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INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

Ed-Health
124977-14
A J W

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

DEC 24 1914

*120956/14
Carlisle
160*

Dr. Joseph A. Murphy,
Medical Supervisor,
Sacaton, Ariz.

My dear Dr. Murphy:

There is enclosed copy of a letter addressed to Mr. O. H. Lipps, Supervisor in Charge of the Carlisle School, dated December 15, 1914, which outlines the Office attitude in relation to the Dr. Rendtorff matter. There are also enclosed the letters which you transmitted to the Office on November 6.

Very truly yours,

E. B. Merrill
Assistant Commissioner.

12-HAS-19

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Carlisle, Pa.

Oct. 4th., 1914.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NOV 10 1914
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Joseph A. Murphy M.D.

Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NOV 21 1914
124977

Dear doctor: After some hesitancy I have

determined to send you the enclosed correspondence. I suppose that this will put me in a fair way of losing my position, yet under the circumstances I do not see how I can retain my pride and act otherwise. My experiences here under both Mr. Friedman and Supervisor Lipps have been very unpleasant. For this the rank administration of the former has been largely responsible. Doctor, I have worked hard here and striven to do everything in my power for the welfare of this school. For this I have not heard one word of credit or encouragement, but have heard nothing but complaint. I believe that the health of the school including the condition of the students eyes can hardly meet with any severe criticism. To do this work half way conscientiously is a big undertaking that takes the whole time of the physician and demands earnest effort. I do not think that Supervisor Lipps appreciates this fact.

Now to the cause that inspired my letter.

Yesterday one of our new students was taken suddenly with a very intense pain in the abdomen and was brought to the hospital in a condition of grave shock. I made a diagnosis of acute perforation and then went to Mr. Lipps to find-- discuss the case with him. I began by saying that I could not be positive of my

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

diagnosis and that I thought it would be to the boys best interest to send him to Dr/Deaver(The Dr.has offered me his service gratis).Instead of stopping to discuss the seriousness of the case with me Mr/Lipps rather curtly told me that this was the place to do the work;that appendectomies had been done in the past,etc. I now asked for assistance,when he spoke of how different physicians of his acquaintance ^{who often} operated in the field with the help of only a nurse.I told him that I too had done such work but that our situation did not justify such procedures.Mr.Lipps not only accused me of lack of self confidence(which is in a measure justifiable)but practically accused me of being incompetent;in which respect he is not to be justified,as my record will show.I took it as an accusation of incompetency when he spoke of the case of Louis Headley,saying that if they had sent the boy home as I recommended he would be blind by this time. Louis had a severe case of trachoma with past corneal scar for which he received the ordinary treatment without much success.Such cases are from time to time sent to DR.FOX,who does a radical operation under anesthesia.I had no idea of sending Louis home without recommending everything possible, but had it only in mind that the school work was doing him more injury than good.Very few children have been sent to the Philadelphia specialists since my arrival,and as the work is all done gratis,I do not for the life of me see where the kick should come in,or why this should be construed as lack of

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

self confidence or efficiency on my part. Whereas it is true that Dr. Allen operated on several quiescent cases of appendicitis I dare say that this was done under the flare of banners and the sound of trumpets. I am positive that by actual comparison it will be seen that I have personally, and alone, done more operative work under local anesthesia than has been done over any similar period previously. This includes tonsilectomies, trachoma work, circumcisions, etc. Just lately, a girl student by the name of Agnes White, took sick with a first attack of appendicitis *(while on the outing)* was operated upon by Dr. Deaver, and died. Do you, as a man, wonder that being confronted with an apparently fatal case, I, realizing my limitations, desired to tread gently in the footsteps of our Lord. As I said to Mr. Lipps on leaving his office, "I pride myself on this supposed lack of self confidence in a matter so human as this is". Although I regret the whole mess I am going to fight this thing ^{out} on just this ground.

I want to add that I found an angry indurated appendix with fresh adhesions about the extremity. There was no perforation. He had a spot of bronchial breathing before operating and now shows every sign of a beginning post-operative pneumonia. With some measure of regret for bothering you in this matter, I am,

yours respectfully,

Walter Pundt

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Carlisle, Pa.

Oct. 24th., 1914.

Supervisor Lipps:

In reply to your written recommendations in *124977*

regard to my conduct of the case of Henry Tomau I wish to say that this is not quite in accord with the conversation I had with you in your office at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. I stated to you at that time that I considered the boys case very serious (probably a perforative appendicitis) but said that I could not be entirely positive of a correct diagnosis. I suggested that Henry be rushed to a Philadelphia hospital there to obtain the best care possible. In place of giving my suggestions the consideration which they deserved you answered that such work should be done here, etc., etc.; that I lacked ^{self confidence}, etc. in fact you suggested by referenc to the case of ^{Louis} Headley that I am lacking in competence. I replied to you that if you considered me incapable it was your duty to so notify the office and demand my removal. I now spoke of the fact that if I was to operate on Henry Tomau it became necessary for me ask for assistance. Instead of complying cheerfully with this request, as you should have done in the interest of the sick boy, you began further to argue saying that the nurse might give the anesthetic, that they did this and that in other places in the service, etc., etc. Your letter, as enclosed, reached me fifteen minutes previous to my operation on Henry Tomau at which time, I assure you, I was acting on my own initiative. Just previous to the operation I ignored your request

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

your request, made over the telephone by Mr. Meyer, that I employ Dr. Allen.

I wish to say that my patient stopped breathing shortly after you left the operating room and probably would have succumbed in the absence of skilled help.

I wish further to say that I consider your behavior of yesterday, unbecoming to that of a man, in stopping to argue a case the seriousness of which you had no capacity of judging.

I demand that you submit this correspondence to the Hon. Commissioner, and ask that an investigation be made of my work and conduct at this institution.

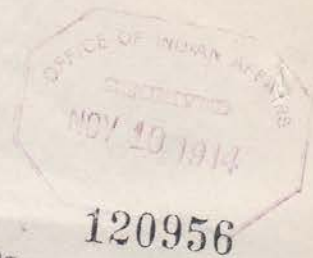
Respectfully,

Walter Punddorf M. D.

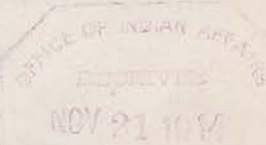
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Carlisle, Pa.

Oct/23rd., 1914.



120956



124977

Dr. Rendtorff:

Referring to our conversation this afternoon relative to Henry Tomaw, a pupil of this school who was taken to the hospital this morning seriously ill and whom you think may require an operation, I desire to confirm my statement made to you verbally giving you authority to call a physician in consultation and if necessary to employ a physician to assist in the operation should it be necessary to operate. I am informed that such operations have frequently been performed in the school hospital and with very satisfactory results, if however, you feel that the patient should be sent to a Philadelphia hospital, please do not hesitate to so recommend. In all such cases as this, I shall be governed entirely by your written recommendation. I desire that everything within reason be done for the health of our students and in cases requiring expert skill and facilities which we can not provide at the school hospital, I am willing that any reasonable expense be incurred in order to give sick pupils the very best medical attention at our command.

Respectfully,

signed O.H.Lipps.

Supervisor in Charge.

Note: I saw Mr. Lipps at 1 o'clock. This note reached me shortly before the operations at 4 o'clock.
W.A.

5-1100

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

E.-Health
124977-14
A J W

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1914.

Mr. O. H. Lipps,

Supervisor in charge, Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Lipps:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of November 20, answering Office letter of November 18, transmitting a letter of Supervisor Murphy, together with a letter from Dr. Rendtorff addressed to him, in which Dr. Rendtorff complains of unfair treatment by you, etc.

There is no doubt that surgical interference has been undertaken in many cases in the Indian Service by physicians working under unsatisfactory conditions and with the help only of a nurse to give the anesthetic. These were probably emergency cases in many instances.

Many of the physicians in the Indian Service are not experienced surgeons; or if they have been, they do not always retain the requisite manual dexterity because the constant practice necessary does not obtain under the conditions surrounding their work.

Generally speaking, therefore, the Office does not feel that physicians who have not had frequent major surgical practice should be required to operate without

assistance upon these apparently moribund cases where speed of operation is such an essential factor in bringing the case to a successful recovery, unless the case is one of emergency and will not admit of the delay required to get more competent assistance. It would seem that the physician himself should usually be the judge as to whether he should perform the operation when more skillful assistance is available, each case being decided upon its merits with due consideration to the extenuating circumstances.

In the present instance, however, in view of the large attendance at Carlisle and the hospital facilities, which, it is understood, are ample, the Office feels that there should be assigned there a physician who has had sufficient hospital experience so as to feel capable of performing operations that occur in practice as frequently as appendicitis. If Dr. Rendtorff does not feel competent and will so indicate, consideration will be given to the matter of assigning to Carlisle a physician who feels he is so qualified.

In this connection, it should be remembered that while there are some nurses who have become trained anaesthetists, in many instances this is not the case,

as the giving of anaesthetics is not an integral part of the education of all nurses, this work in many hospitals being performed by interns. Probably, therefore, in serious cases, sufficient assistance should be procured, if possible, so as to enable the physician to operate without unnecessary risk to the patient because of insufficient help.

The Office is heartily in accord with you as to the inadvisability of incurring unnecessary expense. From Dr. Rendtorff's statement, it appears, however, that in the instance mentioned there was to be no expense incurred, no charge being made by the outside physicians.

The Office is pleased to note that Dr. Rendtorff's relations with you are now quite cordial and pleasant, and that the experience through which he has passed has given him considerable confidence in himself, and it is hoped that if he possesses the skill which you believe he does, he will realize it himself and thus avoid the necessity of any change at the Carlisle School.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

12-ANB-11

Ed-Health
124977-14
A J W

DEC 24 1914

Dr. Joseph A. Murphy,
Medical Supervisor,
Sacaton
Leupp, Arizona.

FILED BY M. P. E.

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(Signed) E. B. Meritt

12-HAS-19

Assistant Commissioner.

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.

E.-Health
124977-14
A J W

DEC 15 1914

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FILED BY M. P. J.

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INITIALING COPY

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Merrill

Assistant Commissioner

12-ANB-11



Education
120956-14
C V S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.

NOV 21 1914
124977
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 30, 1914.

The Honorable
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am in receipt of Office letter dated November 18, 1914, transmitting letter of Supervisor Murphy together with a letter from Dr. Rendtorff addressed to him, in which Dr. Rendtorff complains of unfair treatment by me and that his work at the Carlisle School is not appreciated. He refers particularly to the case of Henry Tomaw, a pupil of this school who was recently operated upon for appendicitis.

Regarding this matter I have to state that when Dr. Rendtorff came to me and in a somewhat nervous manner informed me that a boy had been taken to the hospital seriously ill that day, and that he thought an operation would be necessary and asked if we should rush him off to Philadelphia, I replied that if he considered it necessary to do so, we could send the boy to Philadelphia, but asked him why could not such an operation be performed here at our own hospital; that the hospital at the Carlisle school was considered one of the best equipped in the Service, and that I had been informed that when the school employed a contract physician, operations of this nature were always performed at the school hospital. He apparently resented my disposition to question

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the advisability of sending the boy to Philadelphia, indicating that if his recommendations were to be questioned, that evidently he was considered not competent for the position. I replied that I did not question his competency in the least, in fact that I thought he was quite competent, but that he seemed to lack self confidence. I then cited to him the fact that I, myself, had undergone a very serious operation while at the Chilocco school, and that there was no thought but that the school hospital could properly care for me. I told him that the school nurse, in my case, administered the anaesthetic, and that the contract physician with the assistance of a surgeon employed by myself performed the operation. I also told him that even if one of my own children were afflicted with an ordinary case of appendicitis, I would not hesitate to put the child in his charge at the school hospital here.

I reminded him of the fact that many operations for appendicitis are performed by our physicians on reservations, where they do not have anything to compare with our school hospital in the way of facilities for such work, and that with the splendid equipment we have at Carlisle, we should at least be able to do the work that is being done by physicians on the reservations. I finally told him, however, that I would comply with his request and recommendation and that if he felt the boy should be sent to the hospital in Philadelphia

I would send him; that if he thought the operation could be performed here he should employ such assistance as he might need. He left the office in a rather abrupt manner, which indicated his displeasure over what I had said to him. A little later I dictated a confirmation of my instructions to him, in order that there might be no misunderstanding as to my position in the matter. It appears that he returned to the hospital and called two physicians from town, and proceeded immediately with the operation. My note confirming my verbal statements to him appears did not reach him until the operation was completed. If it was necessary to perform the operation so soon after his conversation with me, it would seem that it would have been impossible to have sent the boy to Philadelphia, a distance of 120 miles, if an immediate operation was necessary to save the boy's life.

I regret exceedingly that Dr. Rendtorff has taken this matter so seriously. I passed by his rather disrespectful attitude in his conversations with me and to Mr. Meyer over the telephone, and also of his reference in his note to me, in which he stated that he had ignored my request made over the telephone by Mr. Meyer that he employ Dr. Allen to assist in the operation. I felt that he made these statements while in the heat of passion and that after he quieted down he would look differently upon the matter. My only reason for suggesting that he employ Dr. Allen was that Dr. Allen as contract

physician at the school performed quite a number of such operations on our students, and for the further reason that last summer when Dr. Rendtorff went on his vacation he made arrangements with Dr. Allen to do his work during his absence. I took it for granted that Dr. Rendtorff would naturally prefer to have Dr. Allen assist him in the operation. I have since learned, however, that Dr. Rendtorff has some grievance against Dr. Allen, and that he is not on good terms with him.

My attitude on this matter was based entirely upon experience and observation extending over a period of years in the Service, and also upon the attitude of the Indian Office with respect to the position of resident physician at the Carlisle school. It will be recalled that prior to Dr. Rendtorff's appointment here as resident physician, the school employed a contract physician in the town of Carlisle and also an interne who resided on the school grounds and acted as assistant to Dr. Allen and also as health officer. This arrangement was made on the ground that the past experience at the school had demonstrated that the average resident physician employed by the Office did not give satisfactory service, for the reason that it became necessary in almost all serious cases to employ outside physicians.

About a year ago the Office abolished the position of contract physician and created the position of resident physician and transferred Dr. Rendtorff to Carlisle, with the express understanding that he would be competent to

properly do all the work theretofore done by the contract physician. I had these facts in mind when Dr. Rendtorff suggested sending this boy to Philadelphia to be operated upon. It occurred to me that if we were to send every serious case, that should come up, to Philadelphia, that the Office was wrong in abolishing the position of contract physician and creating a position of resident physician, on the ground that such resident physician would be able to properly do the work as it had been done by the contract physician. I also had in mind the fact that a few months ago Dr. Rendtorff requested me to ask the Office to send an eye specialist to Carlisle to treat trachoma among the students. The Office denied this request and stated that Dr. Rendtorff was selected for this position for the ^{very} reason that he was considered competent to treat these eye cases, and that inasmuch as there were large numbers of Indians on reservations without any facilities for receiving proper treatment for trachoma, the Office felt it a duty to leave these specialists on the reservations, or words to that effect.

In this connection, the case of Louis Headley, referred to by Dr. Rendtorff, was brought up. Louis Headley is a full blood Indian from the Shoshone reservation, Wyoming. Dr. Rendtorff recommended that he be sent home. The boy was apparently going blind. I insisted that before we sent him home we should use every means possible here to give him relief. I will state, however, that Dr. Rendtorff was

perfectly in accord with this arrangement, and Louis Headley was sent to Dr. Fox, at Philadelphia, who gave him treatment and today Louis is one of the happiest boys I know of. He frequently mentions the fact that he was going blind and felt that there was no hope for him. A few instances of this kind led me to conclude that Dr. Rendtorff lacked just a little in self confidence, and that accounted for his seemingly anxious desire to send away from the school stubborn and difficult cases.

I have no feeling, whatever, against Dr. Rendtorff over this matter, and the incident had passed from my mind. I really believe him to be a very competent physician. He has an unfortunate temperament and is frequently in trouble with his nurses, but so far as his professional ability is concerned, I have the highest opinion of him. His relations with me are now quite cordial and pleasant, and in no case have I ever denied any request that he made for supplies for the hospital or for any arrangement that he has requested for carrying on his work. I have supported him in every instance in his efforts to enforce proper discipline and order at the hospital. I have done this at times when I thought, perhaps, he might not be entirely in the right in all respects, but as I have placed the responsibility of proper conduct of the hospital in his charge, I have felt in duty bound to support him in every possible way. I even recommended the transfer of Miss Beer, the nurse, last spring, because Dr.

Rendtorff claimed that it was impossible for him to get along with her. He is now having the same trouble with the present nurse, Mrs. Wylde. I sometimes think Dr. Rendtorff is in ill health and that he is irritable and sensitive and not always in a frame of mind to quietly consider matters with coolness and clearness of vision. He appears to think the work here is very difficult and that he is not appreciated. He has frequently expressed his desire to leave.

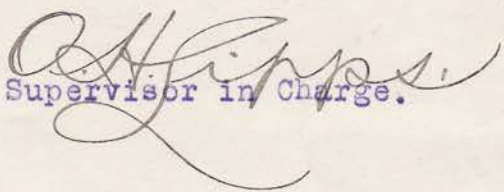
Regarding the operation of Henry Tomaw, I have to state that it was very successful in every way, and the fact that this operation was performed at the school by Dr. Rendtorff and that the boy is recovering so rapidly has done more than any one thing I know of to inspire confidence in Dr. Rendtorff, both on the part of the students and employees of the school, and I believe that he, himself, has gained a great deal as a result of this little incident. He has demonstrated that he has ability to perform such operations, and I believe that it has done a great deal to inspire self confidence in him. It is to be regretted that it was necessary to secure these results in this way, but on the whole, I believe the outcome has resulted in benefit both to Dr. Rendtorff and to the school. I have no apologies to offer for my actions in the matter, as I did what I thought was my duty.

I enclose herewith statement from Mr. Meyer, confirming my statement that in the past numerous cases of appendicitis

were operated upon by Dr. Allen in the school hospital here. It will be noted that Mr. Meyer states that only one assistant was employed, a physician to administer the anaesthetic, in these cases. With these facts before it the Office can make such reply to Dr. Rendtorff's letter as it may seem advisable. The letter of Dr. Murphy, with enclosures, is returned herewith as requested.

Very respectfully,

OHL:SR


Supervisor in Charge.

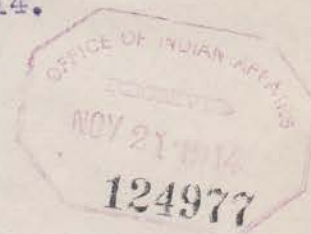


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

Nov. 19th, 1914.



My dear Mr. Lipps:

Complying with your verbal request I respectfully state that when you called me to your office on the afternoon of October the 23rd, last, it was to tell me that you had a request from the Hospital for outside assistance to help with the operation for the removal of the Tomaw boy's appendix and that I was to call Dr. Rendtorff at once and tell him that he should secure Dr. Allen or some one else to assist him.

Dr. Rendtorff said "I am through with the office" and stated further that he had already made arrangements to go ahead with the operation, when I called him on the telephone.

May I state further that I have kept in close touch with the work at our School Hospital because I consider it one of my duties to keep parents informed of the condition of their children when any of the latter are taken to the Hospital, such letters being signed, of course, by the officer in charge. Therefore, I know that during the time the work at our School Hospital was under the supervision of the contract physician, Dr. Allen, a number of operations were performed for the removal of students' appendices. The records will show the number of such operations. It was not unusual to have such operations performed with the help only of a physician from the outside to administer the anaesthetic, and several students who seemed to be suffering from chronic cases of appendicitis actually requested that such operations be performed when they were in good physical condition after an attack.

Very respectfully,

Harvey K. Meyer
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Phoenix, Arizona,

November 6, 1914.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

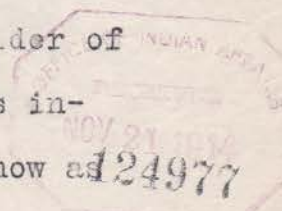


Sir:

There are inclosed herewith several letters sent to me as personal by Dr. Walter Rendtorff but which I consider of sufficient importance to submit to the Office for its information in order that it may be in a position to know as much of the facts as may be necessary to form a just judgment in the controversy. My knowledge of the matter in point is entirely confined to the inclosed correspondence, and I am not in a position to make a recommendation in the matter as the other side is not presented.

I wish to say, however, that the majority of the physicians in the Indian Service are not experienced surgeons. To become an experienced surgeon it is necessary to have a thorough training extending over a good term of years of constant observation and practice in this special work. To remain one requires constant practice. These conditions are not present in the conditions which have surrounded the practice of the majority of the Service physicians in the past, and I would certainly not recommend that the Office take the stand that a physician who has not had frequent major surgical practice be required to undertake to operate upon a serious case such

Ehe



as is described in this instance.

I wish to request that the inclosed correspondence or copies of the same be returned to me for my files.

Respectfully,

Joseph W. Murphy,
Medical Supervisor.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
United States Indian Service

Carlisle, Pa., Oct. 4th, 1914.

Joseph A. Murphy, M. D.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor:

After some hesitancy I have determined to send you the enclosed correspondence. I suppose that this will put me in a fair way of losing my position, yet under the circumstances I do not see how I can retain my pride and act otherwise. My experiences here under both Mr. Friedman and Supervisor Lipps have been very unpleasant. For this the rank administration of the former has been largely responsible. Doctor, I have worked hard here and striven to do everything in my power for the welfare of this school. For this I have not heard one word of credit or encouragement, but have heard nothing but complaint. I believe that the health of the school including the condition of the students' eyes can hardly meet with any severe criticism. To do this work half way conscientiously is a big undertaking that takes the whole time of the physician and demands earnest effort. I do not think that Supervisor Lipps appreciates this fact.

Now to the cause that inspired my letter. Yesterday one of our new students was taken suddenly with a very in-

tense pain in the abdomen and was brought to the hospital in a condition of grave shock. I made a diagnosis of acute perforation and then went to Mr. Lipps to discuss the case with him. I began by saying that I could not be positive of my diagnosis and that I thought it would be to the boy's best interest to send him to Dr. Deaver (the Dr. has offered me his service gratis). Instead of stopping to discuss the seriousness of the case with me, Mr. Lipps rather curtly told me that this was the place to do the work; that appendectomies had been done in the past, etc. I now asked for assistance, when he spoke of how different physicians of his acquaintance who often operated in the field with the help of only a nurse. I told him that I too had done such work, but that our situation did not justify such procedures. Mr. Lipps not only accused me of lack of self-confidence (which is in a measure justifiable) but practically accused me of being incompetent, in which respect he is not to be justified, as my record will show. I took it as an accusation of incompetency when he spoke of the case of Louis Headley, saying that if they had sent the boy home as I recommended he would be blind by this time. Louis had a severe case of trachoma with past corneal scar for which he received the ordinary treatment without much success. Such cases are from time to time sent to Dr. Fox,

who does a radical operation under anesthesia. I had no idea of sending Louis home without recommending everything possible, but had it only in mind that the school work was doing him more injury than good. Very few children have been sent to the Philadelphia specialists since my arrival, and as the work is all done gratis, I do not for the life of me see where the kick should come in, or why this should be construed as lack of self confidence or efficiency on my part. Whereas it is true that Dr. Allen operated on several quiescent cases of appendicitis I dare say that this was done under the flare of banners and the sound of trumpets. I am positive that by actual comparison it will be seen that I have personally, and alone, done more operative work under local anesthesia than has been done over any similar period previously. This includes tonsilectomies, trachoma work, circumcisions, etc. Just lately, a girl student by the name of Agnes White, took sick with a first attack of appendicitis (while on the outing), was operated upon by Dr. Deaver, and died. Do you, as a man, wonder that being confronted with an apparently fatal case, I, realizing my limitations, desired to tread gently in the footsteps of our Lord. As I said to Mr. Lipps on leaving his office, "I pride myself on this supposed lack of self confidence in a matter so human

as this is." Although I regret the whole mess I am going to fight this thing out on just this ground.

I want to add that I found an angry, indurated appendix with fresh adhesions about the extremity. There was no perforation. He had a spot of bronchial breathing before operating and now shows every sign of a beginning post-operative pneumonia. With some measure of regret for bothering you in this matter, I am,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Walter Rendtorff.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
United States Indian Service

Carlisle, Pa., Oct. 24th, 1914.

Supervisor Lipps:

In reply to your written recommendation in regard to my conduct of the case of Henry Tomau, I wish to say that this is not quite in accord with the conversation I had with you in your office at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. I stated to you at that time that I considered the boy's case very serious (probably a perforative appendicitis) but said that I could not be entirely positive of a correct diagnosis. I suggested that Henry be rushed to a Philadelphia hospital there to obtain the best care possible. In place of giving my suggestions the consideration which they deserved you answered that such work should be done here, etc., etc.; that I lacked self confidence, etc.; in fact you suggested by reference to the case of Louis Headley that I am lacking in competency. I replied to you that if you considered me incapable it was your duty to so notify the office and demand my removal. I now spoke of the fact that if I was to operate on Henry Tomau it became necessary for me to ask for assistance. Instead of complying cheerfully with this request, as you should have done in the interest of the sick boy, you began further to argue, saying

that the nurse might give the anesthetic, that they did this and that in other places in the service, etc., etc. Your letter, as enclosed, reached me fifteen minutes previous to my operation on Henry Tomau at which time, I assure you, I was acting on my own initiative. Just previous to the operation, I ignored your request, made over the telephone by Mr. Meyer, that I employ Dr. Allen.

I wish to say that my patient stopped breathing shortly after you left the operating room and probably would have succumbed in the absence of skilled help.

I wish further to say that I consider your behavior of yesterday unbecoming to that of a man, in stopping to argue a case the seriousness of which you had no capacity of judging.

I demand that you submit this correspondence to the Hon. Commissioner, and ask that an investigation be made of my work and conduct at this institution.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Walter Rendtorff, M.D.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
United States Indian Service

Carlisle, Pa., Oct. 23rd, 1914.

Dr. Rendtorff:

Referring to our conversation this afternoon relative to Henry Tomau, a pupil of this school who was taken to the hospital this morning seriously ill and whom you think may require an operation, I desire to confirm my statement made to you verbally giving you authority to in consultation and if necessary to employ a physician call a physician to assist in the operation should it be necessary to operate. I am informed that such operations have frequently been performed in the school hospital and with very satisfactory results. If, however, you feel that the patient should be sent to a Philadelphia hospital, please do not hesitate to so recommend. In all such cases as this, I shall be governed entirely by your written recommendation. I desire that everything within reason be done for the health of our students and in cases requiring expert skill and facilities which we cannot provide at the school hospital, I am willing that any reasonable expense be incurred in order to give sick pupils the very best medical attention at our command.

Respectfully,

(Signed) O. H. Lipps,
Supervisor in Charge.

Note: I saw Mr. Lipps at 1 o'clock. This note reached me shortly before the operation at 4 o'clock.

W. R.

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Mr. Oscar H. Lipps,
Supervisor in Charge,
Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Lipps:

There is enclosed herewith a letter received from Supervisor Murphy, together with a letter from your physician addressed to him.

It is desired that you consider the statements made in this correspondence and render report at your earliest convenience.

With your report please return the enclosed correspondence.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt
Assistant Commissioner.

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