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GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1st Floor, 2-4 Willis Street, Wellington,
New Zealand

15th September 1975.

Copy of a letter sent by Ian MacEwan to G.S.O. New York.

Queen St., Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand. 3 Jan 1946.

Alcoholics Anonymous, New York City.

Dear Sirs, ~~+~~ I have been an alcoholic for the past 10 years and all efforts to date have failed to cure the habit, which has now been reduced to the consumption of beer only during regular breakouts. I went to England in 1938 and was treated by injection at the Institute of Endocrinology, and had many interviews with a neurologist without producing any permanent results. On my return to this country I was committed to an enebriates home for 12 months. The routine here was light outdoor exercise and really only amounted to being unable to obtain liquor. A few months ~~after~~ after leaving this place I was back in the same habits once more. I have been most interested in news of your organisation and also in the work of Edward McGoldrick, of the Bureau of Alcoholic Therapy, N.Y. City. I tried hard to arrange to go to the latter place and while I was encouraged by official sources here advice finally came through the kind help of the U.S.A. Consular Service that at the present time this could not be arranged as the Bureau is a part of the New York Welfare Dept. and only dealt with certain cases through the N.Y. Courts. I submitted at the time as complete a case history as I was able to write regarding myself. The Bureau would be able to let you see this if you are able to consider the position. A month ago, after consultation with the Medical Superintendent, I committed myself to a Mental Home for a period of up to six months to give myself a chance to once more get on with the fight. My health is good, I have never had an operation or any illness involving hospitalisation. My recovery to normal on this occasion was speedy, as is usual, and after a day and a half in bed I was free to roam around the grounds and take part in general activities.--I feel that in every way this was a good move. I feel that I will be successful in my next battle with alcohol. If I can prove this I am prepared to devote the rest of my time to the helping of my less fortunate fellows. I believe that none in this country has the time or the knowledge to specialise in this matter, In this country you must not admit that you are beaten ~~on~~ for then there is nothing to do but lock you up. I notice that it is a main point of your organisation that a man must admit that this is the case before you will take him on. I am also encouraged by the fact that Edward McGoldrick is neither a trained Doctor or Psychologist. I am 42, I have been an employer and an employee and have never had any difficulty in contacting executives or the lowest worker and obtaining their confidence in my sober state. I have travelled a lot and have a broad outlook on life. I feel I have many gifts that fit me for this work. I have also several friends in the medical world and the ministry who still believe in my ability to retrieve the position and attach great importance to my getting into a job that has my full interest, I have a small income and that side of the matter is not important.--I should be most grateful if you could consider the position and advise me. In any case please send any available details of your organisation and the way it works. With kind regards and the best wishes for your continued success.

(End of Letter) letter)

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS1st Floor, 2-4 Willis Street, Wellington,
New Zealand

15 th September 1975

Copy of a letter sent to Ian by G.S.O. New York.

March 2, 1946.

Ian A. MacEwan,
Queen Street,
Richmond, Nelson,
New Zealand.

Dear Mr. MacEwan,

Thank you so much for your letter of January 3rd which arrived in our office yesterday. We have no position open in A.A. either in this country or any other. All our work is avocational except in this small National Headquarters where we are fully staffed. Our 782 groups throughout the world are run by the members themselves. Mr. McGoldrick on the other hand is connected with the New York City Department of Health and his organisation is not officially connected with ours. I am enclosing a reprint of an article that appeared about us ~~xxx~~ several years ago in the Saturday Evening Post. Under separate cover I am sending you other literature which will give you a clear idea of A.A. and how it works. This letter will go air mail but the other package by slow mail.

If you are sincerely interested in finding a solution to your problem, I see no reason why you cannot practice A.A. even as faraway as New Zealand. We have been successful in helping people in Honolulu and Australia, in fact we have two A.A. Groups in Australia now. This was built up simply through a few alcoholics who recovered themselves through A.A. and then helped others.

We will be glad to help you in any way we can if you care to write me further.

Sincerely,

Margaret R. Burgey,
Secretary.

MRB:ge

(From the copy this letter is copied from it is difficult to be certain that the number of groups mention is in fact 782, however it does seem so.)