

4004 S. E. Pine Street,
Portland 15, Oregon,
December 9, 1951.

Hon. James P. Davis, Director,
Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

FILED

Dear Mr. Davis:

I read a copy of Mr. Coe's letter of November 30, 1951, to you with a considerable amount of mixed amusement and disgust. I have found it more easy to assume that he is not fooling anybody than to try to debunk most of his line most of the time because of the time and effort required. However, I feel that now and then some things demand comment. I will go through his letter and make random remarks as I see something which calls for comment. Any local specialist to whom one case may have been referred during the past few years for consultation has automatically become a member of the regular consulting staff all of a sudden. Apparently, the items on "our agenda" have been completed. As far as I am able to see facilities for children are not even "barely started". I do not know to whom he might be referring as "the uninformed". Perhaps it is me. According to the State Health Department Morningside is approved for 365 beds. This is based on floor space requirements. I'll say Morningside was built like Topsy, but cheap and funny. The patients dug the tunnels and sewer trenches with pick and shovel. Most employees prefer to live off the grounds and some who want to move off now are not permitted to do so. Maintenance is figured as part of their pay and cuts down the cash outlay. It is cheaper to maintain them on the grounds than to pay them the difference in cash. I'll say the kitchen rebuilding job was a mess. I have always heard and read that eating quarters should be bright, clean, pleasant, inviting, appetizing, etc. I have questioned the quality, quantity, handling, storage, preparation, serving, etc., of the "chow". "Dull and drab" is an understatement as applied to the "dining room" and "when and if" as applied to it is right too. When Dr. Albrecht recently suggested that a few brushes of paint would help the "dining room", Dr. Thompson countered that "they just did not have the money". Dr. Albrecht later referred to Dr. Thompson's statement as naive and commented something about the cost of chasing elephants. I'll say this place is run thriftily. Its just a penny grubbing rat race as far as the patients are concerned. Certain other people and things are taken care of and handled more liberally. The dry wells were all dug by patients with pick and shovel. They were large deep holes about the size of such as used to be dug for the foundation of silos. Fortunately there were no serious accidents or fatalities from major caveins. The patients also dug the mile long sewer trench to the city sewer. I have heard that it took the city several years to find out that they were not being paid for this service. Morningside is outside of the city limits. I do not know what arrangements had been made with the city for tapping and dumping into its sewer, if any. At least, Mr. Coe finally had to have some conferences with the city council and is now being assessed a small monthly fee. I am not sure that the milk is always being pasteurized even now. The manure still stinks and especially when it is being spread. One of the first things which I saw amiss when I came to Morningside was that there were no bathing facilities on the male tuberculosis ward and that the male tuberculosis patients were being taken to the bathroom on the parole ward where the male infirmary and parole ward patients including the little boys were also bathed. My calling attention to it was ignored until after I had been to Washington and during which time

Co. N.S. - Morningside Hosp.

Dr. Thompson came on the job. So then they did something about it and now it is claimed that Dr. Thompson was responsible for it, or was the first one to know that the practice was medically unsound. I wonder if Dr. Haskins ever called attention to that. It sounds as if nobody, unless perhaps Dr. Haskins, ever knew anything before Dr. Thompson came there, or whose word meant anything, or whom they were willing to act for. A nice buildup for a young stooge. Nothing was said about the thousands of dollars which went into the architectural monstrosity which is Dr. Thompson's cottage for disappearing canopied beds, fancy shelves and cabinets, inside and outside fireplaces, extra lavatories, inside decorating the regular painter was not good enough to do, etc. The current joke among the employees is the different color paint on each side or panel of the outside of his house. The main current gripe among the employees is about the three hundred dollars which were spent for rough redwood lumber out of which flower boxes were built for his back yard. The carpenter started that one. Dr. Thompson is the boy who said that "they" did not have money to paint the patient's "dining room". I am not sure that the Health Department did not appear in connection with the drywells. Most of the construction work has been and is being done by patients. I also question the usual peaceful slumber. Again, the patients are digging the tunnel. In my opinion, the matron, Mrs. Hockenberry, and the supervisor, Harvey Lazelle, hardly meet the designation of psychiatrically trained supervisory nursing personnel. Mrs. Hockenberry formerly cooked at a feeble minded school in Iowa. She started here as a cook and was promoted from the kitchen to the job of matron. True, she makes morning rounds with Dr. Thompson, but reluctantly so, and claims that she does not know anything about ward work, is not interested in it, and cares less. She is more interested in the farming operations and ordering groceries. Her husband is the head farmer. I like them both personally. Recently she fractured her left ankle and a young Mrs. Hammond whose main job previously was to herd the housekeeping detail around is temporarily taking her place. I might explain that the housekeeping detail consists of four female patients whose job it is to make beds and do general cleaning around the attendants quarters and rooms (regular hotel maid service). She has done a little attendant work at one or several state hospitals some where. I like her personally also. Harvey Lazelle makes rounds with Dr. Thompson too. He came to Morningside via the patient route. I understand that before that he worked in a railroad shop. He got his psychiatric supervisory nursing training while a patient on the wards here. The diagnosis made on him at that time was dementia precox, paranoid type. There is supposed to be a long story behind that one. I understand that even so he is better than some of his predecessors have been. That also goes for Mrs. Hockenberry and Mrs. Hammond. Some of the employees have had old fashioned state hospital experience. That is considered good training and experience here. Many are hired without any training or experience. Usually most of the help is not happy or satisfied. They complain about the pay and hours. They come and go frequently and the turnover is big. They are paid less and have to work longer hours here than at most state hospitals. It is true that applications come from people at state hospitals in other states. The idea here is usually to get a job on the coast. They frequently move on soon. Preference seems to be given to such applications by Harvey Lazelle. Not many local people apply and they would rather not have local people. Transients can be hired at more favorable terms and have to stay until they can afford to move on. More than likely they will not stay around locally to haunt anybody or talk out of school. They are also trying to avoid a local union making any inroads. The fact of the matter is, there has never been a qualified psychiatrically trained and experienced graduate registered nurse employed here. Some have been trained and graduate and even registered nurses, but very few have had any or very little additional recognized psychiatric training and experience. In fact, the registered nurse who is

here now had no psychiatric training or experience before she came here. She is good as far as that goes, but she is not satisfied or happy and will probably leave soon. She would have quit several times already if I had not talked her out of it. She has gotten very little co-operation from above or below. If the Health Department did not demand it and if a nurse would not be required for insulin work they would not have even one. Mr. Coe's estimate of nurses is not very high, but one must consider the source and its motives and purposes. I consider his references insulting to the nursing profession. His idea of a nurse is anybody he hires off the street to ride herd on patients after he has outfitted them with a white uniform and cap which they should not even be allowed to wear and would not be anywhere else. There have been no patients placed locally. Miss Martin would laugh out loud if she knew about this reference to her. The fact of the matter is, that they cut her little part time in half recently on the excuse that her coming interfered with the dentist who comes for a couple hours two evenings per month. I am sure that Dr. Thompson would be only too willing to take over my work too. From where they are looking they do not want or need me here. He has always been more interested in what I do than in doing what he is supposed to do. He has tried to take over completely from the start. He really thinks that his job is to supervise me. Of course, this is all schemed and coached by Mr. Coe and can-nived in by Dr. Thompson. The search for a laboratory technician is a new one on me. I could go and on, but what is the use? In conclusion, I might state that Mr. Coe's letter is just his usual line of bunk and is designed mainly as an effort to cut my throat. I will frankly state that if I had not come here and would not have said and done what I did things would not be as good as they are now. It would probably be the same sorry mess I found when I came here and perhaps worse. Of course, I also want to give due credit to all the fine people and friends who agreed with me and supported me after I stuck my neck out and started something. This crowd will probably keep at me hammer and tong to the finish. I would not put anything past some of them. I am able to hold my own and get along with them quite amicably regardless. I feel that they will be beaten when they no longer have to be dealt with, particularly Mr. Coe, and that his enterprise will be cleaned up completely only when it will be terminated.

Wishing you and all my other friends in your office the joys of the season, I remain

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Keller

G. F. Keller, M. D.