

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
March 22, 1955.

Mr. Anthony T. Lausi,
Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I am reluctant to impose on your valuable time, but some things should be brought to someone's attention. First of all, I want to call your attention to some enclosed correspondence about a Mr. Zach Chichenoff. I was told by one of the girls that Dr. Johnson's letter of February 21st had been sent to you on account of the second paragraph and that I had not seen it or Thompson's letter of the 18th of February or Young Coe's letter of February 28th. These were smuggled to me and I had copies made of them. The facts in the case are that I had some correspondence with Dr. Johnson about this case in 1950 and again in 1952 which I thought was very satisfactory. Recently the patient wrote to me again and I asked Thompson to write to Dr. Johnson. In Thompson's letter he stated that the patient had written to him. Instead of writing Dr. Johnson a simple letter he apparently prepared an elaborate summary or a complete case report and sent it along with his letter. In going through Chichenoff's file I noted that some of my correspondence had either never been filed or had been removed. I do not believe that you were sent copies of the Thompson and Coe letters and so I am sending them to you. You will note that HWC dictated the Wayne W. Coe letter. Of course, I was not supposed to see these letters and they do not know that I did. This is only one example of God knows how many similar ones to date and they are going strong. The girls could't begin to try to tell me about all of them, much less try to smuggle them all to me, nor would I want to be bothered with trying to comment on all of them.

They now have several ways of handling correspondence about patients and other matters. Simple harmless stuff about patients and other things which they want me to see I get copies of to be subsequently filed in the patient's folder where I can see it again later. Anything they write about patients or other matters which I am not supposed to see I do not get copies of and there are no copies put into the patient's folders so that I cannot run across them later, but instead copies of such things are kept separately somewhere else and out of my reach and the only way I will ever know about them or have a chance to see them will be for someone to tell me about them and risk smuggling them to me for me to see. They have gone completely hog wild with that kind of letter writing in utter disregard of everything.

Enclosed is also a copy of Young Coe's recently developed public relations or propaganda letter. This is a form letter with numbered paragraphs. He takes Thompson's initial notes on the case and from them dictates something he thinks appropriate to the case on to a record and as he goes along tells the girl who is typing it where to insert which numbered paragraphs of which she has copies before her. "Doctor" Coe thus writes pseudomedical letters to relatives and friends of patients. He writes these to as many relatives and/or friends of patients as he can find names and addresses for who he thinks might be worthwhile writing to. Morningside is going to be vindicated, says he. As you well know, most of it is plain BULL and could only impress ignorant or gullible people and that apparently is what he is trying to capitalize on. The sample did not even fit the case well and as you will notice is

By this time /Betty you must know a hell of a nice little ending paragraph saying how nice we're going to be to her and how ~~xxxxxx~~ glad we would be By God to have him around and ~~xxxx~~ have him write and ask about her.

contradictory within itself. The fellow had DT's and got over it in a few days. Now I have to try to get rid of him. I am hoping that the VA will take him.

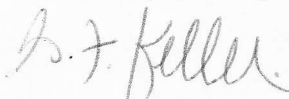
You will be amused by a little note I am enclosing. Thompson was saying this to Betty, but Betty had given the record to another girl to type and the other girl gave me the note. Perhaps you should not be amused, because this is a typical and classical example of their hypocrisy.

I also learned from one of the new girls the other day that Young Coe draws a salary of a thousand dollars a month for his wonderful work and that old Miss Hagna, Mrs. Mickelson's predecessor, is pensioned off on three thousand dollars a year. It must be nice to get that kind of money to throw around. She was also given a new Pontiac when they laid her off.

I will try not to bother you with much more of this, because it would be burdensome and endless. Since it apparently cannot be stopped, it looks as if we will just have to let it pass and hope that enough rope will take care of it in time.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

Your brother, -----, was admitted to this hospital on March 8, having been sent from Juneau, Alaska, where he had been in St. Anne's Hospital very confused and experiencing marked responses to unreal objects around him. It was felt by the physician who was handling him there that most likely his alcoholic intake was essentially responsible for his illness.

Physical examination and a long psychiatric evaluation of ----- indicates the accuracy of the local physician's estimate. He has stopped most of his hallucinations at this time, as would be expected from the excellent treatment he has received. He is confused for time and the present and immediate past. He does not recognize the reason for his recent hospitalization, and is essentially unable to give information about it. He does readily admit that he has been drinking too much and that alcohol has had a controlling influence over him for some period of time, which he estimates at various times from being two or three months up to as long as two or three years.

He tells us that he was a very well liked student in grade and high school, that he was president of his class, a three year letterman, and a generally popular boy, with grades in the upper third of his class. He also gives the information that he had more than the usual trouble with his father and certainly had more trouble than you did, as far as the father is concerned. He indicates this led to his running away from home at the age of fifteen. Since these early patterns may be very significant indeed as far as helping ----- through psychotherapeutic conferences, I would appreciate it very much if you would send us at your earliest convenience as much information as you can about ----- attitudes toward people and family, for as much of the time as you are able to furnish good information.

In turn, you perhaps would like to know a little more about this hospital, for often families of our patients know very little about Morningside. For fifty years, we have been devoted to two closely related goals: the intensive treatment of emotional illness using the most advanced methods known to medical science and which promise the best chance of early recovery; and also maintaining our hospital as a community where all, particularly those who will remain for a long time, can find security, friendship, active living conditions, and helpful, sympathetic, understanding care. Naturally we are proud of our record in sending so many people back to their homes restored to their former health and happiness, often better able to live with themselves and others than ever before, and we are equally pleased when visitors tell us how pleasant and attractive a place to live our hospital is.

Sometimes psychiatric hospitals discourage the visiting of patients during the early periods of their hospitalization. However, the ability to adjust to interpersonal relationships is one of the prime goals of psychiatric medicine, and except in rare instances, all our patients send and receive mail just as they wish, and visitors are most welcome at any time. I would be most happy to meet and talk with you about your brother if you wish to visit him.

After inquiring about letters, perhaps the most often asked question is about the sending of gifts to patients. Of course, this is permitted because having birthdays, Christmas and other days of special importance to -----, remembered with card, letter or gift is always greatly appreciated. For example, your brother's favorite magazine or newspaper might be a particularly thoughtful gift. Where it may help awaken or maintain a patient's interests, it is often valuable to the patient's program. Almost anything which will give your brother pleasure, either in owning and taking care of, or in sharing with others would be suitable. Had he had any money with him, it would have been deposited in the bank and would be available to him to use generally very much as he wishes. Funds which he might receive later will be handled in the same way. Patients may use the canteen where they may buy special items which we all enjoy from time to time: candy, our favorite brand of cigarette, sodas, ice cream, etc.; and for things that ----- might

wish to purchase which are not available there, a shopping service with local stores is available.

You will be, I am sure, pleased to learn that ----- is already under observation and treatment for his condition. The occupational therapy shop is a department in which we pioneered and which is considered outstanding. It is really a part of the treatment program which uses simple crafts as therapeutic agents. Weaving, woodworking, leather, ceramics, metal work, drawing, painting, etc., are all represented. For observation and evaluation, ----- will be assigned to this department initially. Our rehabilitation program has the advantage of having available to it a wide range of industrial assignments of such an infinitely varied nature that prescriptions can be tailored to the momentary needs of each individual. As his condition improves, he may well choose one of these activities as part of his treatment program. Along with active psychiatric treatment, he will be encouraged to take part in an excellent recreation program of dances, movies, library, outdoor athletics, television, radio, outings, regular birthday parties, special celebrations, and many others. Increasingly he will be encouraged to take part in individual and group activities closely related to life outside the hospital. Our effort is to create within the hospital community a life and atmosphere such as you and I enjoy in our own communities.

In addition to psychotherapy, he will receive all the other forms of treatment which modern medicine has found to be helpful. You are aware that his condition is one which necessarily requires a longer period of treatment and observation than is general for diseases of the body alone. With mental illness, it is impossible to give any certain assurance that he can be fully restored to health. Our early observations give us a hope that ----- may respond favorably to treatment.

In closing let me assure you that he has available to him the best care that modern medicine provides, including the services of eminent specialists available only in a medical center such as Portland, and that he will receive the most intensive treatment available. Please take the time to send as much additional information as you can; and feel perfectly free to write to us any time about him, for we will always be happy to reply to any questions which you may have.

Sincerely

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON, M. D.
Medical Director

WWT-c-ms
enc.

February 18, 1955

Re: Zach Chickenoff

A. Holmes Johnson, M.D.
Kodiak, Alaska

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I am sure you are aware of the circumstances surrounding the above named patient. You saw him prior to his commitment to this hospital when he was manifesting first convulsive episodes and then convulsive episodes associated with extreme excitement, agitation and destructiveness. These were apparently associated with alcoholism according to the patient's own history and were difficult to control even though infrequent.

He has written to me saying he has been to you as his physician and you would like to know about his medication and hospital care. At the time he left the hospital he was taking 3 Dilantin grain and a half daily and 2 Mesentoin grain and a half daily.

I am sorry to note from Mr. Chichenoff's chart that your letter of February 7, 1950 regarding his state and medical control was, apparently, never answered. I do not believe this lapse of reply is truly responsible for the fact that Mr. Chickenoff did not promptly seek your medical counsel as he sincerely promised to do when he left the hospital. He has shown rather a marked tendency towards dependency on the hospital and writes back to it in the "old school" tradition. As you will note in the summary he was even supplied with prescriptions for his anti-convulsive drugs for a period of time since it was felt he should definitely continue his medication and discontinuation would probably bring about his re-commitment.

I hope the information sent you at this time will be valuable in handling Mr. Chichenoff's case.

The point most dramatically emphasized during his hospitalization here, was that, although his episodes are very infrequent, they are very intense. For that reason, anti-convulsion medication was continued throughout his hospitalization and supplied to him for a period of time following hospitalization.

If there is more information concerning this man that you need, I will be glad to attempt to find it; if you have any questions concerning patients hospitalized here or some who have returned to your community, we will be very pleased to supply you with all available pertinent information.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON, M.D.
Medical Director

WWT ms

A. HOLMES JOHNSON, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Griffin Memorial Hospital
P.O. Box A-1025
Residence: "SPRUCEHAVEN"
Kodiak, Alaska

February 21, 1955

Doctor William W. Thompson
Director,
Morningside Hospital
Portland 16, Oregon

Dear Doctor Thompson:

Thank you very much for your letter and report on Mr. Zach Chichenoff.
This will enable us to be more conversant with his condition and be
able to treat him properly according to your suggestions.

We are at a bit of a loss in these patients returning from Morningside
if we do not have such a report, and I am very appreciative of this first
report which we have received from there.

Thank you again.

Yours very truly,

/s/

A. Holmes Johnson, M.D.

AHJ:mb

February 28, 1955

A. Holmes Johnson, M. D. F. A. C. S.
Griffin Memorial Hospital
P. O. Box A-1025
Kodiak, Alaska

Dear Doctor Johnson:

Recently Doctor William Thompson, Medical Director of Morningside Hospital, wrote to you enclosing a report on Mr. Zach Chichenoff, a former patient at this hospital. Your reply of February 21 has come to my attention in which you comment:

"We are at a bit of a loss in these patients returning from Morningside if we do not have such a report, and I am very appreciative of this first report which we have received from there."

Because it is so appropriate, it deserves a reply from me.

For sometime we have been aware of and disturbed by the obviously inadequate communication between this hospital and persons in Alaska who may be concerned with our patients. Unfortunately this was a matter which was out of our hands and completely beyond our control. Correspondence, especially that dealing with patients, was the responsibility and function, exclusively, of the representative here of the Department of the Interior. It is only within the last few months that we have been authorized to conduct any correspondence on our own initiative concerning those of our patients who are the responsibility of the Interior Department.

Now that this is within our authority to act, we will endeavor to insure that properly interested persons such as yourself are kept adequately informed. In this we will appreciate any suggestions which you might have.

In cases of other patients who may have returned from Morningside without suitable summaries accompanying them, we will be happy to supply information upon request from you or other members of the medical profession in the territory.

Sincerely,

WAYNE W. COE

HWC ms