

## ***Two Math Problems Set to High School Students in Nazi Germany***

*An example of dehumanization dressed as neutral arithmetic [C. B.]:*

### **Problem 94**

In one region of the German Reich there are 4,400 mentally ill in state institutions, 4,500 receiving state support, 1,600 in local hospitals, 200 in homes for the epileptic, and 1,500 in welfare homes. The state pays a minimum of 10 million RM/year (RM = Reichsmarks) for these institutions.

- I. What is the average cost to the state per inhabitant per year?
- II. Using the result calculated from I, how much does it cost the state if:
  - A. 868 patients stay longer than 10 years?
  - B. 260 patients stay longer than 20 years?
  - C. 112 patients stay longer than 25 years?

### **Problem 95**

The construction of an insane asylum requires 6 million RM. How many housing units @ 15,000 RM could be built for the amount spent on insane asylums?

*(Source: Quoted by Robert Proctor, Racial Hygiene: Medicine under the Nazis [Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988], 184, note 26. Based on Adolf Dörner, Mathematik im Dienste der nationalpolitischen Erziehung [Frankfurt, 1935].)*