

# The Methodist Church Provides

## Hospital Chaplains

### To Aid the Ill

by Warren C. Carberg

During the past 25 years the hospital chaplain has come into his own.

His worth is accepted, not only by his fellow clergymen, but by physicians and psychiatrists. No longer are drugs and physical well-being accepted as the all-in-all.

The importance of religion as an aid to recovery in mental health and in many forms of psychosomatic medicine has been dimly realized by many down through the centuries.

But it is only during the last 25 years that the training of chaplains in caring for sick persons became a must in pastoral training.

The Rev. Anton Boisen entered a state mental institution after he had suffered a mental breakdown. But when he had recovered he refused to leave, because he had made a great discovery and one that was to become his life work.

His life has been like a great beacon of hope to those whose faith in themselves has been shattered by mental illness.

The healing effect of his dedicated personality has had a transforming effect on thousands. More than that, he launched a system for the training of thousands of chaplains in clinical pastoral care.

When he was attempting to extricate himself from the morass of mental illness, he discovered there were

no men specially trained and qualified to give him the help he needed.

In 1927 he began to train chaplains at the Worcester State Hospital. Up to that time psychiatrists had concerned themselves mainly with the effect of bodily illness on men's minds.

Boisen was concerned with the spirit. He proved to the psychiatrists the value of his work. Today he is famous. The number of those following in his footsteps is legion.

Boisen recalls in one of his books how most ministers who visited the hospital merely repeated the sermons they had preached to their flock of well and normal people. They did not realize at that time that patients had special religious needs.

One visiting clergyman told about missionary work in India. Boisen found that religion had a direct effect on people who were mentally ill. Many recoveries resulted from his work.

This writer was probably the first newspaperman to interview the great pioneer shortly after he had begun his work at the Worcester State Hospital.

Today trainees for the chaplaincy live in hospitals. They do the same menial work as orderlies. They learn to understand not only the patients, but also the nurses and the physicians and learn how to work with them, in bringing peace and comfort to those who are ill in mind and in body.

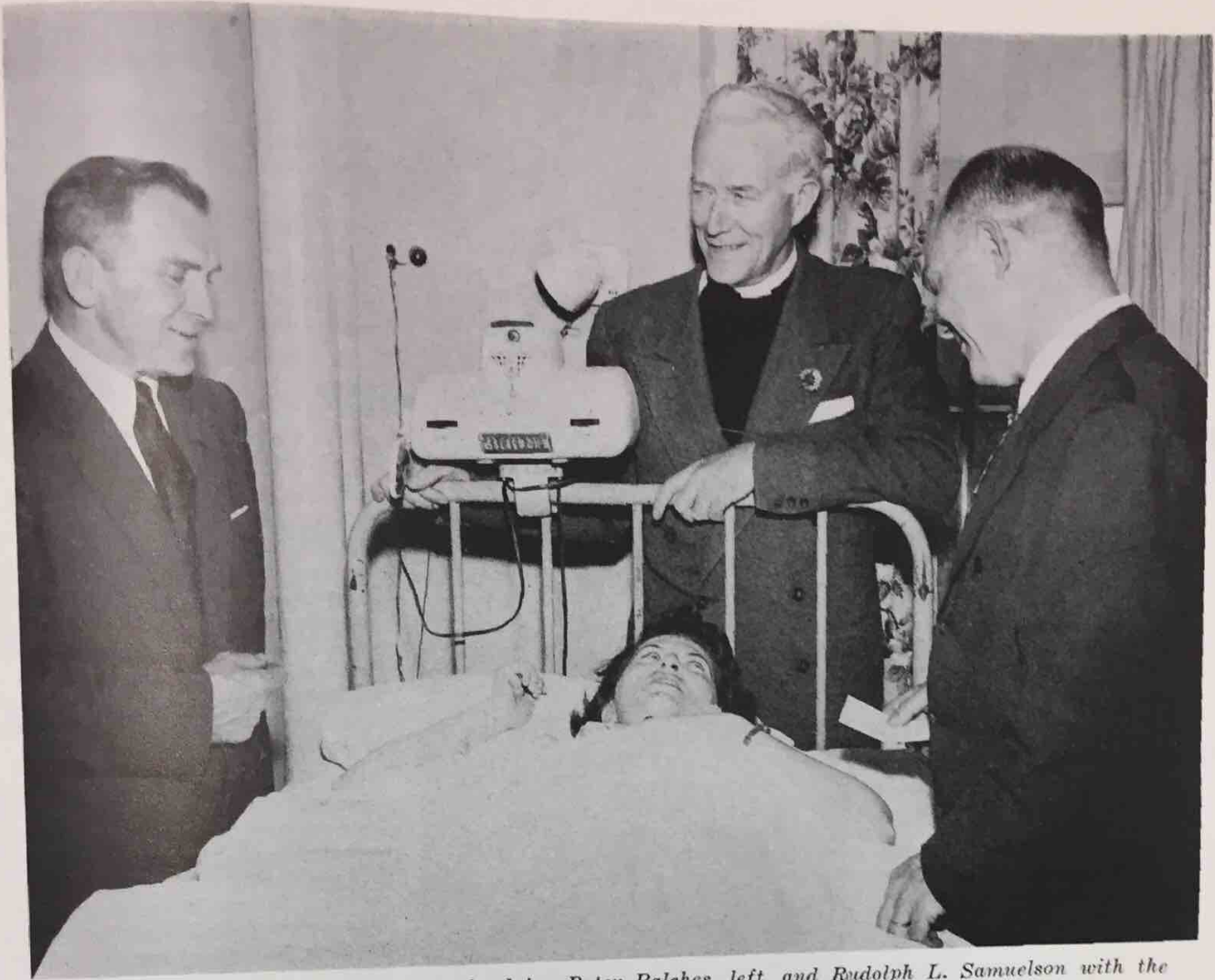
This Summer, schools of pastoral care will be held in many of the larger general and mental hospitals all over the country. Young ministers will receive six- and twelve-week courses in clinical pastoral training.

The Rev. James H. Burns, director of the Department of Social Relations and the Department of Pastoral Service, has made a splendid contribution in unifying and extending this type of training.

The Methodist Church was one of the first to realize the value of properly trained chaplains. The Boston University School of Theology and the Institute of Pastoral Care this Summer are sponsoring jointly a 12-weeks' course at the Boston State Hospital for twenty students or clergy.

Methodist chaplains sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches include: the Rev. L. R. Potter, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals; the Rev. Rudolph L. Samuelson, New England Deaconess Hospital; the Rev. Peter Palches, chaplain at the Barnstable County Hospital on Cape Cod, the Cape Cod Hospital at Hyannis and the Barnstable County House of Correction; the Rev. John A. Caswell, Northampton State Hospital; the Rev. George H. Parker, Jr., Wrentham State School; the Rev. Richard Hard-

ZIONS HERALD



*Chaplains Peter Palches, left, and Rudolph L. Samuelson with the Rev. James H. Burns, right, pause at the bedside of Miss Evelyn Mercer for a friendly chat.*

ing, North Reading Sanitarium; and the Rev. Kenneth Reed, Tewksbury State Hospital.

Recently this writer visited the beautiful New England Deaconess Hospital where he was able to meet and discuss the work of the chaplaincy with the Rev. Mr. Burns, the Rev. Mr. Samuelson and some of the other chaplains.

We paused for a few minutes for meditation and prayer in the new hospital chapel.

Erected along the starkly simple lines of the Norwegian house of worship of four and five centuries ago, the tiny structure stands out in sharp contrast to the tall hospital buildings among which it nestles.

Its roof, like those in Norway, has the same steep slant, planned to thwart the destructive weight of great snowfalls or of mountain avalanches.

The spire symbolizes the finger of Man pointing upward towards God. The beams of laminated Douglas fir which support the roof can neither decay nor burn. The doors and seats are of cypress, the wrought iron from Sweden.

August, 1957

Erected at a cost of \$126,000, the chapel is a gift of Arthur T. Dooley, an executive of the S. S. Pierce Co. He gave the beautiful stained glass window in memory of his wife, Alice Wyman Dooley.

The window is inscribed with words of comfort and hope from the 46th and 27th Psalms: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The window also symbolizes the 23rd Psalm.

The chapel is primarily a place of prayer and meditation for all faiths. An inscription reads: "Peace I leave with you, not as the world giveth. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The chapel stands as a symbol of the work of the chaplaincy with its message of peace, love and healing in a great Methodist institution devoted to the care of the sick.

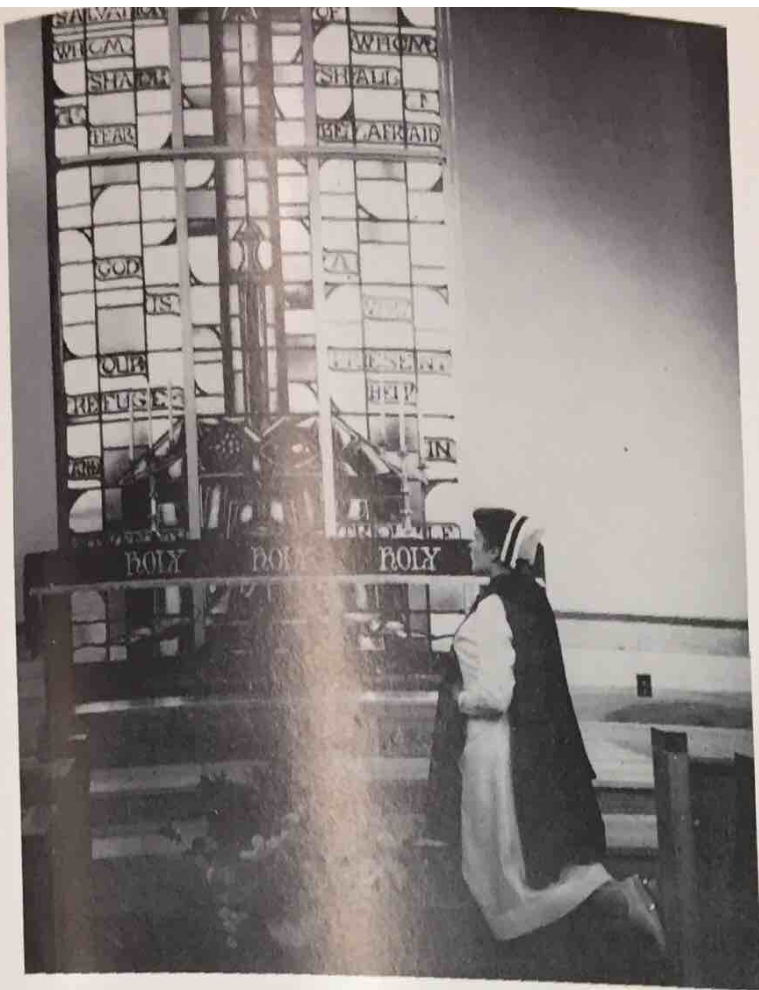
One of the patients we talked to during our recent visit was Miss Evelyn Mercer, Methodist missionary

from Malaya, home on leave, and now recovering from a minor operation.

Mr. Dooley passed the keys of the chapel to Bishop John Wesley Lord, president of the corporation, on June 28, 1956, and the chapel was formally opened to visitors and patients, staff members and employees of all faiths. The clergy of all faiths were invited to hold services and use the chapel facilities for private conferences.

Carved in a wooden plaque at the rear of the chapel is the story of a dream and the man who made it come true:

THIS CHAPEL  
WAS ERECTED BY THE  
NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL  
IN 1956 THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF  
ARTHUR T. DOOLEY  
WITH THE EARNEST HOPE AND EXPECTATION  
THAT THOSE WHO ENTER HERE  
WILL FIND PEACE AND COMFORT.



THERE IS STRENGTH IN PRAYER  
*for Medication and Peace*

The spiritual need of patients, their  
relatives and friends, and hospital per-  
sonnel is fulfilled by the Arthur T.  
Dooley Chapel.

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL