

C O P Y

JUN 26 1943

June 22, 1943

Mr. John Umble
Editor
Goshen College Bulletin
Goshen, Indiana

My dear Mr. Umble:

I have read your Bulletin with much interest, and in it I note the names of a few individuals who are now working in this hospital, especially Lotus Troyer, the Director of our Conscientious Objector group.

I am writing to tell you that these men are a credit to the College and to their church, and are giving good service to a worthy cause. This hospital is responsible for the care and treatment of 3340 patients with a normal quota of 615 employees. As it is located in a defense area, more than a year ago we found a marked shortage of manpower.

To bring Conscientious Objectors into Michigan it was necessary not only to have the approval of various Government agencies but of labor and Veterans' organizations. After considerable difficulty this was obtained, but the community and the remaining 435 regular employees were somewhat skeptical about the plan as they knew nothing about Mennonites and considered Conscientious Objectors cowardly.

We now have a group of fifty men who, because of their integrity and sincerity of purpose, have integrated themselves to the group and are respected by their fellow employees, and similar organizations have been anxious to have similar groups. The United War Veterans Council have endorsed the employment of Conscientious Objectors in the Veterans Administration Facility at Fort Custer for the duration of the war. This endorsement was because of the satisfactory arrangement in this hospital.

These men here are doing a good work both for our patients and for their church. Today I have an unsolicited letter from one of our patients on my desk, of which I enclose a copy, and it speaks for itself.

Mr. John Umble, Editor
Goshen College Bulletin

I feel that the credit for the success of this group goes
largely to Lotus Troyer, their Director.

Very truly yours,

ORY/rsf

Medical Superintendent (signed)

C O P Y

Ward B2-1

Doctor O. R. Yoder
Superintendent

Dear Doctor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal views about the C.O.

Speaking for myself, I have never come in contact with a finer group of men. They are hard workers and have the interest of the patients at heart. I for one would like to see the State of Michigan expand a few points and vote these men some kind of a compensation in the form of a bonus. I think such a formula could be worked out.

The point I want to make is the C.O. are outstanding in their work and are a real help to the hospital.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed by patient)