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tremely doubtful if the state would have ever pressed the charge against him.

ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE PRISON WELFARE SERVICE IN SAXONY (GERMANY)<sup>1</sup>

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American penology is leading in investigating educational, psychotherapeutic and welfare conditions and efforts with regard to both the treatment of prisoners and the prevention of criminality. And it happened in large part that, upon the basis of these investigations, Saxony established a special group of officers to take care of those tasks. The preliminary decree of the Saxon *Ministerium der Justiz* issued within May, 1923. The service began May 1, 1924.<sup>3</sup>

*Organization.*

I. Candidates for this office must have a complete academical equipment and a sufficient experience in social work. Their studies must have been psychology, or sociology, or psychiatry, or pedagogics, or law, or any combination of these branches. The chief point is, not only to be a well grounded theorist, but a personality qualified to join the scientific knowledge with the practical needs. They have not only to think and to investigate, but

<sup>1</sup>Staatliche Gefaengnisfuersorger im Freistaat Sachsen.

<sup>2</sup>Staatl. Gefaengnisfuersorger im Landgerichtsbezirk Leipzig. (Yale.)

<sup>3</sup>Similar institutions are in Thuringia and in Hamburg, but without the characteristic specification of the Saxon form. In Thur. the officers are subordinated to the warden; in Hamburg, welfare work is more emphasized than the therapeutic tendency.

they must act, and represent a reasonable and socially inclined behavior.

II. After being selected, the candidate must spend two years of probation. During this time he must serve and study in several State Prisons, up to six months in each, under the supervision of one of the chief welfare officers in the prison concerned. After having spent that time (or more) he has to give an account of the result of that probation service in a severe examination by two officers of the *ministerium* and by one teacher of the University. This examination consists of reports and essays, and an oral examination on technical and administrative knowledge, social science, and—last but not least—psychology (including social-psychology and psychopathology). By this examination, the candidates will be qualified to become an ordinate officer (*hauptamtlicher Fuersorger*).

III. The stations of these officers are in the chief State prisons and the largest towns in Saxony (prisons: Bautzen, Hoheneck, Waldheim; towns with large prisons: Chemnitz, Dresden, Freiberg, Leipzig, Plauen, Zwickau). Since 1924 the number of such officers varied between 20 and 25.

IV. These welfare officers, working within the State prisons and within the court districts concerned are not prison officers, and they are subordinate to the warden of the prison only in so far as they are working within the prison, and only in respect to administration. In their specific function, they are immediately responsible to the penal department of the *Ministerium der Justiz*. In this way they have a relatively remarkable latitude for personal initiative. Of course, they are expected to cooperate continu-

ously with the courts, the warden, the guards, and the justice-physician or -psychiatrists; this is an unwritten law for efficacious work, and here it is the *conditio sine qua non* for the creation of an educational "atmosphere" within the prison on the whole.

V. The tasks of these officers are: (a) to care for the personal and economic welfare of the lawbreaker within the prison, at his release, and after the release; and to suggest or mediate economic and hygienic relief for his family, if it is necessary. To pay this assistance to the released prisoner and his family is obligatory upon the municipal administrations:

(b) To inquire into the social situation, the social history, the individual development, and the present status of the prisoner;

(c) To suggest specific treatment of the prisoner within the prison (special employment, single cell or intercourse with other inmates, rewards or punishments); to suggest probation for a qualified condemned lawbreaker, or lease by parole; to suggest specific treatment of the released lawbreaker (putting under tutelage; banishment from a certain district, country or town; on the other hand, repeal of order for banishment; placing in a hospital, or in a clinic for mental hygiene, or in a county jail (*Arbeitsanstalt*); special observation by the police; special regard to prompt procuring of employment). In all these matters the welfare officers have no authority to decide, but only to suggest, and to propose, by the authority of their knowledge.

(d) *The chief point*: to treat the lawbreaker within the prison and after his release individually, by educational and psychotherapeutic

methods, in order to resocialize him; and to observe his further development.<sup>4</sup>

(e) To report yearly about their experiences, and to suggest general investigations and administrative alterations.

#### *Principles.*

The principles of the specific treatment are not prescribed and not systematized. We are still looking for a fixed, but flexible system for our work. There are some single treatises that point out and describe principles. But this task is especially difficult, because (a) the "case load" is very high (in Leipzig three officers for two prisons with an average of 600-700 inmates, and for the steadily increasing number of released lawbreakers) — (b) the everyday-tasks of the office are urgent and obtrusive, so that only a little time remains for scientific work—and (c) the treatment of the single case is very individual, and defined by the claims of the present situation and by the present constellation of the individual field. A special impediment to the practical and theoretical task is the present economic situation which handicaps all social work in a high degree. But the material is extensive and remarkable, and I hope that it will be realized in spite of all hindrances.

However, some fundamental and characteristic features may be revealed, more as tested principles of my own work (since 1924) than as authorized principles of our whole group.

<sup>4</sup>Within this treatment, all functions of the courts, the prison, and the society in the whole are to be synthesized and intensified. See: Dr. W. Beck, *Intensivierung des Strafwesens*. Monatschrift fuer Kriminalpsychologie und Strafrechtsreform; Vol. 23, Iss. 4 (April, 1932), pp. 438-442.

(a) The individualized treatment requires a certain *selection* of fitted "objects" of this treatment. That does not mean that only that prisoner is "fitted" who is a "mild" delinquent. He must show a certain readiness to be resocialized, and he dare not be a personality, absolutely incurable, physiologically and constitutionally destined for crimes or any other asocial or antisocial conduct; or a personality, so deeply entangled in criminal relations that no human power will be able to destroy this demoniac context. For this selection, the knowledge of the social history and the personal development (acquired by cooperation with other offices, welfare organizations and the family) is the most important assistance, more important than the present picture of the personality which may appear as curable, without being so, or which may—by reason of imprisonment or other temporary causes (psychoses, neuroses, nervous breakdowns)—appear as incurable or a not suitable person, without being so.

(b) The educational, psycho- and social-therapeutic treatment must be on the basis of reciprocal *confidence*. The ways to gain the confidence of the prisoner are individually determined, and change from the indirect, material service and aid up to the direct claim of confidence and self-confidence. *Our* confidence in the goodwill and in the moral and social abilities of the prisoner is not always assured; sometimes it may be only a hypothesis, or a suggestive means for dissolving the apathy, the indifference, the reserve of our client.

(c) The treatment has to occur within a rather narrow *personal relation* between the lawbreaker and myself. I find there must be a kind of comradeship. But, nevertheless,

the treatment has also to be strictly *objective*. Generally, and in a rather advanced status of the treatment, I use a formula of speech with the client to the effect that he and I have to cooperate in the execution of a specific task: the building up of his troubled life. This behavior includes both the personal relation and the fixation of an approximately neutral object. The term "comradeship" implies, this tendency as I feel it, because it suggests a community of persons caused by a special, objective aim. It excludes both degradation and improper intimacy.

(d) The treatment must be on the basis of a scientifically determined program, considering all perceivable conditions in the social and personal field.

(e) The client must be treated as a specific *individual* (of course without exclusion of a tested scheme of scientific classification); but imprisonment has *not* to be conceived as the specific situation, to be treated specifically. That would be a mere treatment of symptoms. We have to treat the whole personality in its totality, including all its recognizable social relations. It is one of the most characteristic features of this work that it needs not to be finished within the time of imprisonment, but that it can be, and shall be, continued after release (even if no parole is granted) up to the status of an approximate resocialization. This point (especially urged by warden Karl Grohmann, who died 1928, one of the fathers of this institution) completes the totality of the treatment in a remarkable sense. Of course, to maintain this long-enduring connection with the client, is a very difficult task, and can occur only with a limited number of released