

Hospitals had numerous reasons for denying admission to alcoholics. One prime consideration was habitual relapse. Doctors knew little about treating or diagnosing alcoholic patients. They soon discovered that they sought hospital care only as a last resort, when they felt too sick to drink. On August 16th Dr Bob approached Sister Ignatia with an earnest plea for a bed. knowing she was very sympathetic to alcoholics. They had a long visit but what amazed the Sister was the fact that the doctor embraced a spiritual approach to restore the health of the alcoholics.. He spoke of the need for unconditional surrender to a powerful life force, a God of their own choosing. Sister Ignatia remembered how Sister Isabel secretly admitted alcoholic priests to private rooms. She had been drying priests out and hiding them from their bishops for many years. Coupled with this knowledge and Dr Bob's AA steps, Sister Ignatia envisioned a treatment program that could reach all alcoholics. Once she saw alcoholics recovering under the AA program, she prepared to make alcoholism treatment an official service of the hospital.

