

FOREWORD

German trade unions are today giving increasing attention to group work in their programs for youth. The present report by Mrs. Alice Hanson Cook is a description of work being done by certain trade union youth groups in Bavaria. Mrs. Cook was a fortunate choice for this assignment. She has had a rich experience with group work in the American trade unions. She is also an experienced and capable group leader.

A primary feature of this report is the emphasis placed by Mrs. Cook on discussion as a teaching method, the importance of which should not be underestimated. Teaching by the discussion method is an art not easy to master. It is much easier to lecture, but a democratic learning process is better achieved if there can be an exchange of experience and thought between teacher and youth. This observation applies with special force to German trade union youth. They are, with rare exceptions, earnestly intent on learning, and most of these young people are already capable of mature judgment. The use of discussion methods with such trade union youth groups should be productive of excellent results.

At the close of this report Mrs. Cook has made a number of recommendations. These have grown out of her own observations and are supported by a wide experience in trade union group work. I am sure that these recommendations will receive the careful consideration of German trade unions.



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