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May 12, 1944

A. SOUCEK, M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
UNIT DIRECTOR
EARL LEINBACH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mr. Esko Loewen
Mennonite Central Committee
Akron, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Loewen:

Our Pulse Letter representative has asked me to write an answer to the criticism of "choking" as mentioned in the last Pulse Letter.

I do Not approve of Choking. The hospital does not approve it and is very much against it. I feel that all that can be said for choking is that it is probably the most humane way to defend one's self when he is alone with a patient who threatens his life -- as is the case in our hospital sometimes because of our shortage of help.

The problem of how to manage violent patients has been quite a problem. I believe in the non-resistant way of life, but I wonder sometimes whether there is a difference in its application as applied to people whose actions and reactions are not normal. When our life is threatened by an individual who is not responsible for his own actions, I feel that it is our duty to prevent that patient from accomplishing his purpose.

If you feel that this article helps the situation you may use it, if not just discard it.

I would sincerely encourage some systematic study and research on this problem.

Very truly yours,

Earl Leinbach
Earl Leinbach

Enclosure:

*Reply
6-16-44
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