

Letter from Five Students to Rudolf Steiner

Stuttgart, March 11. 1924

Dear Dr. Steiner!

We who live in Stuttgart and took part in the Christmas course for young doctors given in Dornach, feel ourselves compelled from the depths of our heart respond to the appeal to young people in Newsheet #7.

Every single word in the appeal to young people spoke to our hearts. Yes, science approaches us solidly but coolly and soberly. It leaves young people feeling bleak. It is impossible nowadays, to stand in life with one's humanity intact if one is a scientist. You have to split yourself into human being and scientist if you do not want your soul to be destroyed. The idea of becoming a scientist no longer has anything joyful about it. Young people come to the universities, young, fresh, their hearts warmly receptive for life, filled with the expectations, the longings the hopes of there receiving something great. In the first semester you enter the lecture hall with a certain modesty, gaze up to the professor with reverence, are astonished by all you find that is new and contemporary. In the 2nd semester you already feel dull and apathetic. After all, you hear the same thing everywhere. Nowhere is there a real relationship to life. In botany you start with the study of the cells; then you go to zoology where you start with the cells again, then you go to anatomy, there the human being is presented as consisting of cells. And so it continues. Everything gets tattered and torn apart. You meet only corpses everywhere: plant corpses, animal corpses, human corpses: nowhere do you meet real life. But a young person needs life, a living study of nature corresponding to reality. Only a few succeed in battling through the dead academic knowledge to a living comprehension of nature and the human being.

We young doctors who have had the good fortune of finding Anthroposophy and who have been granted for some years now permission to hear Dr. Steiner's lectures, we are in the position of recognizing the battle which today's youth must wage, and we know, too, that the young people who will follow us will have an even harder time. The abyss between the younger and the older generation is getting bigger and bigger. On the one hand, we must now learn to young people of today more, on the other hand, we want to learn to grow old in the right way, as was described in the words to the older members in Newsheet #8.

We therefore greet, with grateful hearts, the founding of a section for the Spiritual Striving of Youth and request permission to help realise it, in so far as the Executive Council of the Anthroposophical Society considers us qualified. We would like, in as much as we are striving in the sense of a course which we were permitted to hear at Christmas, to penetrate to a realistic

knowledge of the healthy and the sick human being, we would like to set ourselves the goal of educating ourselves in such a way, that we can convey to the young non-doctor the knowledge necessary for him to recognize his own humanity so that he need not thereby have the feeling that he is dealing with a scientist who is "not enough of an anthroposophist." On the other hand we ought to learn to convey to the non-anthroposophical doctor an Anthroposophy which also does justice to science.

In grateful recognition

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Lilly Kolisko

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