

Personal Experiences:

Out of The Night Of Morganton

By TOM P. JIMISON

(This is the fourth of a series by Mr. Jimison describing his experience while a patient for a year in the State Hospital for the Insane at Morganton. Mr. Jimison is a former well-known North Carolina minister, lawyer and newspaper columnist.)

THE ward I was placed on when I arrived was perhaps 150 feet in length. It had a wide corridor with rooms on either side, a bath, a reception room for examinations, and an alcove for reading and lounging. There were some six or eight private rooms while the others were large, some of them containing as many as two dozen beds. This was the receiving ward where new patients were classified. If a man were greatly disturbed he was sent to a disturbed ward at once, but if not, he might remain in this ward for an indefinite length of time.

My first night was spent in the largest room on the ward. I slept well until three o'clock in the morning when I discovered that there were patients in there who could not attend to their most elementary needs. I stood it as best I could until five. I soon found out that had I gone out into the corridor earlier I would have been ordered back to bed despite the odor. We had to go to bed at nine, had to arise at six. We made our own beds, but we could keep nothing on or under them save a towel. Other belongings which could not be carried on the person had to be turned over to the attendant and stored. And God knows how usually they could not be found again.

PATIENTS CLEAN WARD
Twice each day we swept and mopped the entire ward. It is the duty of attendants to keep their wards clean, but the patient who helps favors better. The work is easy, and I used to organize a crew to see how quickly we could get it done so we could go out into the vestibule and stroll. The attendant is the boss on the ward, and if the patients are agreeable will let them clean up as often as they claim is the general rule.

It pays to stand in with the attendants. The doctors are almost wholly dependent on them for information as to the mental condition of the patients and are usually governed by their suggestions. Hence the man who gets on well with his attendant will soon find himself accorded increased privileges. If one is sarcastic or obstinate it is a simple matter for his attendant to tell the ward doctor that he will not be controlled, that he is dangerous, and have him either sent to a disturbed ward or completely isolated. I had been there but a few days when I was visiting the storeroom for supplies with the attendant and running errands to the commissary.

During the 1940 campaign Dr. Watkins posted a notice in the hospital cafeteria requesting all employees to donate ten per cent of one month's salary to the Democratic Party chest. It was merely a request, but sure, but his suggestions at the institution are as strong as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and no one knows it better than Dr. Watkins himself. They hustled around and got it up, even when they had to borrow it. And the doctors had to sign it also. The following winter when attendants wanted a raise in wages and were cheek-mated every hand money of them swore with mighty oaths that never again would they contribute a penny cent to a political campaign. But I know they will if they keep their jobs.

Editor's Note: Dr. Watkins has said that the request came from someone in Raleigh, was address to the head bookkeeper rather than bulletin board by the head bookkeeper.

Most of the attendants and nurses (female attendants are called nurses) never saw a hospital until they were employed there. The male attendants are started at \$40 per month and board, while the nurses get \$29 and board. They may get up to \$50 and \$30 respectively if they remain at the hospital long enough, but there is night shift turnover, especially among the nurses, who have a habit of getting married and leaving.

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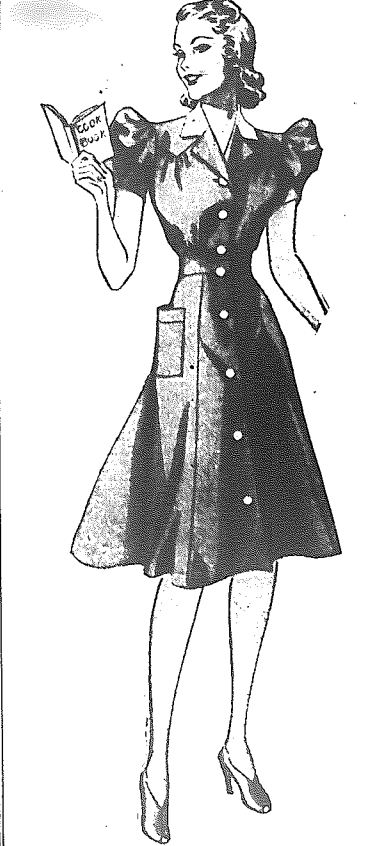
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This nurse and attendant at Morganton are among the lowest-paid employees in the whole of North Carolina. Nurses there were no registered trained nurses at the hospital at the time he left, writes Jimison's begin at \$20 a month, male attendants at \$40. About the best they can hope for is \$10 or \$15 a month more. If they stay there a long time, as many of them do.

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Say Ten Dutch Planes Downed

TOKYO. — (Official Broadcast) Recorded by AP—Imperial Japanese Headquarters today claimed destruction of ten Netherlands East Indies aircraft, including six flying boats, in attacks upon Dutch bases since Jan. 15. The announcement also asserted that last Monday Japanese naval

Zazi Bombers Sink Vessels

planes destroyed harbor installations and blew up a 2,000-ton vessel in attacks on the ports of Sabang and Medan, on the island of Sumatra. Other Indian points which have been raided, according to the announcement, are Balikpapan, Makassar, Palembang, Kolondale and Kendari, on Celebes; Ternate and Laboaha, in the Halmahera Island group (the northern Moluccas) and Ambon.

Bomber Aircraft Scored Several Direct Hits on Targets of Military Importance on One of the Islands off the Shetlands, the High Command said today.

BERLIN. — (Official Broadcast) Recorded by AP—German bombers sank a 6,000-ton merchant ship and a 600-ton collier off the north-

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WEST coast of Scotland and damaged a fairly large merchant ship off the southwest coast of England yesterday, the High Command said today.

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Korean Army Totals 35,000

LOS ANGELES. — (AP) — The Korean Provisional Government's army in China has today announced that the United Korean Committee in America added today. Of these 24,000 officers and men are in Chungking, where they are being trained by the United Korean Provisional Government. Never since the Japanese conquest of 1910 has Korea, with its history of 4,275 years and a population of 22,000,000, submitted completely to Japanese rule.

Vocational Guidance Meet Series Scheduled

DURHAM. — Professor B. O. Childs of Duke University, president of the North Carolina Vocational Guidance Association, today announced a series of five mid-Winter guidance conferences to be held beginning Saturday. Conference will be held in Raleigh, Jan. 24; Morganton, Jan. 26; Kannapolis, Jan. 27; Winston-Salem, Jan. 28; and Greenville, Jan. 29. "Youth Guidance in the Present Crisis" will be the central theme and topic at each conference. Morning and luncheon sessions will be held in each place, with forum-clinics scheduled for the afternoon.