

# MENNONITE CPS Bulletin

August 22, 1945



Vol. IV., No. 4

## CPS NEWS

The possibility of the enactment of **peacetime conscription** brought together representatives from a large number of church groups in Philadelphia, August 7, to consider future alternative service to military training. The meeting was called at the suggestion of the Brethren Service Committee for the purpose of determining the common lines the various church groups might follow in the event of postwar conscription. P. C. Hiebert, Harold S. Bender, and Albert Gaeddert were present to represent Mennonite concerns.

The second conference of Methodist CPS men in the eastern seaboard is scheduled for October 13 and 14. The place of meeting is the Washington Square Methodist Church, 133 West Fourth Street, in New York City's Greenwich Village. The conference is not limited to Methodist men and others will be welcome if they wish to attend.

The annual conference for directors of Mennonite camps will be held at Colorado Springs on September 9 to 16. About one-half of this period will be given over to a study of counseling under the leadership of D. D. Eitzen, instructor in pastoral counseling at the University of Southern California.

Selective Service has informed Representative Winstead that unless Congress takes up the **Winstead Bill** within a reasonable time after convening on October 2, they will proceed to demobilize CPS men as previously planned. There is great likelihood, however, that the bill will be considered immediately and that it will become law.

Irvin Richert, the personnel secretary at Akron, has completed a **master list for the demobilization of MCC-CPS men**. The list reveals that 517 men in Mennonite camps have 46 points and above. Greatest number of points go to a camper at Boonsboro who has 82. The number of men in the upper brackets are few, but the 62 bracket is exceptional with 19 men. Large listings start with 51 and are as follows: 51, 44 men; 50, 67 men; 49, 22 men; 48, 44 men; 47, 145 men; and 46, 35 men. It is quite evident that should the point system be followed by SSS the number of men released the first year would probably stay in the 47 bracket. The master list also shows that 2,900 men have 12 points (the minimum) or above. This reveals  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Making Hospital Work Interesting

By Frank L. Wright, Jr.

The old idea that "life can be beautiful" may be false, but there is no doubt that life can be interesting if you are willing to make it so. Life in a CPS unit in mental hospital service can be continually interesting if you will do the following:

1. Above all else, strive for the development of a personal attitude which is objective enough to keep you from disgust and condemnation yet which is sympathetic enough to keep the patients as your central concern (not yourself or the conditions of the hospital). Complement this attitude with a balanced life which gives opportunity for some regular physical, mental, spiritual, and social activity and recreations. All four types are essential, so do not overlook any one.

2. Read informational literature and discuss the subject to know the background and objectives of mental hospitals and psychiatry so that you may understand what is going on about you and can look for the regenerative activities and methods being used upon the patients.

3. Be interested in the patients as individuals, spending more time in speculating and why they act as they do and what may have caused them to be as they are than in simply observing what they do.

4. Apply the observations you make about the patients' lives to real life situations in your own and your friends' lives. You can learn a great deal about how to live the well-adjusted life from observation of the poorly-adjusted and how it is sometimes readjusted.

5. Make your work an opportunity to experiment with those methods of working with people in which you believe. Constantly challenge yourself with such questions as: Did "Christian love" really work in that case? Could I have done anything other than force

(Continued on Page 2.)

## OPENINGS IN SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Mental Hospitals** — Kalamazoo, 1, Marlboro, 2; Howard, 1; Greystone, 1; Harrisburg, 1; Staunton, 1; Norristown, 3; Catonsville, 1; Lima, 1 (cook).

**Training Schools** — Union Grove, 1; Woodbine, 1.  
**Dairy Farm Service** — York County, Pennsylvania, 1.

## Staff Appointments

The following appointments were made by the MCC Executive Committee on August 7, 1945:

Lena Pguis	Dietitian at Denison
John A. Hostetler	Educational director at Hagerstown
Leland B. Sateren	Assistant and educational director at Medaryville
Delbert J. Schrag	Administrative assistant, Camino
Gerhard R. Buhr	Assistant and educational director at Fort Collins
Mrs. Gerhard R. Buhr	Dietitian at Fort Collins
Robert S. Eby	Acting business manager, Powellsville
Susie Schmidt	Nurse, Downey
David L. Ebersole	Director, Curlew Valley Side Camp
Mrs. David L. Ebersole	Matron, Curlew Valley Side Camp
Clair H. Hoffman	Educational director, Howard
John I. Jennings	Assistant area supervisor, Pennsylvania-Maryland
Peter J. Berkoff	Director, Kings Canyon Side Camp of Three Rivers
Roy A. Brubaker	Area supervisor and unit leader, Orono, Maine
Don Jones	Assistant director, Pinehurst
John A. Hostetler	Educational director, Pinehurst
Dallas Voran	Assistant and educational director, Gulfport.

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### CPS NEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

that as of May 12, 1945, approximately 1,100 men in Mennonite camps had not been inducted for more than a year.

As these notes are written an unofficial announcement that Japan has accepted the Potsdam ultimatum has been made. What the coming of V-J day will mean in the way of demobilization to CPS men is quite uncertain. For one thing the pending Winstead Bill if passed would cancel release of COs at any time by a point system. The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, if not modified by additional legislation, would terminate CPS six months after the end of the war.

A CPS man at the Norristown unit had the unfortunate experience of driving a truck which got out of control, crashed into a tree, and fatally injured one of the twenty-five patients riding in the vehicle. Because of the death involved, Benjamin Bontrager, at home at Haven, Kansas, driver of the truck, is held on charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Alvin Reimer, high school music teacher from Buhler, Kansas, has been secured to give practically a year's service to CPS as a travelling music instructor. He will begin late in the fall and will spend periods in the base camps in the interest of music.

The four attendants involved in the "incident" at Poughkeepsie were cross-examined in a hearing on August 6 at which the attorneys of the hospital and the discharged attendants, the discharged attendants themselves and Dr. Ross, a State civil service official, and others were present. No decision was reached and the hearing will likely continue.

Swimming classes are in vogue at North Fork. Don Turner, education director, writes: "We are fortunate to be able to use the compound pool for swimming lessons each week. About twenty fellows are in two classes, Learn to Swim and Advanced Swimming. We will enlarge this program with a diving class and an interest group in water games, particularly water polo. This has given our camp a tremendous boost—the fellows really love to hit that old water!"

An announcement has gone out to all Mennonite churches from Akron asking for young farmers to volunteer as attendants to accompany shipments of cattle being sent by UNRRA to relief areas. The BSC has been the responsibility of providing attendants for 1945 and has extended an invitation to other church groups who are interested in helping. It is unfortunate that this avenue of relief service is not open to CPS men.

SSS has sent a memorandum to all employers of CPS farm labor asking that the practice of providing gifts of cash for assignee farm labor be discontinued. SSS feels that this practice has been an infringement upon the ruling of the Comptroller General of the United States "that wages earned by conscientious objectors assignees are monies due to the United States Treasury and are required by the terms of the Revised Statutes to be deposited into the Treasury at as early a date as practicable."

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### MAKING HOSPITAL WORK INTERESTING

(Continued From Page 1.)

him? How could I have been more effective and constructive in my relations with the patient?

6. Finally, consider the things in society and life which have caused these patients to be as they are and which contribute to ever-increasing mental illness. Contemplate what changes could be made to improve those conditions, and how you and the groups of which you are a member might help in accomplishing the needed changes.

In general, therefore, work in a mental hospital, like any other activity in life, can be interesting if you are alive to all its possibilities, if you enter into it with your whole being, and if you always point your activity toward some future development in yourself and your society. It is true that your opportunities to do this are limited by the very hospital you seek to serve—no access to case histories, no attendance at "staff," little access to books, and many other limitations—but it is always best to start doing your best where you are, then other opportunities will come to you.—Greystone Park, N. J.



## Keeping The Vision Clear

## MHP Begins Drive

### VII. THE CPS VISION

(In an attempt to discern more clearly "the CPS vision" we are glad to present as the seventh contribution the viewpoint of the educational secretary in the CPS Section at Akron.—Editor)

The CPS vision is simply the body of Christian ideals which are closely related to being a Christian CO and a member of CPS. They are ideals that the Christian is humbly seeking to help realize during and after CPS.

Although common to us in CPS, we must remind ourselves that part of the CPS vision is a pioneering belief that war is not only a foolish method for civilized peoples but even more—it is a sin for nations and individuals who participate. Our CPS program is set up first of all as a witness against the method of the army.

We want to do more than take a stand against war. Many of us entered CPS with the vision that camp was the place where we could make a clear cut witness against war and for the positive aspect of our belief. We believed in the spirit of nonresistance but also in the power of love to overcome evil. Therefore we wanted a constructive program of service, a program that would give as much room as possible for intelligent goodwill, kindness for bitterness, and a conscious overcoming evil with good. Despite its limitations, CPS has been the best opportunities in 400 years to make a positive witness during wartime.

Inherent to our belief must be the faith and hope that most disagreements, conflicts can be solved peaceably or prevented by applying the principles of Christian love—in the home, church, CPS, and the world. Our total task of CPS has failed most perhaps at this elementary point of learning how to take steps that might lead to a peaceable solution of problems within CPS. Too often we have had "surface-nonresistance and obedience" but "in-the-barrack-resistance."

Some have seen more clearly through service in CPS the meaning of giving one's self in a life of Christian service—so clearly that they have changed their vocational plans to more of a full-time Christian service into a worthy vocation and opportunities in the local church and community. Let us hope that the downward tug that comes with material enterprises does not dim the service vision of too many of us.

The group life in CPS has revealed to some the possibility of the genuine Christian community as an extension of the Christian family ideal. We have seen that a brotherhood strengthens individuals and is strengthened by those who seek to be sensitive to the personality and needs of others.

Extreme realists and cynics are seldom those who make improvements, but we thank God for the friendly critics who have sharpened our vision and made us realize the inadequacies of our system and ourselves. We need Christian vision and a wholesome realism. — Elmer Ediger.

The Mental Hygiene Program of CPS announces a full-fledged final drive to complete wartime objectives and also to establish a permanent national program. The present drive is being made for information from each man who is or has been in a mental institution unit to describe and place on record the needs of institutions in terms of actual incidents occurring on the wards which show lack of proper personnel, poor food, lack of material comforts for patients, improper living and working conditions of attendants and other employees, etc. This material, some of which has already been received in recent weeks, is being typed and set in MHP files and when a sufficient amount is received, will be prepared as a composite story of mental institutions which CPS men have served.

Prepared in book form, possibly with photographs to give a more vivid presentation to the public, it will be published in an appealing way, rather than as a dull, mater-of-fact survey. In addition to the picture it conveys it will present the recommendations of CPS men for overcoming institutional weaknesses which are inherent in the whole system rather than in any one institution. Emphasis will be directed toward awakening the public to appalling conditions, and then placed on the needs for overcoming them by eliminating root evils which go far beyond the administration of any one institution.

It is hoped that the book will give to the American public one of the most dramatic stories it has received about its mental institutions. Although it will be a dramatic story, there will be no attempt to use the long-tried and seldom successful technique of expose which directs action to a local situation by sensationalizing the public without solving vital problems of keeping the public alerted to fundamental problems. On the contrary, names of persons or places will not be given, and the document will probably be authenticated by a forwarding statement of professional persons stating that the facts described come from reports which they have seen and that they attest to the truth of their existence.

It is also hoped that the book will serve as an introduction of the national permanent MHP which will devote primary efforts to the welfare of patients in state mental institutions. With such an organization in the field to promote public education of institutional needs, to encourage more persons in colleges to prepare for institutional service; to develop a professional organization of attendants which will seek better personnel standards, higher wages, and more adequate training—with these prospects in view it is the hope that definite and lasting changes will eventually be made in the institutional system.

In these terms the Central Committee of the MHP appeals to its men for information which reveals present conditions and needs.

There is no suffering to equal the suffering of self-love arising from independent individuality which refuses to submit either to God or to its nobler self.

— Chambers

# CAMP PULSE

**Interest in Christian Life Series** — CPS 85 is feeling stability for the first time in months. We are now at full strength and the assistant director and educational director are installed and functioning. A Christian life series of sermons highlighted the month's activities. These were given by Elias Kulp of Bally, Pa., Prayer groups preceding the service inspired a spirit of fellowship that made richer meetings. Quantity and quality combined for an average attendance of sixty-six; the largest for any group of meetings here. Little response was received to a request that every unit member write a letter on some phase of mental hospital needs. This was probably due to lack of time among those who would, and a feeling among the others that they had nothing to contribute. Interest from a few who feel they need it and from the educational committee has led to some planning for a mental hygiene orientation course to be offered this fall. — Howard, R. I.

**Emergency Farm Work**—Camp No. 4 is still located in the Shenandoah Valley in spite of the fact that a number of men have been transferred to the West Coast and special projects. We are devoting our time now to Soil Conservation Service work and are not engaged in emergency farm work, which has heretofore taken up most of our time between May and January. A number of us dislike farm work for the reason that a number of the Valley farmers do not appreciate what the men have tried to do for them. Then on the other hand there are those of us that like farm work in spite of the hard work. Some of the farmers, however, do appreciate the fact that CPS men are not getting paid for what they do and that they try to do a good job. These few farmers show their appreciation by little tokens of gratitude and their words of encouragement. We have been of the opinion that perhaps it might make a public relations problem, were we ever to discontinue emergency farm work here, for we realize that stories do get started, and the first thing we know there may be one about the COs refusing to work. However, to date, I do not believe there has been much said, although we are of the opinion that some of the recent happenings can be contributed to the no-farm-work order. So the farm work is to be done this summer and fall by PWs. Good harvesting to the farmers and their new help from everyone at No. 4.—Grottoes, Va.

**The Task of Reconciliation**—Though it might appear that there has been a marked tendency towards heart palpitation, we here at Hudson River State Hospital have, on the contrary, been able to maintain a strong and steady pulse. New situations, common and apparent goals, and fresh drive are all partly responsible. "Breaking in" a new unit has been a very novel and vital experience for all of us. Maintaining spiritual fitness for the task of reconciliation—we have learned that reconciliation is a spiritual task—is our most requisite "must." Stimulants in the form of fruits of "the grain of mustard seed" are invaluable in the maintenance of a normal pulse. The planning of our

fall relief training program is holding our immediate attention—but, perhaps, secondary to the fact that the 30-man Women's Unit will leave in another month. A mixed chorus concert of sacred music is to be given within the next couple of weeks. The evolution of the philosophy behind relief training has been interesting to all of us. The indefinite long-range relief program of the future makes the present emphasis on a college accredited program quite appropriate considering the average age, training, and experience of the men at this unit. —Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

**Plus Work and Activity**—Our camp strength is once again on the increase after a period of many transfers out. There is plenty of work here for all, in fact, the nursery is paying the boys to work evenings pulling weeds. The number of boys doing farm emergency work has increased greatly, just recently, due to the detasselling work in the hybrid seed-corn fields. The boys here made a fine contribution to the farm work—and to their own pockets—by going out evenings to shock wheat and oats. They especially appreciated the ice cream, pop, and sandwiches furnished by the farmers after it was too dark to shock the grain. A safety meeting was held at the camp July 27, for the farmers of the community. This meeting was made possible by the cooperation of the county agents of Starke and Pulaski Counties, our projects superintendent, and this camp. About 50 farmers, including their wives and children attended. The camp furnished light refreshments at the close of the meeting.—Medaryville, Ind.

**Sensitivity to War Horrors**—We have been receiving lectures from the men in charge of the experimenting here at the dairy department. It has been of help in understanding the significance of our work. Some jobs seem to be useless at times but the project as a whole is accepted by the men as being of very much value. News of the atomic bomb has been a subject of considerable discussion. Great concern and a reaction of horror is expressed by all. One of the men, while listening to a radio commentator describe its destructive possibilities, took so seriously its implications that he broke down and cried like a child. One becomes more confirmed than ever that Christ is everlastingly right. It is Christ and not the hard-headed militarist that is a realist. We are sorry that it takes the atomic bomb to verify that fact.—Beltsville, Md.

MENNONITE C P S BULLETIN

Sec. 562. P.L.&amp;R.

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