free of charge.[25] Danzig's Cancer Law was hailed as a model for all of Germany,[26] though the exigencies of war appear to have prevented it from becoming widely emulated.

The establishment of registries, mass screenings, and the like should be understood in the context of Nazi efforts to strengthen medical surveillance. (Recall that the now-famous cancer registry of Denmark was launched during the occupation of that country, in 1942, though it is not yet clear whether Nazi policies played a role in the establishment of that registry.)[27] Proposals in this area were often ambitious, as when Rudolf Ramm, as deputy chief of the Reich Anticancer Committee, called for an annual examination of all German women aged thirty-five to sixty, and all German men aged forty-five to sixty. The proposal was recognized as one of "gigantic proportions," involving more than eighteen million exams every year.[28] And though Ramm's and similar proposals were only partially implemented, the period does see a substantial increase in the number of people screened.

Germany's ambitious cancer registries were ultimately compromised by the antisemitic policies of the regime. In 1940, the director of the Nuremberg registry noted that the July 25, 1938, ban on Jewish physicians' practicing medicine (except on other Jews) had put a crimp in the collection of accurate cancer data. Roughly one in eight German physicians was of Jewish ancestry, and the massive transfer of patients required by the ban seems to have interfered with both patient follow-up and other aspects of statistical monitoring. The Nuremberg registry director noted that it would be difficult to continue certain parts of the registry past 1938.[29]

Record keeping also took on a sinister air, as population surveys were used to round up racial undesirables. The population census of 1939, for example, was used to identify Jews for deportation. Data-processing technologies were important in the Final Solution, a fact memorialized in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where Hollerith cards and a 1930s-era IBM card-punch sorting machine are displayed to illustrate some of the technologies used in the campaign of mass extermination.[30] The Nazi infatuation with registration and the murderous use of medical surveillance appears to be a major reason many German intellectuals today are suspicious of plans to assemble cancer registries.[31]

The Rhetoric of Cancer Research

The doublespeak of totalitarian regimes is legendary. Nazi Germany is full of words cloaked in careful disguises, political "euphemisms" designed not to soften a blow but to deceive. Joseph Goebbels was the master of this art, barring words like *sabotage* and *assassination* that, from their very utterance, might give people the wrong kind of ideas:

> In wartime one should not speak of assassination either in a negative or an affirmative sense. There are certain words from which we should shrink as the devil does from Holy Water; among these are, for instance, the words "sabotage" and "assassination." One must not permit such terms to become part and parcel of everyday slang.[32]

Some examples are amusing: Germans were not supposed to use the traditional expression "catastrophe aid" but rather the more upbeat "first aid"; also barred was any media use of the expression "Yellow Peril," in deference to the Japanese.[33] There are efforts to modernize medical discourse: the shift from "cripple" (*Krüppel*) to "handicapped" (*Behinderte*) occurs in this period, for example, as does the shift from *idiot* and *asylum* to *retarded* and *clinic*. Strange as it may seem, both of these latter terms were introduced in the early 1940s by physicians orchestrating the "euthanasia" operation. The term "handicapped" (*Behinderte*), for example, was first used in 1940 by physicians and bureaucrats organizing the murder of the physically and mentally handicapped. Genocide was not a matter of public discourse (the word had not yet even been coined), so "special treatment" (*Sonderbehandlung*) became one of many code words for murder, along with *Abtransport, Desinfektion, Einschläferung, Endlösung, Erlösung, Euthanasie, Evakuierung, Gnadentod, Judenaktion, Liquidation, Reinigung, Selektion, Vergasung, Vernichtung,*