

MEMORANDUM ON VISIT TO NEW JERSEY STATE HOSPITAL

Marlboro, New Jersey, April 22-23, 1943

My visit to Marlboro at this time was a direct result of a letter from Dr. Gordon to Dr. Fast in which he raised two major problems:

The first was about the time necessary to keep his records. Dr. Gordon seemed to think that Habegger was taking too much time for this work. I talked the matter over with both Dr. Gordon and Habegger and we agreed that we would continue the general plan of one-half time for this work. In case more time is needed for these clerical duties it is to be taken at the end of the month, and then by special permission by the work supervisor. This seemed to be satisfactory to all concerned.

The other matter that Dr. Gordon raised is that of emergency air raid drills and practices. Dr. Gordon charged that a number of men absented themselves unnecessarily from these drills. I found that the notices posted in the hospital on this point were rather vague. The boys understood that any drills during the time when they had their day off were not necessary for them to participate in. These notices have been changed and it is clearly understood that any man on the grounds is to take part in these drills whether he is on duty or not. The men understood this very clearly and have agreed to take part in all of these drills.

I believe that these matters will work out all right to the satisfaction of Dr. Gordon. In talking over the whole program of our unit at Marlboro with Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Wolf, Supervising nurse, I found that they are still very well pleased with the boys. They did seem to think that the boys are perhaps unduly afraid of patients. Dr. Gordon gave a few instances where he felt that the boys did not take the initiative in handling patients. He thought that a few of the nurses were more or less afraid on these wards, that is, they were not certain in case of a patient becoming violent and attacking them that our men would stand by and protect them. I talked the general problem over with the men and found that they are not afraid of the patients and are apparently willing and ready to protect anyone in case of danger. According to the boys there are a few of the supervising nurses who make rather unreasonable demands at times, which would make it almost impossible for them to carry out the orders as given immediately. I believe the hesitancy on the part of the boys has been interpreted by the officials as timidity which may not be true.

Before I left I very pointedly asked both Mrs. Wolf and Dr. Gordon whether they ever have been sorry that they had our unit of men there. They are very happy to have the unit there and that the few problems that they have raised are very, very small in comparison with what they have had with their regular employees.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Byler/w