

Negro Physicians
(Mizell)

July 31, 1941

My dear Hastie: I am writing you about Von D. Mizell, who is now at Camp Livingston. I am well acquainted with his situation at Fort Lauderdale and have today received a letter from him asking me to intercede for his return to his hospital. He says that the citizens of Fort Lauderdale have already petitioned the Surgeon General for his release. He adds that his Colonel told him on July 29, the date of his letter, that if he can prove that he is needed and wanted in Fort Lauderdale he would be relieved from active duty and permitted to go home.

Mizell is an astonishing combination of contradictions. I have already given you a brief outline of some of the problems he had during his training period. I believe that he has been a bit of a problem at Camp Livingston too. In spite of these difficulties, he undoubtedly has done a good job in building and administering the Provident Hospital at Fort Lauderdale. There was no hospital there before he came. He struggled along with a little cottage of about three rooms, and since then has built a tile and stucco addition until he now has a little hospital of about twenty-five beds - which is adequate for that community and the only center for medical care for Negroes within a hundred miles. If, as he says, the place has been closed up because of his absence, then I would conclude that he is really needed. Each time I have seen the hospital during the past two winters it has been full. If you give the word I will write his Colonel a favorable letter.

Sincerely yours,
M. O. BOUSFIELD

MOB:RH

M. O. Bousfield, M. D.

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