

MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD, M.D.

Magnus Hirschfeld was born in Germany in 1868, the son of a prominent physician. After extensive preparation at five universities, and several years of general practice, he became the first physician to specialize in psychosexual diseases. Later he helped establish the Medical Society for Sexual Science.

In 1918, with many years of specialized practice behind him, Dr. Hirschfeld founded the famous Institute of Sexual Science, in Berlin. This was soon taken over by the government as the Magnus Hirschfeld Foundation. In succeeding years the Institute was visited for research and study by thousands of physicians and scientists from all over the world. In connection with the same Institute, Dr. Hirschfeld proceeded to set up the first German Marriage Consultation Bureau, which became the pattern for similar institutions in many other countries.

In addition to his other activities, Dr. Hirschfeld was a medico-criminal expert of note, specializing in cases that involved aberrations of the sexual instinct.

Between the years of 1921 and 1932, he called five meetings of the International Congress for Sexual Reform on a Scientific Basis. The meetings were organized by the World League for Sexual Reform, an organization founded by Hirschfeld together with August Forel and Havelock Ellis.

A bibliography of Dr. Hirschfeld's writings includes more than two hundred titles, among the most important being: *Natural Laws of Love*, based on more than 10,000 questionnaires filled out by men and women who came to him for advice; *Sexual Knowledge*, based on thirty years of research, published in five volumes; *Sexual Pathology*, a study of disorders of the sexual instinct; and *Men and Women—The World Journey of a Sexologist*.

Commenting on Dr. Hirschfeld's recent death, *The New York Times* refers to him as, "the author of many works which are considered standard books on sex analysis and sex psychology . . . authority on sex problems and pioneer advocate of sexual 'reform.'"

Norman Haire, himself noted for his achievements in the field of sexual knowledge, tendered this tribute, ". . . the noble work of ameliorating the needless sexual misery of a large proportion of humanity lay ever nearest the heart of Magnus Hirschfeld. . . . What stands out, is his scientific achievement, his establishment of Sexology as a recognized branch of medical science and medical practice, his contribution to the knowledge of that science, not only within the bounds of the normal, but even more in the domain of sexual pathology . . . splendid scientific and humanitarian work."

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SEXUAL PATHOLOGY

A STUDY OF DERANGEMENTS OF THE SEXUAL INSTINCT

by
MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD, M.D.

AUTHOR OF: *Natural Laws of Love; Sexual Anomalies; Men and Women—The World Journey of a Sexologist; Sexual Knowledge; etc.*

FORMER: President, World League for Sexual Reform; Director, Institute of Sexual Science

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The courts of our country have gone on record as sanctioning rational sex education.

They did so in the Stopes case (United States District Court), as well as in the Dennett case (United States Circuit Court of Appeals).

In the latter case Federal Judge Augustus N. Hand stated:

" . . . The old theory that information about sex matters should be left to chance has greatly changed. . . . It may reasonably be thought that accurate information, rather than mystery and curiosity, is better in the long run and is less likely to occasion lascivious thoughts, than ignorance and anxiety."

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