

Letter, Helen Reilly to Emily Bissell, April 25, 1921

[p. 1]¹

HOPE FARM SANATORIUM

MARSHALLTON, DEL.

HELEN T. REILLY, SUPERINTENDENT²

April 25, 1921

My Dear Miss Bissell,

I am sorry to have to trouble you with complaints but it is almost impossible to live in the same house with Dr. Goodson. during the past week she has quarreled with Miss Temple,³ Miss Russell and the night nurse Miss Clark, they all three told me this morning that they will not stay longer than the first of the month, as they will not nurse for Dr. Goodson. last night I told Champion to get three men, Cook, Angels, + Blakely and have them make bags, as it was their turn to do so, you know that means they sit at the table in the diet kitchen for about half hour and put one bag inside of the other + put some papers in the bag to have them ready for use. Miss Russell was on duty, Dr. Goodson went

[p. 2]

to the diet kitchen told the men they were not to make bags, that they were not to take orders from the nurses or myself in the presence of a number of patients who were there, declared that I had nothing whatever to do with the patients and she would show me who was boss. I said nothing to her, but this can not go on as we will have no discipline in the institution. I have done institutional work for the past twelve years and it is the first time I know the Sup't⁴ had no control over the Resident, especially as we have no Medical Director living in the institution. If as Dr. Robin says she has a mental condition, I do not think she is competent to treat patients, as my time here is short I do wish she could behave until I leave, as I do not care to look around for nurses. the three men who I sent for to make

[p. 3]

bags are the men who the doctor said should stay in bed during the day so they could play cards at night with her. Angels was admitted 2/5/21, is in good condition, runs no temperature. Cook was admitted 2/6/21 no temperature, does no work. Blakely was admitted last month, is an incipient case, no temp, weighs 189 lbs, it is the first time they had been asked to do any kind of work.

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[p. 3, cont.]

Miss Eagar was here yesterday for a short time, she thought she would like to see the institution if you have not seen her for some time you will be quite surprised at the chance in her. she is very stout and seems to be crippled. at least she can not move very quickly, she told me, and I think it only fair that I should tell you that she is looking for an easy position, as she does not feel that she can do very much work for the next few years. I have no

[p. 4]

personal feeling toward Miss Eagar but I would not be very loyal to you if I did not tell you what she said.

Sincerely

Helen T. Reilly

¹ This note seems to have been written in haste, given the subject matter, and Reilly's use of punctuation and capitalization is inconsistent throughout. I have attempted to transcribe her letter as faithfully as possible while retaining comprehensibility.

² This letterhead repeats at the top of pages 2, 3, and 4. In the interests of space, I have not repeated it.

³ In the absence of detailed employee/patient records, it may not be possible to identify these people named in this letter with any certainty.

⁴ i.e., Superintendent