

Charlotte Schulheimer

Hospital stays from 19.09.1936 to 17.04.1940

On September 19, 1936, Charlotte Schulheimer, née Rothschild, was brought to the Bürgerhospital in Stuttgart by her husband, her sister Hanne Leus and her doctor for inpatient admission. She had been suffering from severe depressive symptoms for some time, presumably as a result of physical illness and “very unpleasant events” in recent times. The husband had been denounced, then, after his innocence was proven, filed a lawsuit against the slanderer, the trial is still ongoing. 3 days after the admission, Charlotte was discharged in exchange for a lapel, mainly at the instigation of her sister. She was not in the right place in the Bürgerhospital and was to be placed in a private sanatorium.



On October 19, 1936, she was again taken to the Bürgerhospital. This time by ambulance directly from the Marienhospital in Stuttgart, where she had spent the previous two weeks. As with the first admission, she had severe depressive symptoms with agonizing feelings of worthlessness, guilt and fear. She was desperate, accused herself of the most monstrous crimes, was sometimes agitated, then inhibited and blocked again.

This second admission marked the beginning of years of hospitalization, which only ended when her sister obtained a leave of absence from the state sanatorium in Weinsberg on 27 August 1940. This was later converted into a discharge by ministerial decree.

Charlotte's state of mind was subject to fluctuations over the years. When Charlotte was feeling better, she was friendly and cooperative, but she never really opened up. It was striking that she never blamed anyone. She only blamed herself. A lengthy entry from October 21, 1936 in the medical records of the Bürgerhospital is indicative of her situation: Charlotte spoke of her fear for her foster child: "Oh, the poor child! They beat it to death on the street - they beat us Jews to death on the street." The exploring doctor went on to write “(she) indicated that she had suffered greatly from the current attitude towards the Jews, but gave no details.”

In the same entry it says further down "(she) had told the relatives at visiting time that she did not want to talk to Miss Doctor because she was afraid she would then reveal something. She doesn't want to know anything more about this statement, and even when questioned in detail about certain self-reproaches, she repeatedly loses herself

in general whining... In the further conversation, Charlotte is quoted again verbatim “Please write down that we will all be executed”.

On December 24, 1936, Charlotte was transferred to the private Christophsbad sanatorium in Göppingen. The reason for this was that the Bürgerhospital was overcrowded. The stay at the Christophsbad was only intended as an interim solution until she could be admitted to the state sanatorium in Weissenau. The diagnosis made here was regressive depression, and it was assumed that an improvement or cure was possible in the foreseeable future. This assessment led to the transfer to Weissenau ordered by the Ministry of the Interior being abandoned. Charlotte was now to remain in the Christophsbad as a state patient until her release. This decision led to years of correspondence between the Ministry of the Interior, Kreiswohlfahrtsverband, the municipality of Rutesheim, the Jewish emergency aid organization and the Christophsbad, which revolved around the assumption of costs. From March 1, 1937, Charlotte's sister undertook to pay the difference between the daily rate of the Christophsbad and that of a state sanatorium.

The symptoms described in the medical history of the Christophsbad do not differ from those reported from the Bürgerhospital. It is still an up and down of temporary improvements and long-lasting deteriorations. At one point Charlotte says that she likes it here. When she is better, she is friendly, cooperates well and is willing to do favors. There are sometimes detailed descriptions of her terrible hypochondriacal ideas, which in retrospect can be plausibly linked to the well-known family conflicts and the anti-Jewish political situation, but which at the time probably remained incomprehensible as delusional thoughts.

Her sister, Hanne Leus, corresponded several times with the medical director of the clinic and showed great interest in Charlotte being able to stay at the Christophsbad. This wish could not be granted, and on April 17, 1940 she had to be transferred to the state sanatorium in Weinsberg with 39 other patients at the behest of the Ministry of the Interior.

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