

BOARD OF CONTROL
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SECRETARY OF STATE
LESLIE M. SCOTT . . . STATE TREASURER
ROY H. MILLS . . . SECRETARY OF BOARD

VISITING HOURS 10:00 A. M. TO 11:30 A. M. AND 1:30 TO 4 P. M.
NO VISITING SATURDAYS, SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
AND HOLIDAYS

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS AND MONIES TO
J. C. EVANS, M.D., SUPERINTENDENT
SALEM, OREGON

MEDICAL STAFF
J. C. EVANS, M.D. . . . SUPERINTENDENT
C. E. BATES, M.D. . . . FIRST ASST.
WM. L. LIDBECK, M.D. . . . PHYSICIAN
EUGENE TUPKER, M.D. . . . PHYSICIAN
RUTH JENS, M.D. . . . PHYSICIAN
B. F. WILLIAMS, M.D. . . . PSYCHIATRIST
HORACE G. MILLER, M.D. . . . PSYCHIATRIST
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NEVILLE E. CHALLENGER, M.D. . . . PHYSICIAN
WM. S. COLE, D.D.S. . . . DENTIST
ROLLIN E. BAKER, D.D.S. . . . DENTIST

August 26, 1947

Roy H. Mills, Secretary
Oregon State Board of Control
Salem, Oregon

Dear Mr. Mills:

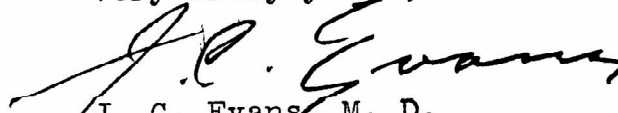
Some of the relatives of our patients are clammering for the operation known as lobotomy. It is a highly technical surgical procedure and should be done by a brain surgeon. No member of my medical staff is qualified to do this brain surgery which consists of trephining the skull in the temporal frontal region and then an especially constructed instrument, a thin, sharp, knife like blade about four inches in length, is inserted into the frontal lobe of the brain cutting from below upwards and severing the nervous pathways from the frontal lobe to other parts of the brain. It is particularly recommended in patients who are suicidal, profoundly depressed, resistive, having to be tube fed, etc. It brings about an immediate change of personality and habit patterns.

This is an operation that was developed during the past six or eight years but it is now looked upon as standard procedure in well selected cases. The public has heard of this miraculous procedure and as I have said before some of the relatives are clammering for this work to be done. Dr. York Herron, a brain surgeon in Portland, tells me that he will be willing to come here and operate on these cases for \$200.00 per patient. I believe during a year's time we would not conduct over 10 or 12 of these operations. This will give the Board some idea as to the possible expense.

The thought occurs to me that if we can save a few suicides, eliminate a lot of human misery and make it possible for the relatives of some of these patients to take them out of the hospital permanently apparently it would be money well spent.

Kindly get a ruling from the Board for me as to their wishes regarding the above questions.

Very truly yours,


J. C. Evans, M. D.
Superintendent

JCE/k

September 2, 1947

Dr. J. C. Evans, Superintendent
Oregon State Hospital
Salem, Oregon

Dear Dr. Evans:

Reference is made to your letter of August 26 addressed to Roy H. Mills, Secretary of the Oregon State Board of Control, concerning the operation known as "lobotomy".

The Board of Control discussed this matter in detail and directed me to advise you that the operations are authorized on the following basis:

1. That in each case, the medical staff of the Oregon State Hospital, at a regular staff meeting, has recommended that the operation be performed.
2. That a thorough investigation be made by the Superintendent to insure that the operation known as lobotomy has passed beyond the experimental stage, and that it is now considered desirable by the best medical authorities.
3. That Dr. York Herron perform the operations for \$200.00 per patient, and that such operations be performed by him at the Oregon State Hospital; also that he be assisted by one or more of the staff surgeons of the Oregon State Hospital in order that such surgeons may learn the procedure and in time, be able to perform such operations themselves.
4. That in each case, an investigation be made by the Oregon State Hospital to determine whether the patient or his or her family can pay.
 - a. all of the cost
 - b. part of the cost
 - c. none of the cost of the operation.
5. That whenever the patient or his or her family can provide all the cost of the operation, that they be required to do so, and that where investigation indicates that only a part can be defrayed by the patient or his or her family, that Mr. Mills or the undersigned be consulted as to whether the financial arrangements made will be satisfactory.
6. That in all cases of proposed operations, and before any operation is performed, the consent of the legal guardian be obtained in writing for the operation in question. (In the event that the patient is competent, his or her consent of course, rather than that of the legal guardian, should be obtained.

Very truly yours,
William C. Ryan

Supervisor of State Institutions

1/16/64

Mr. LeRoy W. Mallett
Route 1, Box B3
West Linn, Oregon

Dear Bud:

In your letter, you ask about the form and letter received by you from our Collections Section. There are approximately 7,000 people in the institutions which are covered by the relative responsibility law. Under Oregon law, any one defined as "a responsible relative" must be contacted to determine their financial worth in evaluating their ability to pay all or part of the cost of maintaining the patient.

Approximately one year ago we embarked on a program of re-evaluating the financial situation concerning each of these responsible relatives. The form you received which I am returning is used in this re-evaluation to determine if the individual is now able to pay a greater portion of the total charge than was the case in the preceding year. In some cases, the reverse is true, the individual is no longer able to maintain his previous rate of reimbursement.

The first letter you received last November related to this request for additional information. This informational form must be completed and returned. In the event that a responsible relative declines, then we must under the law request the appropriate court to make a finding of ability and that court then proceeds to collect the financial data and establishes the new rate. This works both ways in that if the Board establishes a new rate which the responsible relative feels he cannot afford to pay, the law provides a means whereby he can request a judicial review.

The final paragraph in the original letter related to your delinquent account. At the present time you are paying at the rate of \$25.00 per month and according to our records your account was five months delinquent. The collection law specifies that all payments are to be made in advance. This is somewhat of an unusual situation but one under which we have no control. This law further specifies that in the event an account is

Mallett, LeRoy 01

THIRD MONTH POSTOPERATIVE REPORT

Re Ruth Duncan

A lobotomy was performed on this patient Jan. 17, 1948, and for approximately one month following surgery this girl showed marked improvement. Formerly she had to be kept in full restraint, was very noisy and delusional. Following the operation, the patient was up and around on the ward without any type of restraint, she was becoming interested in her surroundings which she never had been for a number of years. This marked improvement, however, did not last and the patient began to return to her former state. At the present time she is again unmanageable except in full restraint.

Summarizing this case, it may be stated that the patient received only temporary benefit which lasted only a short time and that at the present time the patient's mental status is the same as it was prior to surgery. This patient will no doubt always be a hospital case.

THIRD MONTH POSTOPERATIVE REPORT

Otis F. Linn

This patient has shown marked improvement as a result of his operation. He was for many years in bed under full restraint. He would tear up bed clothing if given a chance. He is now up and around without restraint, helps on the wards, is very cooperative and has shown a lot of mental improvement. His folks are trying to make arrangements to take him home.

STATE OF OREGON
Office of the
HILLCREST SCHOOL OF OREGON

NOTICE OF INSANITY

IN THE MATTER OF INSANITY OF }
.....Ruth Grow..... }
an inmate of the Hillcrest School of Oregon }

To the OREGON STATE BOARD OF CONTROL:

You are hereby notified that in my opinionRuth Grow.....,
who is an inmate of the Hillcrest School of Oregon committed fromMultnomah..... County,
.....Nov. 2 1944....., 19....., is insane and can be cared for at the Oregon State Hospital with
greater benefit to said inmate.

This notice is given in order that your board may take such proceedings respecting such inmate
as may appear and in accordance with the law.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 4th day ofNovember....., 1945

Kathryn J. J. J.
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Superintendent of Hillcrest School of Oregon