

Interrogation of WARNER KIRCHERT
By Major Monigan
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Kirchert continued his discussion of his duties with Brigadefuehrer Gluecks who was in charge of concentration camps. During the course of his assignment to that office, he visited several concentration camps and found the conditions there substantially the same as they were at Dachau and Buchenwald during the period of his assignment in those camps. He listed the camps which he had visited and outlined the measures taken in them to improve drainage and the general conditions. Kirchert stated that medical matters in the concentration camps fell under the jurisdiction of the Reichsartz, Dr. Grawitz, but that their direct supervision was the task of Dr. Lolling.

Upon his return to the Sanitaets Amt in Berlin he learned of an order of the Reichfuehrer SS which directed there should be employed in concentration camps persons who were not school-trained physicians. According to Kirchert, there was a considerable feeling in party and SS circles against qualified professional physicians which arose as a result of personal views of Hess and Himmler. As a result of this attitude, many fantastic ideas arose. There was, for example, a Professor Christopher whose work the witness was called upon to review, who recommended the drinking of tea as a cure for tuberculosis.

As a result of discussions among his colleagues he learned of certain medical experiments, particularly the work of Dr. Ding at Buchenwald, and some sort of high and low pressure experiments which were undertaken by the Luftwaffe at Dachau. He also was aware of the work of Professor Schilling

since Dr. Conti had told him of it during the time he was Conti's adjutant. Kirchert actually accompanied Conti and Schilling to their meeting with the Reichsfuehrer SS but was not present during their discussions. He was not aware of the work of Professor Gebhardt but he had heard of him. In his opinion the experiments which were conducted in concentration camps did not result from a considered program of scientific research but each type of experiment was approved individually by Himmler and the Reichsartz.

Kirchert was familiar with the euthanasia program under Bouhler. While he was on duty in the Sanitaets Amt, Dr. Grawitz requested him to attend a meeting at the party chancellery to discuss the organization of this program. The SS, as such, was not directly interested in the affair and in accordance with Kirchert's recommendation they did not involve themselves in it. Professor Heyde and Mr. Brack were, in Kirchert's opinion, prominent in the program. During his association with these matters, the principal topic of discussion was the best means for extermination; the contest was between the poison injections and kohl oxide. In his opinion, there is no connection between the euthanasia program and the exterminations in concentration camps except that the method of killing was the same. The discussions which he had with his medical colleagues was concerned with the question of the method of extermination rather than the advisability of extermination.