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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Warm Praise For Dr. Found

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I'M NOT writing this column about Dr. Eric Found because he received this week The Evening Patriot's "Islander of the Year plaque". I'm merely keeping a promise I made to a number of his patients almost a year ago, to tell you what a wonderful man he is, and to try to let you know how much they think of him.

I was getting an egg-eating story for Easter 1962, when John A. Steele told me first about the man who is doctor, confident, father, brother and friend to the men, women and children under his care as Sanatorium medical superintendent. I've had several letters since then urging me to "come out and talk to patients and write the story about Dr. Found."

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to get into one column the many sentiments they expressed, the impressions I received, and still leave space for a paragraph or two on the talk I had with my long-time friend whom I first met back at Prince of Wales College when both of us were students.

"I don't think we have the equal of this institution in North America. He's one of the very finest of men, no words of mine, nor of any patient could ever do him justice", I was told by Mr. Steele who said "you can go from one end of this building to the other and everyone would tell you the same thing. If ever a man was loved in any place, Dr. Found is loved."

Seeking the reason for the unusual warmth of feeling, I was told "In the first place because of his complete impartiality. Every patient will tell you the same thing. His kindness knows no limit."

Everyone Was Supremely Happy

RECALLING IT was only recently that it was known that Dr. Found had been selected for the Islander award, I asked how the news of the award had been received by the patients. Mr. Steele told me "I don't think there was as much joy anywhere else in the world. Everyone was supremely happy, just overjoyed."

I talked with others. I'll tell you about them too, but I feel Mr. Steele's comments are applicable to all. "We have the finest class of nurses here you could find anywhere. I've been here a year and I've never seen a frown on any of their faces. We never see a frown on any of the people who care for us...They're nurses, sisters and mothers in one.

"WE HAVE one of the best dieticians in the country, the food is really good." All of the people here are kind, he told me: the orderlies, the cooks, the waitresses, the other

girls. "I never saw one of them without a smile ... It's more like a home, like one big family. Every patient will tell you the same" I was told.

Arthur Peters was a shareholder and manager of the Eastern Fisheries plant at Souris, before a mobile X-ray negative showed he had a spot of trouble. I asked him about the night they heard of Dr. Found's award. "We were happy as dead ducks," he told me. "This place was like a big Christmas party next day. We just couldn't be any happier... We just couldn't go to sleep that night" the Souris businessman told me.

Joe Alcorn from Eldon - his father lived on the Peters Road near Montague - came to the San in 1959, was out briefly for a year. He has chronic bronchitis from gas in the First Great War.

"He Talks To You Like A Friend"

"THERE'S NOT another man like Dr. Found in Canada", he told me and when I asked why, he replied:

"The way he looks after everyone, not only the patients but the whole staff, I think the staff thinks as much of him as we do. He's a real friend, he comes and talks to you like a friend", Alcorn told me.

"If the people only knew how well we are looked after here, none of them would hesitate to be X-rayed, when the mobile unit comes around. The food here is like home cooking, and you get all you want," he added.

REGGIE KELLY who comes from Coleman has been in the San for 14 years. He's an expert in fixing watches and clocks, which helps to pass the time for him, and brings him in some revenue. People bring, and send their time pieces to him, I was told.

"How did you learn to do this tedious and precise work?" I asked this young man who is permanently handicapped physically in that he can never use his legs, and I found that Byron Burns, a Charlottetown jeweler, taught him how to do the work, and helped him get started. And this entitles Mr. Burns to our appreciation.

AND HERE, too, Dr. Found helped Reggie get started. "Wherever there's a chance to make life more pleasant for any of us, he does it." Mr. Kelly told me. "This is something I can do, most other handicrafts require that a person be up and around, he's a wonderful man," Reggie added with appreciation.

A keen sports fan, hockey is his favorite sport, the Montreal Canadiens his favorite team, and I gather that the Rocket was "the greatest" in his book.

Children Are Visited

Mr. Steele also took me to the Children's department where I found approximately 20 smiling boys and girls under the care of Miss Gertrude Arsenault. I chatted briefly with a group of older girls who had just had a meeting of Girl Guides with Lone Guide Commissioner, Mrs. Fred Osborne and found them understandably enthusiastic about the experience.

I was impressed particularly with the happy faces of these little ones who are necessarily confined in an institution where no youngster should ever have to go, for no place is like home to a youngster.

And that brings me to the part I know my long-time friend would want me to emphasize. I saw an eight-month old baby lying peacefully asleep on its cot. But it has TB which was contracted from its mother, who is also a patient.

THIS BABY is the youngest patient they have ever had. But they have had a man of 94 only last year, my friend John Steele is 77. "We have 12 geriatrics here (people 70 or over). We used to stop with grandpa and grandma, but we don't now". Dr. Found told me.

Older people are notoriously careless, my friend explained. They'll take half an apple and give the other half to the child. They mean to be kind of course, but instead it adds up to dangerous and damaging carelessness.

I saw many other things at the San, including the handicrafts where several young ladies were working on various crafts. I saw a loom that's patterned almost exactly on the type our grandmothers used - there are variations but the principle is the same.

Constant Effort Against TB

I'M RUNNING short of space and I have not been able to talk about many of the things I had hoped might be helpful in this constant war against Tuberculosis that is being fought by Dr. Found, his excellent staff, and many others elsewhere.

The medical superintendent and director of tuberculosis control in the province knows what his patients are experiencing. He had two years experience as a patient. I think, perhaps, that helps to make him the sort of man he is, though I can't see that he has changed much from the friend, kindly, serious minded student I knew at P. W. C.

I HOPE I have not embarrassed my old friend by the references here. But I had no choice. Those people, and others, have been after me for almost a year now, urging me to do a column on you, Eric. Most of them were kind enough to ask me back for another visit. And I couldn't face them next time, unless I had told readers what they told me about the doctor and staff of whom they are so proud, and whom they appreciate so deeply.

But I do want to come back in a future column and tell you just a few of the things I didn't get in here, for I think they might be helpful. I may add a personal experience with TB that may help to build up the morale of some people who are now quietly fighting their way back to health.