

APR 17 1945

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CPS 144
HRSH
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
April 16, 1945

Robert Kreider
MCC
Akron, Pa.

Dear Bob:

Well, things are gradually taking shape at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. I have my office now and am gradually getting organized. Last ~~Thursday~~ Thursday Dave Shank and Willard Linscheid arrived, followed by Dick Culp and wife on Friday. This afternoon I am expecting Frank Shirk and Paul Ruth.

Dave and Willard are working at Edgewood Home, which houses about the worst patients of the institution. They are working with the deteriorated patients on ward 41--at least they did the first day. However, since then the supervisor has shifted them around to a different ward every day. I mentioned it to Mr. Faust, head of the nurses, and he immediately saw to it that they were put back on 41 where they can work together and do a job and learn to know their patients individually. That is the first step. The next step is to try to diplomatically start treating the patients like humans without arousing the ire of the regular attendants too much. Their philosophy is that a good patient is one who sits silently all day with hands folded. ~~They~~ Some attendant told one of the fellows they shouldn't talk to the patients, if they wanted to keep peace with the other attendants. However, I think after the fellows are on this one ward consistently for several days they can break this moronic idea down on their own hook. However, if they do encounter trouble in this I can very easily appeal to Mr. Faust who will back us up in anything which is for the good of the patient, so I'm not worried in the least. I do feel that for the good of our relationship with the regular employees, that as many of these problems as possible should be worked out with them on the wards, rather than always running to the powers that be. It is very comforting, though, to know that the administration is really back of you.

Last Tuesday I went to Howard with Dr. Ross and had an opportunity to talk "shop" with Leatherman and also visit several of the fellows who will come to Poughkeepsie.

Meanwhile I am learning to know the community, having visited three churches, Oakwood school, Dutchess County ministerial meeting, and tramping the streets of Poughkeepsie quite thoroughly.

I am at least temporarily setting the library on the third floor of Inwood--one of the rooms they showed you as being the proposed suite for Miss Ramseyer. I think it is better than the pool-hall combination.

Next week after the greatest block of fellows are here I hope to make a trip to N.Y.C. to N.Y. Biblical about Bible course--also, books-F.O.R. trips, etc.

Sincerely,



Heard McCracken & Memorial Serv. 125th N.Y. & waiting for an opportunity on the 5th institution.