

Office Memorandum •

DEPARTMENT Faribault State School & Hospital

TO : Dr. Engberg

DATE: May 16, 1956

FROM : Dr. Smith

SUBJECT: Lockers attached under beds

This is an old suggestion that has always been rejected for regular beds although some institutions have tried to use the arrangement under nursery cribs and found it to be superfluous.

Bed lockers cannot be used for the following reasons:

1. Poor hygiene. The "waste space" under the bed is necessary for proper ventilation and cleanliness in a ward. Locker boxes are never clean.
2. Poor supervision. Patients cannot be individually responsible for locker contents and proper use. Employees could not control misplacements and constantly maintain supply.
3. Poor housekeeping. The "camping-out" atmosphere contributes to further disorder and activities that must be supervised in other areas.

TS:aj

Mr. Donald E. McNeil, Administrative Analyst

May 26, 1936

Mr. E. J. Nyborg, Superintendent

Attached letter

We are returning herewith the attached letter sent us together with your note of May 5.

I refer Mrs. Sorenson's letter to Dr. Thorsten Smith, our Clinical Director, with the request that he review the suggestion carefully personally and also with staff who would be in a position to express an opinion about her suggestion. Dr. Smith has submitted the following report in which I concur as I have visited some institutions where locker beds have actually been in use:

1. door hygiene. The "waste space" under the bed is necessary for proper ventilation and cleanliness in a ward. Locker boxes are never clean.
2. door supervision. Patients cannot be individually responsible for locker contents and proper use. Employees could not control misplacements and constantly maintain supply.
3. door housekeeping. The "canning-out" atmosphere contributes to further disorder and activities that must be supervised in other areas.

It is very gratifying to see interest such as that evidenced by Mrs. Sorenson's submission of this suggestion and we shall appreciate if you will convey to her our appreciation for her interest and the hope that she will feel free to make other suggestions which she believes will improve our program for patients or affect economies.

Yours truly,

cc: Dr. Cameron
Dr. Smith