

U. S. Public Health Service Hospital,
Lexington, Kentucky.

September 25, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Surgeon General Thomas J. Farran,
U. S. Public Health Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Farran:

I had vaguely heard about Dr. Treadway's illness but did not know it was as bad as it apparently has turned out to be. I am upset about it and hope, along with everyone here who knows him, that he will speedily recover and resume his duties again.

About Superintendent Ryan's letter forwarded to you by Mr. Bennett, I immediately took the matter up with the local narcotic agents here and asked them to conduct any investigation that seemed appropriate. They, and not the Secret Service, are the people to do this as it comes within their regular line of duties and they are familiar with the methods that give the best results. The narcotic agents have access to the hospital at all times. We asked them to cooperate in the beginning in measures to keep narcotics out and to detect among our employees those who might violate the confidence placed in them. They have done this, and, in fact, assisted materially in gathering evidence that was used to send one of our attendants to the penitentiary.

We are always vigilant here in our lookout for narcotics. In fact, one of our senior custodial officers has a number of unofficial informers who report any suspicious circumstances to him. Through this means we knew for a while before the arrest of the guilty employee that a small amount of narcotics was getting in. On two occasions since then two rubber fingerstalls full of heroin were introduced. We recovered one of them. It is our belief and also, I believe, the belief of the narcotic agents that this is about all that has gotten into the institution since it opened.

We feel so sure that only a small amount has been introduced that to us the only disturbing feature about Mr. Ryan's letter is that it was written. Addicts tell these tales, especially if they find a receptive ear and hope to get something out of it. Hardly a day passes here that some patient on being questioned by a physician either in the formal examination or before our Classification Board does not say this is the first time he was ever cured. Such patients may have been to Leavenworth

two or three times to spend several years. They positively state that they could get all the dope they wanted in Leavenworth or some state prison, but we know that their statements are false, especially as they apply to Federal prisons, and we pay no attention to them, so the patients do not invent any Christmas parties for us.

It is quite true, I believe, that patients want to come to this hospital rather than go to prisons and it is also true that some drug law violators who are not addicts claim to be addicts because it is a commendable practice of a large number of judges to give lighter sentences to addict violators than to sellers of narcotics who are not addicts. Patients would rather come here than go to prison, not because they get dope as Mr. Ryan professes to believe, but because they are treated as patients needing treatment rather than as prisoners to be punished. Our approach is, I believe, also the ideal of the Bureau of Prisons but we for several reasons are in a more advantageous position to put it across.

We have along with our treatment splendid discipline among the patients but know that a number of them would put something over on us if they could do so.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Kolb,
Medical Director,
Medical Officer in Charge.