

11/28/44

Women's Service in **MENTAL HOSPITALS**



*Issued by the members of the first unit
Philadelphia State Hospital*

A statement telling of the organization of this unit through the American Friends Service Committee and attempting to evaluate the work in terms of its effect on the patients and as a means of personal growth.

October, 1944

In this pamphlet are recounted some of the experiences and activities of thirty young women from various parts of the country who for a time left their positions in schools, offices and homes to help care for the mentally ill. In wartime, mental hospitals find it difficult to maintain even custodial care.

Philadelphia State Hospital

Philadelphia State Hospital is located about 20 miles (50 minutes) northeast of the center of Philadelphia, a city of about three million. On the 1100 acres of rolling farmland and pleasantly landscaped grounds there are 96 buildings. Here 6100 patients live, about one-half of whom are women. This represents 1576 beds over the comfortable capacity of the hospital. Double deck beds and basement sleeping rooms make it possible to accommodate this number of patients.

Three new buildings recently completed have helped relieve the overcrowding. Dr. Charles Zeller, Superintendent of the hospital, who has done much toward the recent development of the institution, estimates that the accommodations needed for mental patients from Philadelphia County by the year 1953 will be near 11,000. A building program is anticipated which will raise the capacity of the hospital to 10,000, and provide better facilities for medical, surgical, and therapeutic care.

The Beginning

Women's Service in Mental Hospitals* is a partial solution to the problem of female personnel shortage at Philadelphia State Hospital, the second largest mental institution in the country. The idea of recruiting through the American Friends Service Committee young women for such a service group was an outgrowth of the success which Civilian Public Service Unit 49 had in relieving the male attendant shortage at that hospital.

As early as March, 1943, organization plans for a women's unit were made, Margaret Jones was appointed to sponsor the project, recruiting was begun and applications began to arrive.

On June 23rd the original unit of eight women met at Pendle Hill with the AFSC representatives and Miss Edgar, Director of Nursing, who was to serve as Director of the Unit. After several days of preparation the unit arrived at the hospital where they met members of the staff and made a tour of the wards. Classes in hospital techniques began the 28th and ward assignments were made.

Since October, 1943, Ruth Dingman, a graduate psychiatric nurse from Yale School of Nursing has been the AFSC-CPS Executive Director of Women's Service in Mental Hospitals.

The first group included Jeanne Booth of California; Norma Dierking, Iowa; Edythe Gordon, Illinois; Doris Larmon, Colorado; Betty Nolte, Ohio; Margaret Riggs, South Dakota; Jane Terhune, Ohio, and Ruth Wendt, Michigan. A total of 29 girls have worked as members of W.S.M.H. during this first year. The success of their work demonstrates the desirability of forming units in other hospitals as soon as possible.

**Hereafter will be referred to as W.S.M.H.*

Who They Are

- CALDER, ALICE, Wilmington, N. C., Episcopal, PSH 11-1-43 to 4-30-44. A.B. Psychology, Women's College, Univ. of North Carolina.
- DEEMS, GRACE, Wooster, Ohio, Methodist, PSH 6-10-44 to 8-25-44. High School Commercial Teacher.
- DETTWEILER, PHYLLIS A., Kansas City, Mo., W.Q.F., PSH 7-2-44 to date. Sophomore, Psychology and Home Economics, Park College.
- DIERKING, NORMA, Sioux City, Iowa, Cong., PSH 6-28-43 to 8-30-43. "Y" Secretary; now U.N.R.R.A. Training Center, College Park, Md.
- EASTMAN, MABRY P., Summit, N. J., Unitarian, PSH 7-12-44 to date. Senior, Psychology, Middlebury College.*
- FARLEY, EDITH, Langhorne, Pa., Friend, PSH 7-1-44 to date. Senior, Sociology, University of Pennsylvania.*
- FRANCKE, HARRIET, Hicksville, N. Y., Lutheran, PSH 7-1-44 to 9-6-44. A.B. Sociology and Psychology, Bucknell University; now Haverford Reconstruction Training Unit.*
- GATES, JUNE A., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Friend, PSH 7-1-44 to 8-15-44. Senior in Sociology, Bucknell University.
- GEIGER, MARCIA, Jacksonville, Fla., PSH 11-30-43 to 5-30-44. Now farming and hospital aide work.
- GORDON, EDYTHE, Chicago, Ill., Methodist, PSH 9-20-42 to date. Secretary (Husband Raymond, CPS 49).
- HANSEN, DOROTHY L., Belleville, N. J., PSH 7-1-44 to date. English, Graduate Cornell College, Iowa.
- HOLLOWAY, LOIS, Lisbon, Ohio, Friend, PSH 6-1-44 to 8-25-44. Junior, Social Work, Schauffer College.*
- JOHNSON, ADA MARY, Dinsmore, Fla., PSH 11-30-43 to date. Attendant, in several hospitals, secretary.
- KELLY, CLAIRE, Harrisburg, Pa., Church of God, PSH 8-1-44 to date. Pre-med. graduate, Juniata College.
- LARMON, DORIS, Greeley, Colorado, Methodist, PSH 6-28-43 to 1-16-44. Now studying music, Greeley State Teachers College.
- LEITER, DOROTHY, Pa., Brethren, PSH 10-5-43 to 5-14-44. Now Nurse and Gen. Off. Asst., School of Horticulture, Ambler, Pa.
- LIEVENSE, MARJORIE, Chicago, Ill., Methodist, PSH 7-4-44 to 9-6-44. Sophomore in sociology, Cornell College, Iowa.*
- MARSH, FRANCES, Stamford, Conn., Friend, PSH 9-9-43 to 1-22-44. Experimenting in community living, Sebasco Estate, Maine.
- MARTIN, ANN, Iowa City, Iowa, Episcopal, PSH 7-1-44 to date. Senior, History, Oberlin.*
- MORROW, ROSEMARY, Muncie, Indiana, Friend, PSH 7-1-44 to date. Earlham College, a high school teacher.
- NOLTE, BETTY, Ohio, PSH 8-28-42 to 9-43. Now housewife, Wallingford, Pa. (Husband Harold, CPS 49, and daughter, Pamela Jo.)
- RIGGS, GRACE, South Dakota, Methodist, PSH 8-2-43 to date. B.S., Univ. of South Dakota, Secretary. (Husband Thomas, CPS 49.)
- RIGGS, MARGARET F., South Dakota, Methodist, PSH 9-1-42 to 9-6-44. Teacher, now Media Friends School. (Husband Donald, CPS 49.)
- SCOTT, JEANNE BOOTH, California, Friend, PSH 6-28-43 to 1-22-44. Therapeutic Drama, B.A. Whittier College. Now in Chicago, Ill. (Husband Frank, CPS 49.)
- SHREVE, ELEANOR, Dunn Loring, Va., Methodist, PSH 6-21-44 to date. Teacher, lower grades.
- TERHUNE, JANE, Shaker Heights, Ohio, Dutch Ref., PSH 6-28-43 to date. B.A. Bryn Mawr, private hospital and psychiatric work.
- WATSON, ANNA M., Central City, Nebr., Friend, PSH 6-21-44 to 8-14-44. A.B. Nebraska Central College; teacher, now Media Friends School.
- WENDT, RUTH, Hamburg, Germany, Friend, PSH 6-28-43 to date. Teacher in foreign languages, nurses' aide, traveler.
- ZIEMEN, MARI-ELIZABETH, Bound Brook, N. J., Episcopal, PSH 7-10-44 to 8-27-44. Engl. Lit., A.B. Vassar, now teacher, Wellesley College Nursery School.*



*Actively interested in preparing for postwar relief and reconstruction work.