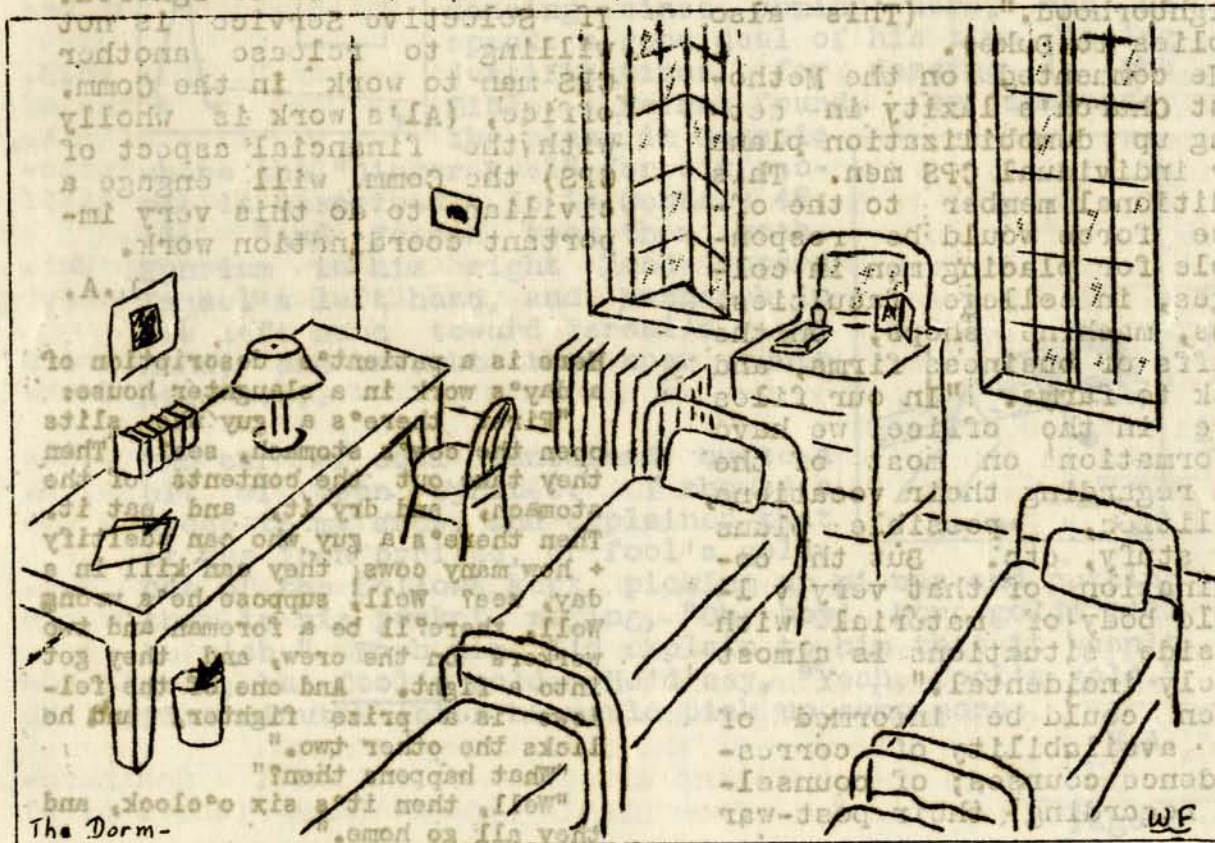


# OUR WORK

Undoubtedly the most rewarding part of the work has been the joy that has come from discovering unexpected depth and charm in the life of some patients. There are many worker patients here who would be discharged if there were someone outside to sign their parole papers, yet who are carrying on with difficult and demanding jobs, often with much more cheerfulness than is shown by employees. There are others whose only trouble is an occasional flare-up, or a specific temperamental difficulty that unfits them for life in the world "outside." Meet for example, the philosopher of the violent ward. He is an old dutchman, with white hair and a Vandyke beard, who is here because he quarreled with his family incessantly, and has conscientious scruples about having his cows tested for tuberculosis. There have been grand chats about world politics, about mental hospitals, about religion and about the Bible, of which he is a great student. He is an honest searcher, and of large mind, although he is also given to strong and peculiar convictions. For instance, he believes strongly that Jesus refused either to carry his cross to Golgotha, or to walk there himself, and that both he and his cross were carried there by the soldiers. This belief is based on the discovery that the hospital authorities, when they brought him to Cherokee, could not make him walk - in that respect he was still a free man: and it is impossible for him to believe that Jesus would submit to something which he found it unnecessary to submit to. He was once asked why Hitler had not over-run Switzerland. In reply, he said that he recalled that Hitler once sent envoys to Switzerland, threatening to come against their million-man army with two million men. "In that case", replied the Swiss representative, "each of our men would have to shoot twice."

H.A.



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