

A SURVEY OF MARRIAGE AND EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING
in
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

by

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Preliminary Observation : The author wishes to state that he has never been engaged in the practice of marriage or educational counseling, and that he had, consequently, to limit himself to digesting and co-ordinating materials supplied to him by various agencies.

I.

" Marriage counseling is one of the youngest branches of social work. It has been a short time only that it has emerged from the infantile stage of more or less unorganized experimentation in an unexplored area. Indeed, in Germany this development has occurred later than in the English speaking countries. Now, however, counseling has reached the stage at which its aims are being defined and its methods developed. " (Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Jugend-und Eheberatung. Hannover. Bericht ueber das Geschaefstjahr 1954/55, published in Gesundheitsfuersorge, vol. 5, no. 8).

Educational counseling can be said to be at the same stage.

II.

The fact that marriage and educational counseling are still at a youthful stage is indicated by their present state of organization. ' A maximum of organization or a perfect integration of the inter-human relationships " would, of course, be out of place in a sphere

in which the contact between counselor and client is more essential than anything else (cf. Grosse Schoenepauck, Bulletin of 13 February 1957). To a large extent marriage counseling agencies are financed, however, out of public funds, and a certain measure of perspicacity and uniformity of organization is, consequently, desirable. In this respect one must consider, however, that no kind of organization can fail to reflect its historical development. At the meeting of a committee of the Union Internationale des Organismes Familiaux, called the Commission des Conseils Matrimoniaux, which was held in London in May 1956, the German group presented a survey of the states of the Federal Republic, from which it appeared that the following three types of agencies were in existence at the time :

~~Es gibt~~

1. denominational agencies;
2. inter-denominational agencies operating upon Christian principles; and
3. agencies operating upon the principles of Neo-Malthusianism and emphasizing planned parenthood.

These three types of marriage counseling developed in Germany almost simultaneously in the years after the First World War (cf. Groeger, Verfahren und Probleme der Jugend- und Eheberatung. Mitteilungshefte der Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten und fuer Geschlechterziehung (1955) vol. 5, No. 19).

We shall deal first the third type which is of little importance today. Following the model of the English Family Planning Association, Magnus Hirschfeld, the well known scholar in the field of sexuality, founded in 1919 a *Sexualberatungsstelle* (Sex Counseling Agency) (cf. Josepha Fisher-Erling in *Ehe und Familie*, vol. 1956, p. 151); the agency was to give information on matters of birth control and to distribute birth control devices. Similar lines were pursued by the Marriage and Sex Counseling Agencies (*Ehe-und Sexualberatungsstellen*) of the League for Maternity Protection and Sex Reform, which advocated abortion for social reasons as well as the right of unmarried women to be-

come mothers. During the early 1920's, these movements achieved considerable importance. Stones has estimated that at that time several hundred such counseling agencies were operating in Germany. Today the movement has abated. "Ambulatory clinics" giving advice on matters of sex hygiene and distributing without pay birth control devices, are presently maintained in five German cities by the Society for Marriage and Family, a daughter organization of the International Planned Parenthood Association, which influenced by ideas of Neo-Malthusianism, is advocating birth control as a means toward preventing abortions (cf. Grosse Schoenepauck, l.c.). The organization cannot be found, however, to play any considerable role in the Federal Republic.

Considerable progress has been made, however, during the last few years in the development of the other two types of counseling agencies. They developed out of these Legal Advice Centers which were established after the First World War in response to the large wave of divorces of that time. Initially, official agencies emphasizing pre-marital medical advice did not have much success; the attempt to combine these marriage counseling agencies with the government health offices turned out to be a failure. The denominational marriage counseling agencies began to be established in the midtwenties at just about the same time as in other European and in American countries. The first such agency was established in Berlin by the Protestant Women's Association. The Catholic Counseling Agencies were coordinated in 1932 in the "Reichsausschuss fuer Katholische Eheberatung" (Reich Council for Catholic Marriage Counseling). In accord with Christ's command of active neighborly love the sphere of activities of these denominational agencies was broadly defined at the very outset. Counseling *during* rather than *preceding* marriage was to be emphasized. In 1933 this development was cut short, however. The authoritarian state of National Socialism retained for itself the monopoly of marriage counseling. The center of gravity was to lay in consideration of racial eugenics. The scope of activities was defined by the Marital eugenics Law which was applied in an extreme fashion, although it contained the germ of several sound ideas. The requirement of medical health certificates for parties about to be married was demanded already in 1908 by Ernst Haeckel.

After the war, the year 1950 constituted a decisive point of re-emergence. In 1949, the "German Cooperative Society for Educational and Marriage Counseling" (Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Jugend-und Eheberatung, Detmold, Woldeinarstrasse 15) was established for the purpose of co-ordinating the inter-denominational marriage counseling agencies as well as for the additional purpose of close cooperation with the denominational agencies.

Those 90 Catholic Marriage Counseling Agencies which existed in 1952 were organized in that year in the Catholic Central Institute for Marriage and Family Counseling. No similar organization exists as yet for the Protestant agencies. However, by the Central Committee of Internal Missions of the German Protestant Church a periodical, called *Der Familienberater* (The Family Counselor) is being published since 1955. This periodical is addressed primarily to the Protestant marriage counseling agencies, which believe that they were not sufficiently represented by the Detmold Cooperative Society. Plans have also been made for the establishment of an association of those people who are active in marriage counseling, primarily for the cultivation of the effects of the work (Groesse Schoenepauck). Thanks to the personality of its chairman, the Protestant Main Agency for Marriage and Family Counseling in the Rheinland (Duesseldorf, Suedstrasse 6) has come to be leading. Under its auspices a Cooperative Association of Protestant Educational Counselors in the Rheinland has been called into existence (confer Groeger, *Das missionarische Wort*, 1957, no. 4).

III.

Marriage Counseling Agencies presently exist in all major cities of the Federal Republic. They are all engaged in an intensive mutual exchange of ideas, partly immediately, and partly mediately by the German cooperative societies for educational and marriage counseling. The denominational and the inter-denominational agencies frequently are cooperating with each other closely. In this respect it is important to know that no more than 30 % of the clients of the denominational agencies are church members.

The members of the staff of the denominational marriage counseling agencies hardly ever receive any pay. As far as the Catholic agencies are concerned, the work is in many cases carried by the directors of the local Caritas Associations. The Caritas Association was established in 1897 for all Catholics of Germany. Today its regional sub-divisions are active in the organized promotion of active neighborly love. The staff members of the inter-denominational marriage counseling agencies, too, are mostly unpaid. Paid employees are found only in the marriage counseling agencies of a few large cities (Hannover, Duesseldorf, and Hamburg). Even in those cases, the paid staff consists of no more than one or two members. All other work is carried on by unpaid helpers. In Goettingen, for instance, a university city of some 80,000 population the marriage counseling agency is constituted by group of 9 women, namely womenlawyers, physicians, one woman-theologian and a few former social workers. In Hannover, a city having a population of 540,000, a psychologist and a secretary are employed full time and for pay. Lawyers, theologians, psychologists, social workers, physicians, and especially psychiatrists and psychotherapists are active as unpaid volunteers. It has not been easy, however, always to find replacements (confer Groeger, *Das missionarische Wort*. 1957, no. 4).

The following figures are taken from the statistical material of the Cooperative Society for Educational and Marriage Counseling in Hannover. These figures can also be regarded as typical, *ceteris paribus*, for other marriage counseling agencies :

Marriage counseling	334 cases of 518 clients in 1439 sessions
Premarital counseling	42 cases of 74 clients in 236 sessions
Educational counseling	125 cases of 319 clients in 567 sessions
Special counseling	13 cases of 13 clients in 45 sessions

A total of 2,287 sessions was thus had in that metropolitan counseling agency during one year. Among the 1439 marital counseling sessions single sessions turned out to be sufficient in 104 cases ; 7 or more sessions were necessary in 56 cases.

The average was 4.3 sessions for one case of marriage counseling. During the period of 1951 to 1955 the Protestant Main

Agency for Marriage and Family Problems in Duesseidorf has had 4,297 consultations.

IV.

As one can see, cases of counseling during marriage are much more frequent than cases of pre-marital counseling. In view of the great social significance of marriage counseling, it is of importance to know more about those marriages in which counseling agencies have been consulted.

The clients belong to a great many different professions. But while no particular profession can be found to predominate, members of those professions in which work is to be carried on without a fixed place, such as chauffeurs or commercial travelers, consulted the agencies relatively more frequently than members of other professions. 20% of the marriages in which advice was sought were childless; in 29% of the cases the parties had one child, in also 29% they had two children, in 13%, 3 children, in 3%, 4 children, and in 6% more than four children. Of interest will be the fact that in 30% of more than four children. Of interest will be the fact that in 30% of all marriage cases, including the childless ones, the first child was conceived before the conclusion of the marriage. The counseling services were initiated in 72% of the cases by the wife, in 26% by the husband, and in 2% by both spouses. The other partner was induced to participate in 60% of the cases, and in 14% he refused to participate; in the remaining cases the participation of the other spouse was either not necessary or impractical. Of 249 couples seeking advice, twelve were in the first year of their marriage, 30 in the second and third year, 99 in the fourth to tenth year, 76 in the eleventh to twentieth year, and 32 couples had been married longer than twenty years. In 173 cases the husband was older than the wife, in 57 cases the wife was older than the husband, and in 19 cases the spouses were of equal age. While about one-half of the wives were engaged in employment, it cannot be said that the marital crisis would be generally aggravated by this fact. As to the causes of a marital crisis, it is, of course, never brought about by just one factor; at best, one may find a particular case to preponderate. It is also necessary clearly to

distinguish between the elements of the marital conflict and the motive of seeking advice (cf. Groeger, *Beratungsmotive und Konfliktelemente in der Eheberatung*, *Ev. Ethik* 3/57). If one considers this aspect, he will find certain regularities to emerge. Among 249 marriages diagnosed disturbances of the marital contact were found to occupy the most important place; they existed in no less than 82 cases. There follow infidelity of the husband in 77 cases; financial troubles in 50; in-laws in 39 cases; sickness, including serious with or without good cause, in 18; abusive treatment by the husband in 18; drunkenness of the husband in 17; poor household management in 17; lack of proper housing in 16, and differences between the educational, social or intellectual standing of the parties in 10 cases.

The following figures are reported by Groeger, *l.c.*, from a 5-year period of activity of a Protestant counseling agency :

Number of clients : male 75 ; female 630 ; total 1305.

i.	a) neuroses	19.9%
	b) psychopathic conditions	9.7%
	c) psychoses	3.2%
	d) debility	0.8%
I.	1. Lack of fulfilment	14.7%
	a) lack of marital community	9.2%
	b) internal negation of marital community	5.5%
	2. Vita sexualis	10.6%
	a) disturbances	5.6%
	b) general problems	3.1%
	c) birth control	1.9%
	3. Infidelity of husband	6.8%
	4. Choice of partner	5.5%
	5. Financial problems	4.1%
	general	2.7%
	support	1.4%
	6. Wife stronger than husband	3.6%
	7. Divorce problems	3.6%
	a) divorce intended	0.6%

b) 'divorce initiated	1.8%
c) divorce obtained	1.2%
8. Vocational troubles	3.0%
9. Pre-marital counseling	2.9%
10. Infidelity of wife	2.3%
11. In-laws	2.2%
12. Physical disease	2.2%
13. Denominationally mixed marr.	1.9%
14. Illegitimate children ; step-children	1.5%
15. Drunkenness	1.4%
16. Educational problems	1.4%
17. Perversion	1.3%
a) various	0.7%
b) homosexuality	0.6%
18. Poor household management	1.2%
19. "Weltanschauung"	0.9%
20. Criminal acts	0.8%

In numerous cases special experts were brought in, viz., in 334 cases

27 cases	social workers
24 "	lawyers
17 "	clergymen
16 "	psychiatrists
12 "	physicians
11 "	psychotherapists
11 "	the courts

furthermore, the Public Health Office, the employer, the probation officer, or the maternity protection agency.

In this way there arises the problem of the "advisory team" (cf. Groeger, *Mitteilungshefte der Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten und fuer Geschlechterziehung*, 1955 Jg. 5 Heft 19). Depending on the nature of the case, it will be necessary to bring in, in addition to the regular marriage counselor, a physician, a minister, a lawyer or a social

worker. Such team cooperation is essential for the success of the counseling services.

By all clients the agencies were approached voluntarily. Even where an opinion is sought to be obtained by a court, no party is in any way placed under pressure to approach the agency, unless the service is asked for on the party's own volition, no opinion will be rendered. While opinions were asked for by courts in 32 cases, in two such cases the agency refused to act because the parties did not wish to approach it. Among a total of 249 marriages brought before an agency, divorce proceedings were initiated in 50 cases, of which 12 are known to have been carried through to a decree of divorce, while in 12 cases the petition was withdrawn, and in 3 cases denied. While Groeger (*Mitteilungshefte der Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten und fuer Geschlechtserziehung*, 1955 Jg. 5 Heft 19) believes that in certain cases advice may be rendered by correspondence, the agency in Hannover does not engage in such a service.

The figures which have just been presented are taken from a small base, viz. the annual reports of the Hannover agency and the articles by Groeger, and they refer to different years. The facts reflected by them may not at all be typical, especially insofar as they relate to the vocational status of the individuals concerned. Of some importance may be the fact that all figures exclusively to Protestants.

V.

A few observations appear to be indicated concerning the cooperation between the marriage counseling agencies and the courts, especially the divorce courts. In many cases close cooperation is facilitated by identity of the personnel. Close cooperation between the divorce courts and the counseling agencies has also created a new role for the conciliation proceedings which under §608 of the German Code of Civil Procedure have to precede every suit for divorce. That provision prescribes that in every divorce case the presiding judge or an associate judge designated by him has to try to bring about a reconciliation of the parties. The

attempt may not be disposed with unless the defendant is outside of the country, or where there exists some other grave factual impediment, or if it can be definitely foreseen that the attempt at reconciliation will fail. The courts have generally been inclined not to expect success of these reconciliation proceedings. An inquiry which was recently undertaken, however, within the framework of the Chicago-Frankfurt University Exchange seems to indicate that the conciliation proceedings constitute definite possibilities for promoting marriage stability and that its elaboration may be a worth-while end (cf. Lueke, *Erfolglosigkeit des Sühneverfahrens in Ehesachen, Ehe und Familie*, 1955, S. 342-346). The development is in flux. A few courts have begun to transfer the conciliation proceedings to the marriage counseling agencies, even though such transfer may not be fully in accord with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (cf. Blau, *Die Einschaltung von Eheberatungsstellen in das Scheidungsverfahren*, *Juristenzeitung* 1952, S. 711-714). In the district of one of these courts this practice has resulted in reconciliation in 27% of the cases in which reconciliations were attempted. This figure is considerably above the average of successful reconciliation proceedings. The injection of the marriage counseling agencies thus appears to be appropriate; if it is done at the stage preliminary to the official reconciliation proceedings, the *lex lato* does not stand in the way, and *de lege ferenda* enlarged possibilities will have to be provided.

Marriage counseling agencies have come to be utilized also in the divorce proceedings proper (cf. Blau, *l.c.*). Under German law all facts which favor the continuation of the marriage have to be ascertained by the court upon its own initiative; with respect to such facts the court is not limited to the allegation of the parties and the evidence offered by them (Code of Civil Procedure, §622). The court may thus call the marriage counseling agency or its members as expert witnesses even though such testimony is not applied for by either of the parties. The court may thus decide to hear the experts on the following questions :

"Do the experiences of modern psychology indicate that through the alleged misconduct the marriage of the parties has been so thoroughly disrupted that the reconstitution of a community of

life corresponding to the nature of marriage cannot be expected? Or is a reconciliation of the parties possible? What difficulties are standing in the way of such a reconciliation? Are these difficulties likely to be overcome?"

We have seen opinions rendered in reply to such questions, and we shall say more about them shortly. Typically such opinions are fairly extensive, about eight pages long. They discuss the personal and educational backgrounds of the parties, the formation of their character, and the course of their joint lives; they take up the question of the extent to which the parties are well matched, and they, conclude with some definite suggestion such as that of marking time by continuing the case, and thus to give the parties the opportunity to obtain a clearer insight into their problems and to revise their positions.

Under §620 of the Code of Civil Procedure, a continuance of up to one year may be ordered in a divorce case, if such measure is likely to contribute to the chances of a reconciliation. It is interesting to observe in what ways the courts have begun to utilize in such cases the marriage counseling agencies, which, of course, are nowhere mentioned in the Code. "In the case of such continuance many courts, by decree, refer the parties to the care of the marriage counseling agency, to which these will also be sent to docket. At an early time the counselor asks the parties to see him, in order to look over the case not so much retrospectively and judicially, but rather to investigate it 'psychologically' and to assist the parties with advice and help, so that the time be utilized positively and the parties do not remain left to themselves. Resort to a marriage counseling agency at this stage of the proceedings... constitutes social work in the true sense of the word, a case of 'social hygiene.' Insofar it is symptomatic of an attitude of active, practical intervention in matters of community life." (Blau, 1.c)

VI.

In different ways the cooperation between marriage counseling agencies and courts has been made fruitful in the cases of *premarital counseling*. As we have seen above, the number of such

cases is considerably smaller than that of cases of marriage counseling. But activities of the kind have frequently been asked for by courts when they had to decide on whether or not to declare an infant to be of full age, or to be allowed to marry. In the Federal Republic the age of majority is 21. However, by decree of the probate court a person below the age of 21, but above that of 18, may be declared to be of full age, if such a measure is likely to promote the best interests of the person concerned (Civil Code, §§2-5). Capacity to marry is independent of majority; the minimum age for marriage is 21 years for males and 18 for females. Judicial permission to marry before these age limits have been reached can be granted to a female at any time, but to a male only if he has reached the age of 18 and has been judicially declared to be of full age (Marriage Law, §1). The relevant decisions are to be made by the probate court. For a young man below 21 years of age, two judicial decrees are thus required if he is to be capable of being married, viz. the judicial decree by which he is declared to be of full age, and the decree by which he is granted dispensation from the marriage impediment of non-age. Proceedings to obtain such decrees are usually sparked by the fact that a child is on the way. Even in such cases the German courts do not at all grant the decrees as a matter of course but rather investigate carefully whether or not the best interest of the male party will really be promoted by his being declared to be of full age. In the course of this investigation the courts make use of the services of the marriage counseling agencies, which have developed special methods for such cases. These methods have been described in the German Report submitted to the *Commission des Conseils Matrimoniaux* of the *Union Internationale des Organismes Familiaux*, when it convened in Brussels from June 28th to 30th, 1957. In the opinions, some of which are appended to this Report, the young people in question are subjected to an intensive psychological analysis. The question of whether or not they would be well matched, is treated with great care, perhaps a care even greater than that applied in opinions prepared in the course of divorce proceedings. Upon application, pre-marital advice on the prospects of an intended marriage is also rendered to parents.

The agencies also sponsor for girls and newly married women cooking and sewing courses, for which subsidies are given out of public funds. Within the framework of these courses discussions are arranged on preparation for marriage. Lectures on this topic also play a considerable role. Their success depends, of course, upon the personality of the lecturer. Attempts at standardization would be ill advised.

Upon the 1955 meeting of the *Union Internationale* it became apparent that counseling for engaged people is not enough, and that preparation for marriage must be begun already before any definite choice of a partner has been made. Such preparation must be addressed not only to young people themselves but also to their parents and teachers (cf. Groeger, *Die Aufgabe der Elternvorbereitung*, *Der Familienberater* 1. Jahrgang, Nr. 2). The need of prophylactic care has come to be increasingly apparent.

In Germany, one has also come to pay more and more attention to the topic of Schools for Marriage (cf. Groeger, *Evangelische Eheschulen*, *Der Familienberater* 1956, 3. Jg. Nr. 6), i.e. systematic courses on pre-marital counseling, preparation for marriage has been conducted since 1953 by the Protestant Main Agency. On the Catholic side there have been conducted, especially in South Germany, so-called Marriage Seminars, which have been very well attended. There are separate courses for unmarried people, for people engaged to be married, for newly weds, and for older married couples. Experience has shown that there exists a need for such courses, and that many of them attract large numbers of participants. On the other side, it must be observed, however, that both high schools and universities have been reluctant to enter the field.

In this connexion mention must also be made of the Protestant Marriage Assistance (*Evangelische Ehehilfe*) which was started in 1949 in Berlin and taken over in 1954 by the Protestant Main Agency for Marriage and Family Problems in the Reinland. This agency helps unmarried young people to establish contacts with one another. In its activity it requires that each participant must submit a letter of recommendation of the local pastor or some other person in active church life ; letters of the participant will then be

inserted in organization magazine. As a general rule, the agency limits itself to bring about the exchange of letter; it does not engage, however, in further marriage brokerage. Its activities have been reported in *Der Familienberater*, Vol. 3 (1955), Nr. 6.

VII.

The number of cases of educational advice is much smaller, too, than that of cases of marriage counseling. The reasons are different ones, however, than those which have kept down the number of cases of individual pre-marriage counseling. A complete reorganization of public juvenile welfare work in Germany was brought about by the Reich Law of Juvenile Welfare of July 9th, 1922. Insofar as an outsider can venture any judgment in the matter, this scheme of organization appears to have functioned well. There exists in every major city and in every district a Youth Welfare Office which is charged, among other activities, with the protection of foster children, the cooperation with the courts in matters of guardianship, matters of probation and education of juvenile delinquents, supervision of child labor, protection of war orphans and children of war veterans, and cooperation with the public in all matters concerning infants and juveniles. The Youth Welfare Offices furthermore promote counseling activities in matters concerning children and juveniles and they cooperate with all organizations which concern themselves with maternity protection and child welfare. Finally the Youth Welfare Office is automatically guardian of every illegitimate child born within its district. Of the birth of such a child the Office is informed by the Registrar of Civil Status, who has to report to the Youth Welfare Office the birth of every illegitimate child which is reported to him. The Youth Welfare Office, in turn, immediately notifies the probate court of every guardianship assumed by the Office. This close net work of agencies, which are all staffed by personnel who are taking their tasks very seriously, takes care of practically every problem case, especially since the youth welfare offices are closely cooperating with the probate courts also in matters concerning legitimate children.

The scope of the educational advice activities of the marriage counseling agencies has nevertheless expanded in recent years. In-

deed, there has emerged, as shown by the Reports from Hannover, a need of comprehensive family counseling. Recent research by Dirks and Shottlaender has shown the polarity of marriage and family. Marriage is, in its essence, indissoluble; the family, on the other hand, is, in its essence, subject to change. This element of the time limitation of the family must not be lost sight of (Groeger). The advantage of this kind of counseling derives from the fact that cases of emerging educational trouble can be brought to the counseling agencies by the parents much before the time at which the organs of the Youth Welfare Office can or will go into action. Another advantage derives from the fact that problems of education can be observed in connection with the marital life of the parents. In Hannover, 125 children were thus taken care of by the Marriage Counseling Agency. Of these 125 children only 38 had a family home free of marital crisis; in the case of 19 children the marriage of the parents was seriously disturbed; in the cases of 23 children the parents were divorced. Out of the 125 children, intensive psychological examinations were made of 99.

In the educational field, the mere counseling is also supplemented by extended activities directed toward the public, especially courses of instruction. The agencies were also instrumental in the establishment of nursery schools and kindergartens, and in finding places for children in recreation homes. All these activities are still in the process of vigorous development.

VIII.

The development just described has resulted in the rise of educational counseling as an autonomous institution standing besides that of marriage counseling (cf. Rohr, Aufgabe und Einrichtung einer Erziehungsberatungsstelle in "Sozialpaedagogische Vortraege der Jugendschutztage Mainz" 1955). According to the Directives for Educational Counseling "educational counseling agencies may be established and conducted by private associations, institutes, clinics, and special organizations as well as by public agencies." The educational counseling agencies presently existing are listed in the "Verzeichnis der Eheberatungsstellen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland" (AFET Hannover-Kleefeld, Ste-

phansstift). In the course of the activities of the educational counseling agencies it has turned out to be necessary for the counselor to be familiar with psychological testing methods and the experiences of depth psychology. There is also needed a social worker and a community worker. Here, too, it is essential that the agency be invoked voluntarily; for this reason the clear outward separation of the agency from all governmental offices is necessary; on the other hand, the agency must cooperate, however, with the school, the youth welfare office and the public health office (cf. Post, *Erziehungsberatung in Zusammenarbeit von Gesundheitsamt und Schule*, *Mitteilungshefte der Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten und fuer Geschlechtserziehung*, 1955 Jhrg. 5 Heft 19). The annual expense necessary to carry the personnel of a small educational advice agency is said to be DM12,000 - 15,000 (\$3,000 to 4,750), of an agency of medium size DM28,000 - 30,000 (\$7,000 - 7,500), and of one of large size DM40,000 - 42,000 (\$10,000 - 10,500). If one considers that the annual cost of maintaining a child in a public training school is DM1,500 (\$375), and that the need of such institutionalization can be prevented in many cases by a well-organized system of educational counseling, he will see that the use of the funds needed for the latter constitutes a good investment from a purely financial point of view, not to speak of the ethical one at all.

It was, of course, inevitable that the problems of counseling also came to attract the interest of the radio broadcasters. Through a judicious choice of personnel the modest beginning of a "mail box corner" could be developed into a regular "question hour" (cf. Groeger, *Jugend fragt ueber den Rundfunk*, *Jugendschutz*, Jahrgang 2 Heft 3, Mai/Juni 1957). From among the total body of the questions asked, which originated with persons between the ages of 16 to 70, Groeger has picked out and analyzed those which originated with young people between the ages of 16 to 25. In the order of frequency these questions were concerned with the following problems: friendships and love, religion, parents and education, vocation. The special skill required of the answering expert was that he would not only reply to the questions but also appeal to the interest of the radio audience at large, hence to combine the gene-

ral with the particular, and, finally, to give the questioner an advice which would give him directives without interfering with his individual responsibility.
