

Hilltop Laboratory
May 23, 1949

Dear Doctor:

I have intended writing you for some time about conditions here at Hilltop, and Mrs Blades' treatment, (or "lack" of treatment), of the patients, but thought I would be able to get to town and see you before this.

I foolishly let Mrs Blades have an idea of why I wanted to go though, and now she is seeing to it that I don't.

Father Kolvenbach was here to say Mass for us this morning, and showed me a letter he received from Mrs. H. E. Buttl giving him a report on her "Investigation", and most probably Father has brought it

to you to read.

So he went into great detail to explain away Mrs Blades operating on Eugene Leal's fistula with a sterilized razor blade, and how she had first phoned Dr. Brown for permission.

Also that he had been on the porch in great pain and that she had to assist him to his room.

The truth of the matter is that all of us were in bed and when she came in Eugene's room to see if he or the other two patients in the room needed anything, he told her he was sick with the Hemmichoids - they had told him that was what it was at Julia's place, before he was transferred here - and when Mrs Blades examined it and saw it was

are betting themselves by not telling what they know of Conditions here, but most of them are afraid to talk to anyone because they have seen how tough Mrs. Blakes has made it for those who have before.

I have been accepted at Mission and will leave some time soon I suppose, but I would appreciate hearing from you before I do, and if there is anything I can do to help these patients who have to stay here, please let me know.

Yours very truly,
Frank D. Halloran

(over)

If you do write me,
I would advise a registered
letter with a return receipt
requested. I don't believe she
would be foolish enough to
sign for that herself, or me,
or try to keep me from getting
the letter, as we suspect her
of having done before.

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A rather boast of Mrs. Smith's
was that they gave everyone
Streptomycin at no cost, and no
other County or the State San would
do it. I told Mrs. Blades some time
ago that three different Doctors at
the State San told me it would do
me no good, and forty two days
of it here didn't. Everything I
have ever read on Streptomycin
warns against the promiscuous
use of it, and yet Dr. Brown
recommended it for every
patient here. How many of us
will need it later, and won't be
able to - or if we do take it,
won't get any good out of it,
because of having it now, is
another question!

Some of the Latin American
patients here (a few) feel they

latter get pretty rough treatment
some time or other since I've
been here.

I could have coasted along
and never said a word and gotten
by fine here, but I have too much
Irish in me to let her treat these
patients like this, feed us rotten
food as she did in January &
February when she had sold the
country two bulls and a hog and
we saw roast pork twice, roast
beef once, pork chops once, tho
we did have chicken nearly every
Sunday, and the rest of the time
lived off of weiners, sausage,
and soup (every day for a week one
time) and this ground meat they
use to make tamales.

he's getting in pretty bad shape, but knows there's no use telling her again, as she would only get angry.

A Mrs Luke Perez is another example. She has been a bed patient for about four months now, and has been the best patient here in my ~~attendant~~ (excuse?) opinion, but wasn't feeling well about a week ago and told Mrs Dean the nurse she had pleurisy pains, and Mrs Dean laughed, and said "That's too bad", and kept going. She also asked her for aspirin several times and received an "I'll think about it", but no aspirin. Two or three days ago she had 100° temperature and a sore

throat and told Mrs. Black
who said she would bring her
something but hasn't done it
yet. Lupe also gets nauseated
on this ovaltine Mrs B., tries
to force on us every night, but
after not drinking it for some
time Mrs B insisted on her trying
it again, and after several
nights she vomited it all up
again.

I could go on like this
for hours Doctor, and would if
I could see someone besides
Mrs. Butt, who would believe
me, but I won't take any more
of your time with it now.

There are three of me
Anglo Americans, and eighteen
Latin Americans, and I've
seen nearly every one of the

a fistula that was in bad shape and not draining she went and got a face mask, operating robe and rubber gloves and came back and gave him a shot of penicillin and then borrowed a razor blade from Cardona - one of the other patients in the room - and proceeded to cut on the fistula without leaving the room to sterilize the blade, call Dr. Brown, or anything else. She evidently saw she couldn't finish it, or became afraid, for she quit and next morning brought him to Memorial Hospital, where he should have been taken that night if the emergency was so great. Luckily, though no credit is due her, infection didn't

set in, and he is getting along
all right ever since. Eugene
Leal, Cardona & Martinez the
three patients in the room
can verify the truth of this.

What happened a few months
ago of course, but Mrs. Blades
is ignoring the patients she does -
it like - all Latin Americans, of
course - just as she did before
and will continue to do so just
as long as Dr. Brown backs up
her lies as he's doing now.

Cardona has a swelling
and quite a bit of pain in his
chest, and tho he told her of it
twice - the last time on May 10th
when she said she would check
on it the next day - she has not
done a thing about it since, and
Cardona is so blue and disgusted