

COMMENTS

ET CETERA

This is the third and final issue of **RELEASE**. With the appearance on February 28 of Allen Neubauer, to recruit men for the unit at Lyons, N.J., CPS 131 began definitely to fade out of the detached service picture. For months a number of men had been discouraged with the future of the unit, and this feeling has recently spread to a majority of the members, and has been impressed upon both the Methodist Peace Commission and the National Service Board. Several men had sought transfers months before; the last few weeks have brought a mass request for transfers, indicating almost to a man the desire to be quit of CSH.

Such a desire is due to several factors. From the inception of the unit there have been strained relations with a few of the regular employees. Antagonism has flared up again with the addition of new employees, and several unfortunate incidents have occurred. Those who were previously antagonistic were also implicated. However, these incidents are only a small part of the dissatisfaction of the men. In all honesty they must be considered only as precipitating causes.

Underlying the unrest and urge to transfer is a general low tone of feeling which has existed for some months. Many of us came to #131 with hopes (perhaps naive) of greatly improving the conditions which we met. After two years, we can see little improvement except in isolated areas. Some of us soon became disillusioned with the inefficiency and rigidity found in the state institution; more of us lost our faith in the administration. In conflict situations involving the welfare of the patients, there were official rebuffs which were difficult to understand. As the labor supply improved and new employees were hired, some unit members felt they were "scab labor" and a stop-gap which was impeding improvement in working conditions. Frequently, antagonisms felt toward CPSmen have been expressed in mistreatment of patients.

The future? Some are awaiting transfer or demobilization. Four men hope soon to be on their way to Europe, tending cattle for UNRRA! dg

MENTAL HYGIENE PROGRESS IN IOWA

As this issue rolls off the press, final plans are being completed for a meeting in the statehouse at 2 p.m. on March 14. The speaker is Dr. Samuel W. Hamilton, the acting head of the mental hygiene division of the United States Public Health Service. Dr. Hamilton assisted the state mental hospital survey committee, but refused to sign its report about two months ago. An individual report submitted to Gov. Robert D. Blue by Dr. Hamilton labeled as a "dream" the proposal of the four Iowa legislators on the survey committee to shift 1600 patients from state hospitals to county homes.

This meeting is being sponsored by the Co-ordinating Committee for Improving Iowa Institutions. The committee came into being as a result of interest and effort on the part of members of the three Iowa units and Claude C. Shotts of NSBRO. CPS 131 has been cooperating with the committee in its efforts to improve conditions in the Iowa hospitals. ws