

CPS CONTRIBUTIONS TO INSTITUTIONS:

(The first in a series of evaluations of the work  
being done by CPS units - we invite others to participate)

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"The coming of the Unit has made outside work details possible. This is especially so during the farming season. Though movie pictures are shown twice a week during the winter months not all the wards were able to send their men before we came. This is now possible; all patients who wish to attend and are approved by the doctors may do so. During the summer months quite an active soft-ball season is maintained. Several CPS men play with the team. Double-header games are scheduled and played somewhat more often than once a week. July 4th we played two games among ourselves with large ward attendance. A majority of the ball players are patients.

"We do not delude ourselves that too much more than custodial care is given yet. But we can point to a few helpful changes since coming. There is one improvement which isn't easily catalogued nor openly enumerated. It is a psychological change--a difference in atmosphere. The administration, naturally, never has condoned or approved the rough handling of disturbed patients. Flagrant instances of mistreatment would result in the dismissal of the guilty one. But considerable abuse got by under the specious excuse that it was unavoidable with but one attendant on the ward. It was necessary to the personal safety of the attendant. Our mere presence here has greatly helped. As we entered this work, it was known by everyone that we stood for something: a humane care for the patients. There was a fear that we would, in fact, cause "trouble." Without a compromise to conscience and also without making more than one or two "scenes" on the wards, we have been able quietly to effect much change. On wards where CPS men work alone an immediate and about-face change is possible. Where we were working with regular attendants the changes were slower. We have often reported to the men's supervisor conditions we considered unhealthy. Any immediate action by him in such cases has not always taken place since there has been public relations tension here of considerable proportions. We do not work steadily on all the wards. And we are aware that there remains on them instances of unnecessary roughness. The fact that all of the wards where there are disturbed or semi-disturbed patients now have more than one attendant has ruled out the excuse that roughness was necessary for self-protection.

"For several months at least one of our men has been on the untidy ward and frequently we have charge of it. We can say that it has resulted in not only better housekeeping on the ward but in a more attentive watchfulness to the cleanliness of the patients.

"From the beginning we have been the only attendants on the day shift on the hospital and receiving ward. One of our men now works there during the night shift. The graduate nurses have been enthusiastic in the reception given CPS men. For it has made their work easier. They can count on our close cooperation in the carrying out  
(over)

of the doctor's orders. The director of nurses has told me on more than one occasion that she is very glad we are here: our coming means the patients will receive proper attention. She has told me that whereas "injuries" to patients used to be an all too common occurrence they now are very rare. I have worked three months on that ward and know that to be true.

"For considerably more than a year and until two months ago the Hydrotherapy Department was closed. A CPS man trained and experienced in the giving of hydrotherapy has been transferred here and that work has now been resumed. We know it is not on any where near the scale it should be but some cases are now being helped by it."

7.5.45

--- CPS #(DMC)

FROM A TRAINING SCHOOL.....  
(Trouble in the dining room)

"When I'm assigned to supervision of the boys' dining room I find that altho there are about 100 boys in the room, I can best keep order by watching about three very disturbed kids... Today, J (who the day before was taking spoonful after deliberate spoonful of his stew and throwing it on the floor and wall) was sitting quietly eating when suddenly a loud-voiced, bantam-sized woman came from behind the counter and started slapping him viciously. I went over at once to object. She said that another boy had told her that J called her an "old hag"..... Later on another employee came out from behind the counter; two cottages had come in at once (due to an error) and in the jam up one kid who frequently gets screaming fits, yelled; I went over to quiet him when this employee yanked A out of line and appeared about to manhandle him. I objected and in a couple of minutes apparently he brought in the asst. supt. who, without a word to me, started bossing the dining room. I said nothing to him, he said nothing to me.... On previous occasions this same employee has thrown cups across the width of the dining room to a slop table just inside the door; or thrown bread to various boys, something in the manner of feeding pigs. Since my chief job in the dining room is to keep the boys from throwing bread at each other, this makes things a bit difficult."

--- CPS #(DKC)  
2.21.45:pl

A CLASS IN "HANDLING".....(from a mental hospital)

"We have finally started our study sessions on the ward attendants' job. Ten of us met last Tuesday to talk about the ideas in the enclosed paper. We expect to have our next session in two weeks on the question of violence in relation to handling patients. This first session was excellent in the degree of active participation and in the amount of practical application of theory which was developed."

-- J.H.

--- CPS # 68  
7.5.45