

4004 S. ... Street,
Portland 15, Oregon.
March 20th, 1949.

Hon. James P. Davis, Director,
Division of Territories and Island Possessions,
United States Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir;

Thank you for your letter of March 15th, 1949.

By this time my other letters and reports should be in your possession. Apparently some of our correspondence crossed in the mail.

The medical service available to patients since I have been at morning-side Hospital has been such as has been provided by myself, Dr. Serrurier and whatever medical student happened to be around at the time. Recently it has been provided by myself, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Wilson during his brief visits, and the medical student. The dermatologist-syphilologist visit occurred one afternoon recently. He went over some of the records with Dr. Thompson and made some recommendations for re-examination and treatment in accordance with what he found in the records. He did not contribute much as far as I can see. During my time here a surgical emergency case or some other surgical case which could not be satisfactorily examined or treated here has been referred for examination and/or treatment to Dr. Louis Gambee at Providence Hospital from time to time. Likewise, a few eye or ear or skin conditions or cases have been referred to some specialist for consultant examination and treatment. Usually this was confined to some useful patient or "worker", and not unless absolutely necessary, or I strongly recommended it. Dr. Serrurier had friends or favorites to whom he referred such work. He mentioned to me that his orders from Mr. Coe were to keep such referrals to a minimum at all times, and that at least on one occasion when as a result of such conditions occurring a little more frequently than usual, he was cautioned by Mr. Coe to cut down on such business. The getting of such things as glasses or dentures, for instance, has always been a rare thing, and then was again reserved for more useful patients. Recently we have begun referring more patients for special examinations and obtaining more prosthetic appliances. This since Mr. Coe has been to Washington and Dr. Thompson has come on the job. Dr. Thompson, of course, would like to make all such referrals to people of his or Mr. Coe's choice. There are two dentists who come to the hospital two evenings per month and alternately work on patients, assisting each other. As you know, Dr. Serrurier was off duty much of the time, and did very little when he did come around. Dr. Haskins had the psychiatric examinations up to date at the time of his departure. However, there were none done from that time until my arrival and I did all up to the time when Dr. Thompson came. When I came I found nineteen patients, some of whom had been in the hospital as long as a year and a half who had not had a physical examination and in most instances no laboratory work or anything else. Dr. Serrurier had quit doing any formal physical examinations or much of anything else several years before that and did not resume doing any or much of anything. When I came there were two medical students here who hadn't done anything

all year up to that time, and did nothing until their time was up three months later. One of them is now a resident at St. Elizabeth's and his record there is not much different. Subsequent medical students made most of this work up and kept it more or less current. X-rays have always been done at the Portland Sanitarium and blood and spinal fluid specimens have always been sent to a commercial clinical laboratory. I believe most of this has been covered already. I might mention that Dr. Wilson's coming is supposed to be only a temporary expedient. The cleanup job on physicals, urinalyses and blood counts previously referred to was to have been begun yesterday noon.

Until recently there has not been a trained, graduate, registered nurse on duty here for some years. One might say that below the physician level there has been no specialized personnel here except the occupational therapist who left last fall and she did not meet standard requirements. The one who is supposed to be coming on the first of April is supposed to be fully qualified. The attendants are of about the grade and quality of those working in mental hospitals in this section of the country. Some have had more training and experience than others. Most of them have worked in other mental hospitals. They are generally a somewhat transient group of people. Some, of course, have had little or no training or experience.

The specialized equipment now consists of an electro-shock machine and a microscope.

Single or private rooms are scarce. Some wards have from one to three and several wards do not have any. Toilet facilities are going to be improved. You have seen the patients' dining room and know what it needs (a new one). The only recreation room is in the basement under the female infirmary and could stand improvement. Dr. Thompson has his own office now. Mine remains as it was and is just as public as ever.

Administrative personnel, Mr. Lazelle, for instance. I do not know his educational background. I understand he worked in a machine shop before he came here as a patient. His training and experience for his present job as supervisor apparently was all acquired here. Mrs. Hockenberry, the matron, was promoted from cook. I do not know her educational background either. She had formerly worked as cook in an Iowa epileptic and feebleminded institution. She frankly admits that she knows nothing about ward or attendant work or nursing and is not interested. She would rather be back in the kitchen cooking. I do not know anything about Miss Hagna's educational background. It would be considered presumptuous if I inquired into some of these things. I have been told that she went to work for Mr. Coe when she was sixteen years old and that her loyalty is based on the fact that he gave her a job when nobody else would hire her.

The latest idea is a training course or school for attendants (nurses) with Mrs. Lazelle the instructress. She is supposed to be a nurse and at one time was an employee here.

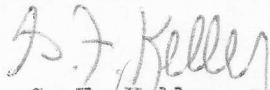
At the present time we have thirty-four ward attendants, seventeen each male and female. Mr. Lazelle tells me that vacations will start on the 24th of this month and that until those are over we will be either a few short or a few over from time to time. As I previously mentioned, we usually have been a few short. I believe that the same might be applied to kitchen and dining room help. The patient who does all the meat cutting and all the cooking for the patients is one of the most psychotic patients in the hospital. He responds to auditory hallucinations continuously with scolding and

gesticulating while he handles knives and cleavers. I think that he is potentially dangerous and some people are afraid of him. Most of the work in the kitchen and dining room is left up to the patients.

I hope that I have covered everything satisfactorily. This is about all I can think of for the time being, some of which has already been referred to. Mr. Coe, no doubt, will have a different version of everything, and I no doubt will personally come in for the works. All I can say is that I am trying to fulfill my position and duty against extreme odds. As I have previously stated, I will be able to do this only with your confidence and support.

Thanking you for your interest and cooperation, and with kind personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. F. Keller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

G. F. Keller, M. D.

Medical Supervisor.