



[Looking Back with Betty Slowe](#)

LOOKING BACK: Admittance to Bryce Hospital

Monday, [July 22, 2013](#) at 1:42 by [betty.slowe](#)

The following leaflet was posted at www.rootsweb.ancestry after it was found by Lygia D. Cutts as she searched through documents at the courthouse in Brewton (Escambia County), Alabama.

Bryce Hospital was in the forefront of a movement for more ethical and humane treatment of the mentally ill, thanks to its first superintendent, Dr. Peter Bryce, and those that followed him. These instructions reflect that philosophy, though there is no date on the leaflet. It appears that these instructions applied, not only to Bryce Hospital, but Mt. Vernon Hospital (Searcy Hospital), as well.

Instructions On Bringing A Patient To The Hospital

No patient can be received without a legal certificate from the Probate Judge.

Let the patient whom you bring, distinctly know where he (or she) is going. A patient seldom forgets being deceived in that particular; and it affects many injuriously, when they hold it as a grievance afterwards.

The Probate Judge, if he sees proper, can deputize any relative to accompany a lady patient, if possible. In some cases, the presence and control of a stranger – an officer of the law – acts injuriously.

Furnish the patient with a sufficiency of comfortable clothing. With many, to wear good clothing of their own, tends to their self-respect and satisfaction – and to receive articles of clothing, as well as other remembrances from home, is a matter of pleasure. Lists of clothing needed will be sent from time to time during the year to the family.

All persons are supposed by law, to be able to pay for their board and attention at the Hospital. The Probate Judge of the County where the patient resides determines whether they are not able to pay and issues certificates accordingly. The regular charges are SIXTY DOLLARS A QUARTER (Sixty is crossed through and 75 is written above it) in advance, which covers board and all Hospital expenses.

The patients are not allowed to have articles of value, such as jewelry, money, watches, ect., on the wards, nor articles of danger, such as knives, matches, scissors, ect. They ought not bring such things with them.

The answers to interrogatories on an accompanying sheet, relating to family and personal history, are very important. They ought to be made fully and honestly, giving as much information as possible. They are of great value to the physicians in making a correct opinion of the patient.

The Bryce Hospital is three miles from the depots in Tuscaloosa. The street cars meet all day trains; automaobiles and hacks meet them day and night. Contract with the driver before entering his conveyance. The Mt.Vernon Hospital is one-fourth of a mile from the depot.

The trip, if possible, ought to be arranged so as to reach the Hospital DURING THE DAY. There is an extra charge for a vehicle at night, which often causes annoyance and imposition; besides, the patient generally comes more willingly and in better shape during the day and necessary routine of receiving and assigning him is more conveniently and satisfactorily done.