Kretschmerian body build types. The first case was a pycnik woman, indistinguishable in general contours from Kretschmer himself. She was a classic case of manic-depressive psychosis, depressed phase, with psychomotor retardation, difficulty in thinking, self-accusations, despair. The second case was a lad who seemed to show flight of ideas, pressure of activity, and a mood of great geniality and nonchalance. I reflected, he makes a fine manic contrast to the depressed case, but why does Kretschmer bring out a leptosome for a demonstration? My question was answered when Kretschmer announced the patient as a schizophrenic.

In E. R. Jaensch's laboratory I saw his experimental set-ups under the guidance of his student, Diekmann, and then had an opportunity to talk with Jaensch and several other faculty members and graduate students, and to hear Jaensch give several lectures. Favorite and most impressive of all their tests is one in which the subject tries to straighten a vertical wire by means of a tension regulator, while wearing prism glasses which distort the visual field. "Integrated" subjects require less initial regulation of tension to bring the wire apparently into line, and show faster and more regular adaptation during a series of six trials. All Jews -- according to Jaensch -- belong to the S₂ -- one of the disintegrated types Other tests, which I saw, tried, or heard described: illusion of revolving spiral (integrated types getting a greater sense of illusion), interpretation of pictures, word association test, Rorschach test. The latter was not scored according to the Rorschach method, this being considered too quantitative by Jaensch's laboratory, where the emotional content of specific associations, ink blots selected by subjects as "favorite", etc., are preferred for analysis. The prism test is considered so basic that subjects are classified into Jaensch's types on the basis of this alone. I was told that the results on the other tests all fell in line, but when I asked to see supporting data -- correlations or scatter diagrams or

any sort of synthesis of performances upon the different tests administered to the same set of subjects, Jaensch said they hadn't had time to do this yet!

Perhaps in the case of Jaensch, even more than with most psychologists, one needs to know a little of the man and his history in order to form some idea of the possibilities in his theory and his work. Though three years ago a Social Democrat, he has become an ardent Nazi party member. His lectures, on whatever announced topic, ring all the notes of the Nazi ideology -- Germany as a leader and pacemaker of a new world, science as the touchstone and tool of the progress from phantasy to reality, which will weld into a great, harmonious, super-culture the diverse ethnological groups of the Third Reich. Whether he speaks in a lecture hall or in his own office, his delivery gives the effect of a large organ in a small parlor, and this is accompanied by such an uncontrolled release of emotional energy, and by so much motor activity (hands, feet, head, eyes) that I was extremely interested to have the conviction which I soon reached regarding his mental state confirmed later, outside of Germany, by a former colleague of Jaensch who knew of his history as a mental hospital patient.

Leipzig

Here I remained about ten days -- including three days out for a light case of flu -- as visitor at the Institute described in a letter from its director, Krueger, as "das umfanglichste, am vielseitigsten gegliederte, auch mit Kursen und Forschungsarbeiten am reichsten ausgestattete Psychologische Institut Deutschlands -- von W. Wundt 1875 in Leipzig begründete, das ich seit 1917 leite."

It was here, under the compelling personal influence of kindly, hospitable, dogmatic Krueger, that I almost became a convert to "Ganzheit" psychology*, here too, that I got my first real feeling for the instructional program offered to German students, and for the rigid academic caste system which prescribes who may speak without being spoken to, in the presence of whom! I was continually being surprised by the personality transformations that would congeal any talkative gemütlich member of the Institute into a humbly respectful monosyllabic yes-man when someone from a higher rung on the ladder would enter his life-space. There was, of course, a bottle-washer of the kind that all European laboratories employ, whose status was inferior to every one else's, and who hence never spoke a spontaneous word. But when certain responsibilities were delegated to him, such as presenting stimuli for experiments in lecture demonstrations, he discharged his duties with an almost religious fervor. Krueger related that after this assistant's first experience in a lecture demonstration he broke down and wept, explaining through his sobs that he cried because he had never expected to attain the high honor of participating in scientific work!

The Institute is indeed "vielseitig gegliedert." I met and talked with and attended lectures by Klömm (psychophysics with a Ganzheit slant); Rüssel (children's play with a Ganzheit slant); Vetter (characterology approached through written compositions and handwriting), Wartegg

*This, according to Krueger, must not be confused with Gestalt psychology, which came later in time, and which neglects the affective life which is central in the "Ganzheit".

(characterology approached through a modified and amplified Rorschach test, and through a series of drawings which the subject completes from some fragmentary beginnings); Wallek (aesthetics, with a Ganzheit slant); Rudert (studies of handwriting in relation to temperament performed with a speed-pressure recording apparatus). In addition I had several visits at the Institute and at his home with the Herr Direktor whose Ganzheit concept permeates the ideologies of all his staff, in whatever field of research. To my regret Volkelt was away during my time in Leipzig.

The Kruegerian Ganzheit is a concept which would be so acceptable to me in my present search for organizing principles in personality development that I was perhaps more than objectively willing to accept the maximum implications that could be extracted from the work at Leipzig. Moreover, the gentle sureness of Krueger himself, his enthusiasm, his background of erudition -- and even the charming manner in which he and Frau Professor Krueger played piano and violin duets -- all predisposed me in his favor. But going through the Leipzig data -- fruitful as this was in suggesting approaches to the study of behavior, particularly in children, I could not see that "Ganzheit" was demonstrated in Krueger's sense of experience as an inseparable totality of perception and feeling. Among the experiments which they cite as most clearly illustrating the Ganzheit principle in cognitive-affective behavior is one on form recognition in infants. Nursing bottles of different shapes, all colored white to resemble milk, are placed within reach of the child. After a few trials, he learns to select only a bottle of a certain shape. When later an array of bottles is presented containing none of the learned shape, the infant rejects them with signs of disappointment or disgust. Does this show, as the Leipzig school insists, that the experience of bottle-form-milk-taste-pleasure is an experiential Ganzheit? From this, and other similar experiments, the "Ganzheit" appeared to me an interesting introjection of the experimenter -- the proof of which would have to depend more upon experiments of the Lewin type than upon observational and learning studies such as those offered as evidence at Leipzig.

A visit to the Institute's experimental laboratories for work with children is worth mentioning. Little apparatus of a complicated sort is used, but the Leipzig version of "one-way vision" is interesting, consisting of an observation booth containing a system of mirrors that permits the experimenter simultaneously a front and back view of the subject. This has been useful in a current study on facial expression in relation to constructive activity. Other materials and exhibits: the milk bottles used in the experiment described above; clay modeling collected from children of different ages to be studied from the point of view of developmental stages; peg-boards equipped with pegs chained together in 2's, 3's, 4's, etc., to use in studying the development of number concepts.

The Vocational Guidance Bureau of Leipzig, at which I spent an interesting morning, is organized similarly to the one in Vienna (see earlier news bulletin on Vienna). A number of tests were in use, however, which I had not seen elsewhere, chiefly contributed by Professor Klemm. Krueger's Ganzheit psychology has had its influence even upon a technical institution of applied psychology of this sort. Dr. Ehrhardt, the director, stated that in keeping with the Ganzheit viewpoint they were now asking teachers who supplied information regarding their pupils to answer descriptively a few general

questions instead of thirty or more specific questions. They have found the "Ganzheit" answers to be more reliable and more useful.

Berlin

The further one penetrates towards the nerve center of the Reich the more marching in the streets he sees, and the more anti-Semitic propaganda billboards, the more photographs of the Fuhrer glare fiercely from the shop windows and office and laboratory walls, the more building and construction works are in progress (which instead of being placarded with the name of the contractor, are flanked with signs that read: "Was wir hier bauen verdanken wir dem Fuhrer.")

In Berlin, where I remained about a month, there was unlimited opportunity to observe through visits, and through "living in the Culture," the machinations of Nazidom as it prescribed the curriculum followed by children in the schools from the nursery to the university, the treatment they received in the clinics, Juvenile Court, homes for dependents, and work camps, the books and newspapers they might read, the music they might hear and sing, the use of their leisure time (through the youth organizations in which membership is practically compulsory), the future which they must anticipate as soldiers and mothers of soldiers. Examples of banners, posters, etc., with which the ministerium of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment has honeycombed Germany: "Du bist nichts; dein Volk ist alles." "Des Fuhrers Wille ist des Volkes Gesetz." "Die Juden sind unser Ungluok. Kauft nicht bei Juden." "Unser Gruss ist Heil Hitler."

It was also possible to witness some of the direct products of this kultur among the ardent young Germans themselves -- and among the Jews, young and old, whose out-group status in a nation keyed to a pitch of war-time hysteria has inevitably carried a varied train of reactions. Nearly all who can manage it leave the country; those who cannot, seem either to "take it" with outward resignation and some degree of inner stoicism, or to carry on their work or study grimly as an escape or compensatory outlet, or to disintegrate -- to cut adrift and lose all zest or focus in living, sometimes developing paranoid or suicidal tendencies as well. One of the most interesting family structures which I had an opportunity to observe personally was that of a Jewish family whose four children had an unusually wide age-span. The daughter of 22 was educated before the present regime, and was established as a physical therapist in a hospital. She had encountered a minimum of anti-Semitic persecution and was reasonably content, but wished to move to American if her family, who planned to emigrate, could find her a position there. The son of 20, still getting his education, had "left the field" where the valences were so negative, and had taken up his studies in England. The daughter of 17 had suffered acutely, had become shy and retiring socially, and was in great perplexity as to what kind of professional preparation to secure. The six-year-old daughter, whom the mother was desperately anxious to protect from the brutal experiences that had traumatized her second daughter, had already met several puzzling episodes which her parents had tried to help her throw off by making light of them at home. A neighborhood child was not allowed to go walking with her

"because my mother says you're Jewish." The teacher, as a tactful hint to parents of Jewish children, had announced the day before a class excursion, that only children whose parents wished them to go on the excursion need attend school tomorrow. Amusing as well as touching, was the following dialogue reported to me by the mother of this child:

Child: "Mummy, do you love Daddy terribly?"
Mother: "Yes, I love him terribly."
Child: "Do you love him even more than Hitler?"
Mother: "Yes."
Child: "But Mummy, is that allowed?"

Pages could be written just to summarize in brief outline the concrete data on cultural processes which I brought away from my visits to Berlin's many agencies and institutions for dealing with children. The nursery groups where children of two lisping, "Hail Hitler," are taught obedience as the prime virtue, and where teachers are instructed not to explain reasons when a command will serve as well. The schools where children are taught to recite the biography of the Fuhrer word for word, where they are given question-and-answer drills on Germany's great and flawless role in the history of civilization, and where the prototypes of Sinclair Lewis' "Shad Ledue," as official guides from the Verkehr Verein, may enter classrooms and terrorize the teachers. The court where frightened children plead their own cases before a bar while a judge in robes barks at them a staccato barrage of questions. The behavior clinic where children with school difficulties are tested with arithmetic problems composed on the spot by the office nurse, and ridiculed by the clinical psychologist for solving them incorrectly. The Arbeitsdienstlager where every boy must spend six months doing hard physical labor before entering his military training period. The youth organizations which a boy or girl must join or pay the penalty of social ostracism, which put him into uniform from the age of eight, which teach him to march in regimented lines even on picnic excursions, and to sing as he marches, loudly, hoarsely, in short choppy measures that give the amazed onlooker the sensation of bayonet thrusts. These insights into an authoritarian culture as different from our own in many respects as the cultures of Samoa or New Guinea, really had more stimulus value for me than that of any scientific institution or agency which I visited in Berlin -- save one to be described later (Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Hirnforschung). For the first time I grasped from within, a point which cultural anthropologists insist upon -- that to be able to identify the dynamic factors in one's own culture, one must have the experience of living in another culture with which to compare it.

Considering next the institutes for scientific research which still exist in Berlin, the picture is a discouraging one, though not more so than must inevitably result from the losses in personnel which have already been sustained, and the pressure impinging upon the remaining personnel.

Psychologisches Institut

The utter barrenness of the intellectual climate of this former

stronghold of the Gestalt school is the more striking for the fact that it is housed in the ornate quarters of the royal family in the Imperial Palace. It has had three directors since Köhler left it. One of them, Riefert, whom the present incumbent, Keller, told me was "away for a little while," is in a concentration camp I later learned. The Institut contains some good apparatus, particularly for voice and cinema recording without the subject's knowledge, as well as some attractive keepsakes from imperial days, for example the luxurious bathtub of the Princess Royal. But they have no research problems under way, nor apparently even definitely formulated. They offer the explanation that they are past "getting started," which in fact they are. Moreover, the time of one of the two main faculty members (Preuss) appears to be somewhat divided, for he is a member of Hitler's personal guard, the S.S. His black uniform lends a unique note to the Institut surroundings. On the positive side, the course in general psychology should be mentioned. Only eight or ten students attend, but these are given excellent lectures by Keller, and superb laboratory demonstrations by Keller and Preuss together.

Ambulatorium für Konstitutionsmedizin

This laboratory, located in Berlin's largest public hospital, the Charite, is directed by Walther Jaensch. Of all institutions seen, I found this one the hardest to get definite information from -- and this despite the cordiality of Jaensch and his assistant, Schutz, who served as guide through the laboratories and demonstrated their "capillary diagnosis" on my own finger nails.

The clinic has three functional divisions -- medicine, anthropology, and psychology. The latter is equipped to do testing of the sort developed by E. R. Jaensch at Marburg, as well as work on chronaxie, but is at present unstaffed. The anthropological division is doing work on the physical and mental consequences of race crossing. The medical division, under Jaensch's personal direction, has as its main problem the stimulation through medication of "under-mature" children, e.g. children inattentive because of poor circulation of the blood are given injections to improve the functions and eventually, "by exercise," the organic structures. To assess the constitutional status of patients, Jaensch has worked out a classification of capillary structures at the finger nail margins as viewed under a cedar oil dressing through a microscope. It is his claim that Erbgesund persons never show the primitive "neo" structures found in ten to fifty per cent of mentally deficient or pathological patients. Jaensch's results are extremely interesting if they can be taken on their face value. The difficulty was that I could not find out either from conversation nor from case records nor from the published work what scientific precautions and controls had been employed.

Psychotechnisches Institut

Located at the Technische Hochschule, this institute under Moede's direction, develops methods for vocational guidance testing and industrial selection. It is a veritable wonderland -- as fascinating, as incredible, as the toy department of a metropolitan department store during Christmas week. It is quite impossible to do justice to it in a short description, but their follow-up studies do seem to show that they are really able to detect basic skills and to predict success on the job. A "pure" scientist in Berlin said to me with patronizing admiration, "It's not science, but it's good!"

Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Anthropologie

My leading impression after a morning spent with Eugen Fischer, director, and K. Gottschaldt, psychologist of the Institute, was one of well-meaning vagueness. They are charged with gathering basic data for use in Germany's applied eugenics program. Their techniques for studying human heredity do not appear to have advanced beyond comparing by correlational or other means differences found between monozygotic and dizygotic twins. I was much interested, however, in a project which Gottschaldt planned to carry out this summer. He was arranging to concentrate in a single cottage all the twins among the underprivileged children of Berlin who are sent annually to the country for a vacation, and to make intensive observations of their play life.

Eugenic Program of Germany

Germany is perhaps the first country since Sparta to have a compulsory nation-wide eugenics program. Headed up by Dr. Eduard Schütt, it functions through nearly 800 Gesundheitämpter. It provides for compulsory sterilization of persons with gross hereditary physical defects, or with amentias or dementias believed to be hereditary. It demands a special examination at a "Beratungstelle," one of which I visited, of any person applying for a marriage license whose family or personal history, which must be furnished in detail, gives any hint of hereditary taint. It prohibits sterilized people from marrying unsterilized, since it is considered dysgenic that the chromosomes of the "Erbgesunds" should be taken out of circulation. It prohibits the dissemination of birth control information except when the health of the mother is endangered by pregnancy. It has wiped out the public contraceptive clinics that had caused the unfavorable differential birthrate to change to a favorable one in Berlin between 1921 and 1929. It has subsidized "Kinderreich" families supposedly to encourage a high birthrate and to abolish the need for curtailing family size for economic reasons -- but the subsidy per child amounts only to about \$50 a year.

The sterilization or "negative" side of the program seemed well conceived, on the whole, as it was sketched to me. But my enthusiasm was

considerably dampened when I asked Dr. Schmitt what training for the work was received by the physicians administering the program. He told me that in addition to the instruction in heredity received by all students in German medical schools, his group was given a course by himself covering special aspects of this work. I asked how long the course lasted; he said two days!

Hetzer and Zeller

From my several talks with Dr. Hetzer, formerly of Bühler's staff in Vienna, and Dr. Zeller, physician in the Berlin public schools, I got for the first time in Germany a sense of unruffled security. Apparently if one is prudent and fairly obscure, he may work along quietly and do a lot of worthwhile research without being molested or required to "sell out" to the movement. Hetzer, in dual role as psychologist for the service for dependent and neglected children, and mental hygienist for the public health service, writes up her researches in the evenings, and has some work ready for publication on types of mothers-objective, "self-fulfillment," etc., and upon standardizing interpretations of children's personalities as revealed during developmental tests, in terms of work maturity, egocentrism, mood, etc. She and Zeller have cooperated in research upon developmental changes in body proportions as related to school maturity in the young child. Zeller distinguishes between the Kleinkindform (chubby trunk, short legs), and the Schulkindform (relatively narrower trunk and longer legs). Children of a given age, say six, who have reached the Schulkind body form seem to be further accelerated mentally than those who have not.

Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Hirnforschung

Of all the institutions which I visited in Berlin, this one alone I revisited many times. I recall writing with enthusiasm at the time that "visiting this Institute alone was worth the entire trip to Germany." After ample time for consideration, I still feel the same way about it.

Its value for visitors lies partly, of course, in the usable or adaptable techniques in dozens of specialized fields of study having relevance to the work of a psychologist. The institute employs about twenty-five staff members of professional rank, and seventy-five technicians. I was shown laboratories for brain preparations and histological research -- the special province of Professor Oskar Vogt, the director, and Frau Professor Cecile Vogt, his wife and collaborator. I saw laboratories for mental and motor testing, for measuring brain action currents, for pharmacological analyses, for taking cinema records of behavior, for recording and analyzing vocalization; laboratories where experimental genetics work on drosophila and mice and insects is done, and where human heredity studies are made. Finally I saw Oskar Vogt's weekly staff clinic in which selected patients from the mental hospital attached to the institute are brought for diagnosis and follow-up. The institute is specializing at present in cases having a disturbed motarium (chorea, paralysis, etc.)

My visits to these different sections of the institute extended over parts of a number of days, and were interesting and rewarding in and by themselves. But an even more valuable experience was to come in a series of conversations with the Vogts' themselves. As they described their scientific purposes, and the special goals of the institute, the diversified activities became interrelated and contributory towards certain major scientific problems. Vogt discussed these with a clarity and precision that I met in no other European scientist (with the possible exception of Hess in Zurich). Briefly these problems can be enumerated as:

1. "Architectonic" -- a term coined by Vogt -- referring to the structure and arrangement of brain cells in relation to function.

2. Principles of evolution -- having vital rapports with the first problem.

3. The genetics of multiple effects of genes, leading toward a determination of physical signs and stigmata associated with mental traits.

I learned that this Institute next year will be under a new director. To me this was a more depressing bit of German news than any other that I heard in or out of Germany. But once again I had whatever satisfaction there might be in realizing that I had visited this institute "in time".