

Report from the Health Committee to Mr. Jones on a plan for
changing the location of the infirmary.

We feel,
~~It is felt by us~~, and we believe ~~throughout~~ the community, ^{feel}
that the infirmary is not adequate. By this we do not mean
that the staff or equipment are lacking, but that the location
and cramped quarters of the present infirmary ^{do} ~~are~~ not ^{represent} ~~condu-~~
^{what Bennington College hopes to teach in the way of health.}
~~give to the best possible care of which we are capable of~~
^{so far this is the only method we have of teaching health here,}
~~rendering.~~ ^{through actual experience with illness, contact in dispensary or infirmary, not through any formalized course -} The main objections to our present infirmary are
that ~~it~~ it is one of the noisier spots on campus (dishwash-
ing, people passing and talking all the time)., ~~it~~ it can
not take care of an epidemic (^{crowded conditions} ~~not enough room,~~ isolation
difficult), ^{there are not properly ventilated bathtubs;} 3/ ~~the comfort is not great enough so that the~~
~~people who are sick will come in before they are sick enough~~
^{point to the fact that this infirmary is inadequate from the}
~~to have done considerable damage by spreading their infections.~~
^{standards of hygiene & quiet, which one needs mostly when ill.}

We have investigated the various buildings on campus
with the idea that we might possibly find one which, with a
limited amount of remodelling, would make a good permanent
infirmary. In looking we have taken into consideration the
facts that ~~it~~ it must be close enough so that we can have
the dispensary at the same place, ⁴ and that it must have
the factors which we find lacking in the present infirmary.
Cricket Hill, which is at present used for the nursery school
and for housing guests ^{and} ~~plus~~ a few of the staff, seems to
fill perfectly our needs. On the plan on page ⁴ 3 may be seen
the way in which we would use the space, and the few things
which we would want done. In brief we would want to

- have 1) most of the room replastered and papered, or painted
2) the dumb waiter extended to the 2nd floor
3) 3 more bathtubs (2 with tubs) -
4) a secretaries office fixed possibly in Dr. Hager's Dispensary -
5) Electrical outlets for bells etc. in wards - 2
6) possibly more beds - curtains between beds in wards in present

If we were to take over Cricket Hill various difficulties would arise. 1/ How would we solve the food problem? We would propose that the prepared food be brought up and cooked by the maid, as is now done in the nursery school. 2/ What would we do with the guests and the staff living there at present? When we leave the infirmary we leave a good amount of floor space, which would include not only the infirmary but Dr. Chassell's office. This space with some left over could easily make up the guest suites. The staff would be moved to an apartment building, which has not been built, but which has already been planned for that purpose. The nursery school would be moved to the chicken coop, which is at present used for drama practice rooms. The drama division would either use some of the floor space left from the infirmary or they might use some space in the North Suites, particularly if some of the offices were moved down to the infirmary. We realize that in planning this someone somewhere is getting the bad end of the bargain. This is obviously the drama division. However, at some later date Fairview is going to be extended to accommodate them, so that being put out of their practice rooms would not be a permanent inconvenience,. Actually there are other possibilities such as moving the nursery school somewhere else.

We feel that the infirmary is a very important part of the college, and that it has not been treated as such. Its'

existing conditions are not in accord with the standard of extreme comfort, which has been ~~pl~~a followed when planning other parts of the college, ^(for example the recreation building - Fairview). We hope that you will consider this plan as a possibility when the next changes are made .