

~~Dr. Chapman~~
Mr. Fitz Gerald
Newcastle
Dr. Vogel
GHH
5-17

May 15, 1951

Editor
True Detective Magazine
205 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the article - "Drug Trap!", by Fred J. Cook, in your June issue. It is unfortunate that some of the irresponsible writing in this article will act to discourage addict patients from coming to this hospital for treatment, since as you say it is the only hospital for addicts. I do not recall that Mr. Cook made any effort to either obtain or confirm information from me which he reports in this article.

Your quotation - "We fight and struggle constantly against perversion" is an example of how a sensational writer can twist meanings. This I believe must have originated in an interview with Mr. Mowery in New York in January, in which he asked me if we had any trouble with perversion. I replied that any institution or camp of any kind in which several hundred men were isolated had some such difficulty and that we were alert to suppress such behavior. In your article it comes out as my admitting that we have widespread vice and perversion.

Contrary to your statement that there are hundreds on our waiting list, there is at present no waiting list for male admissions and only about twenty-five on the waiting list for admission to the Women's Unit. There are of course some old-timers of the recidivist group of addicts here who can and do tell young addicts the things they shouldn't know; on the other hand there is an element of sincere people who are anxious to become cured and have formed within the hospital a group known as Addicts Anonymous, with weekly inspirational meetings. Patients who wish may


associate themselves with this group and are not inevitably the victims of the worser elements as you say.

Government hospitals and officials seem to be fair targets for sensational writing, without the same recourse which private citizens and private institutions have. My chief regret, as stated, is that sick patients who need treatment will, to the extent to which your journal is read, be discouraged from seeking the treatment they so desperately need.

Very truly yours,

VHV:HHA

Victor H. Vogel, M. D.
Medical Officer in Charge

 cc: Mr. FitzGerald