

# STERILIZATION LAW IS TERMED HUMANE

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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## STERILIZATION LAW IS TERMED HUMANE

Author Says German Statute  
Extends 'Neighborly Love'  
to Future Generations.

### AGE LIMIT SET AT 10 YEARS

But Compulsory Operations Will  
Be Performed Only on Those  
Over 14, Guett Explains.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Jan. 21.—The German sterilization law is praised by Dr. Guett, counselor of the Reich Ministry of the Interior and framer of the law, as the most important public-health measure since the discovery of bacteria by another German enabled humanity to rid itself of plagues.

All civilized races, Dr. Guett told a gathering of foreign correspondents yesterday, stand in imminent danger of degeneration because civilization has turned natural selection, which eliminated the sick and unfit automatically, into "counterselection," which not only keeps the unfit alive but also enables them to breed more rapidly than the healthy and ambitious.

"We do not want to abolish the

benefits of civilization," Dr. Guett assured his audience. "We will still care for the sick and infirm. But we do want to prevent the hereditary afflicted from transmitting their afflictions to their children, thereby poisoning the entire bloodstream of the race. We go beyond neighborly love; we extend it to future generations. Therein lies the high ethical value and justification of the law."

Dr. Guett, repudiating "foreign misrepresentations," lauded the good example set by the United States, both in Federal immigration laws and in numerous State sterilization laws. Under the latter, he said, 7,000 men and 9,000 women had already been sterilized. He pointed to the enthusiastic commendation of Germany's step by prominent American eugenicists. Germany, he admitted, had gone further than any other nation, but he expressed the hope that other nations would follow suit.

Amplifying the provisions of the law, Dr. Guett stated that voluntary sterilization could be performed on boys and girls from 10 years old upward and compulsory operations on those from 14 years old upward. He revealed that the concession granted to the Catholic Church, permitting persons to avoid compulsory sterilization by voluntary confinement in institutions, was applicable only if the persons paid their own living expenses. If they could not pay, he added, they must undergo sterilization.

"We want to meet religious scruples as far as possible, but in the end the State must decide who can and who cannot have children," he said.

Dr. Guett likewise stressed that

all possible care would be taken to avoid misjudgments by the hereditary health courts, which must decide not only the basis of their own diagnoses but also the basis of evidence in each case. Courts and the medical profession, he pointed out, are bound to the utmost secrecy in order to avoid reflection on families one of whose members might fall under the sterilization law.

Separate from the sterilization law, he explained, is an emasculation law, applicable to sex criminals and administered by ordinary courts.