

145 2880

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Girling
Corres.
Vautrin, Wilhelmina
1940 Sep-Dec

1
4
5
2
8
8
0

10 18

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

September 3, 1940

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Miss Rebecca Griest,
208 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dear Miss Griest:

This letter is written personally for Miss Vautrin who asked both Miss Eberle and me to see that you receive word from her. She wants you to know how deeply she appreciates your invitation and all that you have done and sent her love to you. It worries her, of course, that all of the friends are doing so much and she is unable to write to them.

The doctors seem to think that she is into the same old trends as she was when she left the hospital and that they will need this two weeks of further treatment in order to help her to advance so that she will again be able to go out into a home probably there near Iowa City and live quietly.

We investigated one such home that they recommended and found it to be a three-acre lovely spot supervised and owned by a practical nurse who takes convalescents and brings them around to a normal life again, whether it be physical or mental ailments. Dr. Miller said that if it seemed wise later on, they would make some such arrangements with our approval.

They told me to send her mail on into this hospital and they would give all to her that seemed wise, depending upon her condition at the time.

P. S. Mr. Yocum was ready to wire or write you when he found I was writing to you for Miss FB:T38:d

Vautrin so considered that sufficient this time. He just received your air special.

Very sincerely yours,

*Shamie M. Bennett*Secretarial Assistant,
Division of Foreign Missions.

COPY

Secor, Illinois 2.
September 1, 1940

My dear Mrs. Ross:

The day has come and gone which was to have been the day for the "Minnie Vautrin Homecoming" and no one, more than I, was more sorry and disappointed because it could not be.

Everyone would keep asking how Minnie was and I would say that she was a very sick person. Finally, when I just had to tell them that she wouldn't be here they said that they didn't want to have anything until she could be here. So I called a meeting of the executive board and they decided to postpone it until such time as she could be present.

I thought perhaps they might go ahead and have something at least and then have the real "homecoming" when she did get here but folks decided otherwise.

We had things ready for a final going over and ready to begin our big advertising and ask for our singers, speakers etc. Our town clubs were to furnish "eats" and they had their plans all made. All the floats were planned and I was to have given talks at the Illinois State Normal at Normal and University of Illinois and to have a write-up in the Alumni Quarterly etc., etc.

Many a day I spent going over the county getting folks interested and I sent many a letter that no one knew anything about. Also as a surprise to Minnie and all but those involved I had planned for her graduation class to be with her. All are not far from here except one. She lives in California and was planning on coming. Also, this is still a secret for when and if Minnie does get all right and can be here, I still want to do this. One of the big auto manufacturers was going to give a car to Minnie that day and a typewriter Company was to give her a typewriter and several other such things would have taken place. Kindly don't tell any one for my plans hold good still and I want it to be a complete surprise to everyone.

Also, it did me so much good to see how everyone cooperated and the things that were done. Folks who hadn't spoken to each other for years worked together side by side and were really happy doing so.

We have a little park close to our depot and the weeds were high as my head. I went one Friday afternoon and asked each man in this town, personally, if he would go that night and help clean the park. At six o'clock, every man who was able was there. I was so happy about it all that I almost felt as if I would burst!

When twilight came and all gathered in groups to talk I went over and right away the men said, "What next?", and I asked, "Don't you see and know what should be done?" They said I was the "boss", now to show my authority and then laughed.

So on the following Monday after an all day County survey, on Tuesday I had a boy go on his bicycle to give little invitations to all the girls from fourteen to seventeen to my house for the afternoon. They were to bring their pens. In the meantime I had gotten the paper cutter from the school and cut paper the size for invitations enough for every man and woman in town.

First they folded the papers, then I gave them a copy of what I wanted written on the invitation to the men. They worked like little bees. When they had finished

SEP 1 1940

that, I had seals of pansies, petunias, daisies, violets, etc. and had them put the seals on the invitations for the women.

They had a good time and said when I wanted them for anything else to tell them.

On Wednesday, I invited the young married women and older girls to come and bring their pens. They addressed all the invitations and decorated the invitations to the men with strips of red, white and blue.

The invitations to the men were: asking that they go to the city park on the following Friday with rake, scythe, etc. to help clean it. It was awful! (the park, I mean).

The invitations to the ladies were to bring flowers to be transplanted in our little park by the depot and to bring someone to help make the flower beds. Some boys delivered the men's invitations and the girls delivered the women's invitations.

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes! There was every one at each time and place and such a nice time as they had doing it! The same question again, "Now what do we do next?" All they needed was a leader!

The section foreman came to the door one day, after I had visited the head of the railroad in Peoria, and said, "I have an order in my pocket to do whatever you tell me to do to help."

So it went, and I know that I was never happier in my life! We even got the town council to oil the streets and the members said, "Mae, I guess we will put you in for mayor. This town hasn't ever done things for anyone like they have for you. All you have to do is just tell them and they never question it in any way." I told them I appreciated it but it was all for a good cause.

Folks are still talking and can't understand how it ever happened, but all I care is that it did and I am happy about it all.

The newspapers were so good, too, every time anything was published about the Homecoming, they would send a copy. I kept a scrap book of all of it and when the announcements were made in the papers I received letters from everywhere as I had before: first asking for a program, then to tell what I could about Minnie.

After the decision for postponement the secretary went on a fishing trip up into Minnesota and I had all the letters to answer. Most of them had stamped, self-addressed envelopes and I was very happy to answer all letters.

As late as Sunday last, a lady came to the door and asked why, etc?

Dr. Wood wrote such nice letters to me about Minnie but I haven't ever told anyone her real illness - that is all of it.

Every day someone asks if I have heard any more about Minnie and all are very much concerned.

I am hoping that Minnie will be able to be here next spring or summer and that then the plans can be carried out. Poor soul! One so brave and courageous, it is too bad that it had to turn out as it has. However, we are all hoping and praying for her.

SEP 1 1940

-3-

Do forgive me for not writing sooner and not writing often but I knew Frances and Mrs. Pearson were writing and really I ate, dreamed, slept the planning until, when it was over, I went to bed. I didn't realize how hard I had worked.

It would have been a beautiful day could we have had it as the sun shone beautifully and it was just right, not too hot or too cold.

Do so hope that you have had a nice summer and are well.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Leona Mae Frye

1022

(17)

Marfa, Texas
Sept. 4, 1940

Dearest Rebecca -

Your newsy letter of August 30th is so appreciated - but the word about Minnie distresses me so! I do wonder if they have taken her back to Iowa. I am leaving here tomorrow for Indianapolis to a Mission Conference and shall find out then. I wonder if bringing her out here to the West - out on a ranch - would help any? We shouldn't expect to have undone in a few months what was years in the 'doing' - but we are all so anxious for her recovery - and every set-back distresses me so - although I know it is the normal course of the disease.

My, you folk are having a time getting Miss Sutherland settled back in China. I do not understand either why Chengtu won't consent on that arrangement - but each situation is so serious from the point of those nearest it. It will all work out, I'm sure.

Does Minnie write to you? I've had only three letters from her during these two months I've been away from her - and nothing since she left the hospital. Because I had not heard - I felt something might be amiss! I wrote her as soon as I received Mr. Paul's telegram telling me where she was - oh, you'll never know what a feeling came over me to know she was out - and better Guess it was too good to be true.

My personal problems do not loom large any longer - that is, Bunny-ward. He is now in Victoria with his son and they sail in October for Shanghai. Several couples have offered to take little John, but Bunny wants to take him back with him if at all possible. I advise against it - but that is an old-maid's version. Last week I received a letter from my British Naval friend - the first in months and months. He is commander on a Destroyer - and went through that Bunkirk affair - coming through without a scratch. That letter has meant so much to me - and I pray that others may follow! He was to have been here on a visit about this time We hope it will be possible next year!

[27]

SEP 4 1940

What sorrow you have experienced in the loss of your brother - My heart is full of sympathy and I trust that you and the members of his family find peace and consolation as time passes.

Just at present my brother with his charming young wife and their 13-month old son are visiting us - and we do enjoy having them. The little fellow is just learning to walk alone - and what excitement. Tomorrow we all leave - Mother and Dad driving them back to East Texas- and I leave by train for Indianapolis.

If you want to get in touch with me about Minnie - write c/o our Mission address in Indianapolis.

Thanking you again for your long letter - and with all good wishes - and happy memories of our week together, I am

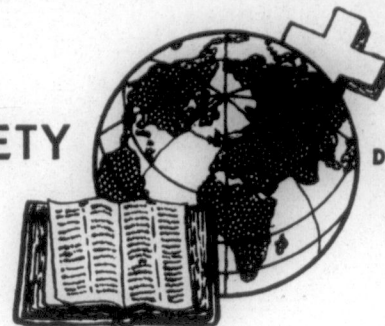
Sincerely yours,

Katherine Schutze

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

September 5, 1940

Miss Rebecca W. Griest,
208 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

My dear Miss Griest:

I am enclosing a statement which Miss Bennett and I very hurriedly threw together a little while ago for the purpose of giving the intimate friends of Miss Vautrin a bit of information as to her present condition. The doctors assured us that we did the proper thing in having her return to the hospital for a season. Just how long it is going to be necessary to keep her there, we do not know.

I am not sure that we ever gave to you an explanation as to why Miss Vautrin did not plan to go on East immediately following the ten days she spent at Spring Mill Inn. She did not want to go. Nothing that we said about it had any tendency to make it a bit attractive to her. Just why she rebelled against it, I suppose that neither she nor we will ever exactly know, but the fact remains that she just did not want to do it. The suggestion made by Dr. Paul that she go to Chicago for a short time to visit there with his daughter, whom Minnie knew real well and the other suggestion that she run down to Louisville, Kentucky to spend a bit of time with Miss Miller, whom she also knew intimately, were for the purpose of getting her to make a start away from Spring Mill and toward the East.

We are keeping in touch with her through the doctor and will keep you informed of any developments. Assuring you that we appreciate your interest in and love for Miss Vautrin and with kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

CMY:741:d

Om forum.

September 5, 1940

TO SOME INTIMATE FRIENDS OF MINNIE VAUTRIN:

Following several conversations with Minnie Vautrin at Spring Mill Inn, near Mitchell, Indiana, we went to Mitchell the evening of August 28 and brought her to Indianapolis. Miss Edith Eberle of our office, formerly of the Philippines, took her to Mrs. Dean's apartment where they stayed until August 31. During this period we had repeated conferences with her. As a result we were convinced that she had made no progress whatsoever since leaving the Hospital and were fearful that she had even lost ground. She refused to follow the program that had been worked out for her involving the trip to New Hampshire. She wanted to go to her brother's in Michigan.

We were finally convinced that the only thing to do was to consult again with her physicians in Iowa City. We talked with Dr. Ruilmann, who is in charge of admissions, by long distance phone and discovered that Dr. Woods was spending the night in Indianapolis en route East. We therefore talked with him also and both these physicians agreed that Miss Vautrin should return to the hospital for further treatment.

Saturday morning Miss Bennett, whom Minnie trusted implicitly, started with her to Iowa City. Minnie insisted she would not go, all the time however preparing to make the journey. Miss Bennett had some trouble with her along the way. The nearer they go to Iowa City, the more Minnie insisted that she did not want to return. She repeated time without number that the doctors would not receive her back into the hospital that she had had a dishonorable discharge from the hospital and that there was no hope for her anyway. She insisted that she knew she had softening of the brain and could not be cured.

Sunday morning Miss Bennett registered her in the hospital, called on her again that evening, talked to the doctors before leaving and reports to us that Minnie has consented to accept the further treatment in the hospital and to cooperate with the doctors, nurses and her friends in doing her part, although she does not think they know; or, else are not stating just how bad she is. She asked that the personal friends, who helped her in Iowa City before, not ask to take her for rides and come to see her but about twice a week, so there would be no interference with hospital routine and thus give the treatment a fair chance to prove itself. Doctor Miller, her personal doctor and assistant director of the Hospital, said that he would keep in close touch with us and if it seemed best after a period of stay in the hospital for her to go to a home there near Iowa City, they would arrange for it. In such an arrangement, the psychopathic doctors can keep in touch with her.

Miss Schutze, during her stay with Miss Vautrin, made many friends in the church there and the minister and members of the congregation stand ready to help under the doctors' advice. Dr. Miller said there were three families, particularly, who had been fine to cooperate before. He has one of them listed on the record of Miss

SEP 5 1940

Vautrin with the telephone number so that if it seems best to have some personal interest taken in her as well as professional he will call. It was to this home that Miss Bennett and Miss Vautrin went Saturday night. The daughter, whom Miss Vautrin has learned to love, met them at the train. She is on the staff of the University and has contacts that others would not have. Miss Vautrin has asked her to call on Wednesday and Friday evening and has entrusted to her the money she has in Iowa City. She told Miss Bennett that she would have a number of things in mind, such as yarn for the baby blanket she is weaving, ready to ask that she purchase and bring to her. She also asked that a book be brought to her. It is possible that she will go shopping herself when she can do so without as much worry as it seems to be to her now to decide just what she wishes to buy.

Minnie resented Mr. Paul's and our report that when she left the hospital formerly, she had recovered. Such statements in letters to her start her along wrong lines. In writing her, therefore, do not mention her condition or China and the war, but merely write a friendly, chatty, letter about ordinary things. The Hospital told Miss Bennett to send her mail on to the office there and Dr. Miller would give to her such as seemed best. Her address is The Psychopathic Hospital, The State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Minnie said as Miss Bennett was leaving, the same request she had written and left with Miss Eberge, "If you write to my friends or see them, ask them to pray earnestly for me."

1027

23 Wayland Ave.,
Oak Bluffs, Mass.,
Sept. 6th, 1940.

Miss R.W. Greist,
208 Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Miss Greist:

I have certainly not been prompt in acknowledging your letters about Minnie. We were away for a week with the family at the World's Fair and after our return I started off again for a Conference of workers among students of the Episcopal Church and just returned last night.

Your letter of August 31st telling about Minnie's slipping back to where she was before was certainly disturbing but I believe with you that she is going to pull through and be herself again some day. This relapse will show us that the case is not so easy as we had thought.

Our future is not yet settled but there is a possibility that I shall go as assistant to the rector of the old Episcopal Church ^(St. Johns) in Washington, D.C. as the newly elected rector there has asked me to go with him. It is situated quite near the White House. There is a slight possibility of our going to New Haven and I have been asked to fill in for a year at Newtonville

Mass. in the absence of the rector who has been called out with his National Guard Regiment. Either of these latter places would be better for Minnie, I think, if she were to come to us, and help in any light way that might be a good thing for her to do. Faith and I would give her a warm welcome into our home if we succeed in getting a home where we could take her. It's possible that getting into something entirely different and making no investigations with the view of applying new ideas to her work at Ginling would be a healthier thing for her just now. I mean to get her mind for the time being completely away from Ginling. But as we do not know where we shall be or in what kind of a house we shall be in we cannot make a definite offer yet.

Thank you for all the trouble you have been to keep me informed.

I am a delegate from the Shanghai Diocese to our General Convention meeting in Kansas City in October and do not know whether I shall be near enough to Minnie to go and see her or whether the authorities there would want me to go.

^{at the hospital}
Sincerely yours,

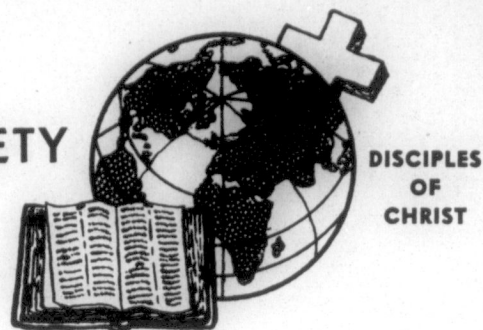
John H. Unger

P.S. I believe you owe apologies for mistakes in typing, but the above should absolve you from any apologies in the future!

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

September 6, 1940.

Miss Margaret E. Hodge,
Ginling College,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

My dear Miss Hodge:

Your good letter of September 2 came to me a day or so ago. I am enclosing a statement which Miss Bennett and I threw together rather hastily yesterday in order that Minnie's intimate friends might know the developments over the past week. Minnie is back in Iowa City now in the hands of Dr. Woods, or rather his associates since Dr. Woods is on his vacation, and we are hoping that her return to the hospital will lead her to complete recovery.

We were all greatly disappointed just as you were that Miss Vautrin did not want to go to New Hampshire. She rebelled against it rather violently and our proposal to have her go to Chicago for a short time or to Louisville, Kentucky (in either case she would have been with intimate friends), was intended as a step toward getting her to New Hampshire. Of course, none of us know why she did not want to go East and I suspect that later on she herself will not know, but she did not want to go and since we had to take things into our hands and do something, it was our judgment and the doctor's judgment too, that we should take her back to Iowa City for a period.

Of course, we are praying trustfully that her return to the hospital will eventuate in complete recovery. We will keep you folk informed as to developments. We have not heard from the doctors since Miss Bennett's return to Indianapolis Tuesday morning.

Cordially yours,

C. M. Yocum
C. M. Y.

CMY:K-5:f
Encl.

COPY

Vautrin.

Mr. Yocum

Rec'd. Lancaster. 2/03/40

September 9, 1940

Mr. C. M. Yocum,
Executive Secretary,
222 Downey Avenue,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Re: Miss Minnie Vautrin

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Miss Vautrin has been readmitted to the hospital and seems to have again accommodated herself to our life here. I was sorry to find that she seems to have slipped back to her former condition, and is again showing extreme indecision and fear of the future. There has been little change in her condition since admission, but we hope that she will show some improvement. We shall be glad to keep you informed of any change that is made.

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. R. Miller, M. D.

W. R. Miller, M. D.
Acting Director

WRM:MJ

1030

Pleasantville, Pa.
Sept. 12, 1940

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

Your letters of Aug. 28th and of Sept. 3rd were forwarded to me on an automobile trip, which has now brought me to Janet's home.

While I was passing through Indianapolis, a telephone call reached me asking advice as to the next step for Miss Vautrin. As you now know, she was to be returned to Iowa City.

We terminated special shock treatment for her earlier than we usually do because of her marked mental improvement, but chiefly because of muscular pain in her back caused by the stormy spasms that she developed. I feared damage to bones and muscles.

Dr. Miller has not yet reported her progress to me. I hope it has been possible to venture to give her another series of the treatments.

The matter of her winning good feeling and cooperation from Mrs. Cushman will, of course, have to remain in the lap of the gods. Miss Vautrin will probably never follow standard patterns of behavior. Her own, however, will probably prove most suitable for her. She will always be genuine, and her record will recommend her methods.

Cordial regards go with this.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew H. Woods.

Eaton, Indiana
Sept. 14, 1940

Dearest Rebecca -

Spending weekend with Hartford
classmate here in Eaton, but will return
to Indianapolis on Monday.

[Yesterday in conference it was
decided that Mrs. Dean - Vice-Pres. of
U.C.M. & I go to Iowa City on
Thursday to visit Minnie. It seems
her first two weeks are up Sunday^{15th} -
Mr. Woods has been away - but
will return Monday.

It does distress me to know
she was taken back, but from
conversations with those who
were with her - I understand
why it was necessary.]

If you want to get in
touch with me - better write
G. Lois Cowgill, 230 N. Dubuque,
Iowa City.

Lovingly yours,

Katherine

THE PSYCHOPATHIC HOSPITAL
The State University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

September 23, 1940

Office of the Director

Mr. C. M. Yocum
Executive Secretary
Missions Building
Indianapolis, Indiana

Re: Miss Minnie Vautrin

Dear Mr. Yocum:

Miss Schutze has probably already reported to you concerning our decision to allow Miss Vautrin to accompany Miss Schutze to Texas. I think we must regard this as an experiment, realizing that there is no way of knowing exactly what will bring the greatest benefit. We were reluctant to use any more metrazol treatments here, because of the severity of the treatment. There are many things in the plan proposed by Miss Schutze that would seem to make it an ideal one for the natural processes of recovery to work at their greatest advantage. As you may know, Miss Vautrin's illness is the kind that usually recovers in time. The more favorable the circumstances the quicker the recovery seems to take place. We will hope that this valuable woman may be soon restored to an active life.

We are sending direct to her in care of Miss Schutze her valuables which were locked in the safe and were not available when she left. The refund of the payment for her treatment here will be returned to your office as was done previously.

Yours very truly,

(signed) W. R. Miller, M. D.
Acting Director

WRM:FS

Marfa, Texas
Sept. 27, 1940

Waus 07
Hage

27
Macmillan
you
maye

My dear Rebecca -

Minnie has just received your birthday message and it would have done your heart good to have seen the smile and heard the happy sigh that was forthcoming from her.

[We arrived in Marfa yesterday afternoon about four - an almost 48-hour trip from Indianapolis. Mother and Dad met us in Pecos, Texas and we drove the 100 miles south in our car. It was a beautiful drive - and a revealing one to Minnie who has never seen this country before.]

It all happened so quickly. After I left Minnie the end of June I was quite out of touch with her condition, for she wrote only twice, but I did have reports from Mr. Paul the two times he was in Iowa City. The first time he went after I left - his report was not too encouraging - and then came the telegram telling of her release. But you know that story about as well as I. Why didn't she join you for that trip in N.H? Well, I've asked her - several times - and each time the answer has been, "Because I was afraid I was going crazy and didn't want to go-off on the trip". [She is obsessed with the idea that she has lost her mind - and that idea is as fixed in her thinking as were those that were wearing on her when you saw her.]

[Mrs. Doan, Miss Trout and I drove to Iowa City to visit Minnie and to see what reports the doctors were making. We saw Dr. Miller first - and he told us that since her return she had made no progress - that she seemed determined she was losing her mind. He suggested we visit her - take her out shopping and observe her reactions and report to him. Before we left Indianapolis we had had a conference in which I had introduced the idea of my bringing Minnie out here to West Texas, but it was thought that perhaps the doctors might not agree. In the first conference I mentioned that possibility to Dr. Miller - but he made no definite response.]

We took Minnie shopping that Saturday (we had arrived on Friday a.m.) and had lunch together then a short drive. In some decisions she was quick - in others, as slow as she was when we first got to Iowa City. I felt both encouraged and discouraged. We had another appointment with Dr. Miller on Sunday a.m. - after a short visit with Minnie. By the way - almost the first thing she said after greeting us was, "I'm losing my mind and they will send me to the insane asylum soon"..... "they don't want me here - and are just keeping me to show-up Missions" ...

In that Sunday a.m. conference we reported how we had found her on Saturday and her responses. Then Dr. Miller told us that he had been conferring with others on the staff (Dr. Woods is still on his vacation and we did not see him) and that the idea of my bringing her to West Texas was a very hopeful plan - and he was ready to release her that afternoon. We had told him that we had to start

1034

SEP 27 1940

(21)

back Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Doan and I were certain she would not be released until Dr. Woods had returned - and were quite surprised to hear that the plan met with Dr. Miller's approval - We left him at 11:30 a.m. - and picked Minnie up at 2:00 P.M. - rather dumbfounded was she by the sudden release from the hospital. Of course, her present reaction is that they were tired of her - that she was getting worse and they needed the bed for Iowa patients - that her mind is gone - and that there is no sense in my bringing her home to worry my family.....

We drove back to Indianapolis - and left there on Tuesday afternoon. Dr. Miller said she should try to live as a normal person - so we started by letting her take charge of the finances of the trip. We took a section on the train - and I slept in the upper. There were some hard hours enroute - and the closer we got to our destination - the more difficult it became, but Mother and Dad met us with open arms - and they are a good tonic for both of us.]

Rebecca you asked about my own plans for going to school. [I was planning to enter some school after New Year - and was pretty much dated up for October in deputation - and looked forward to it with fear and trembling. Now this new plan means I'm to be at home for several months - or longer, for this process we are in is going to be a very slow one - but one that will end in success, - and being at home is about the best thing I know of! We are going to accept some invitations to spend days on various ranches - after there is adjustment made to this 'freedom plan' - then there are trips into Mexico, Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico - and goodness only knows what else in store for the two of us - in which I dare say I'll get as much rest and benefit as will our dear Minnie.] Rebecca - [I can't stress enough how glad I am for this chance to have this fall and winter at home - to be with my beloved Mother and Dad - to spend evenings at home - No, it isn't all going to be easy sailing - but we are going to pull Minnie out of this unreal state she has worried herself into. She has lost all confidence in the hospital - because she didn't get well there - would that she could see this is just part of that hospital plan - but she insists they got tired of her and that no other patient ever stayed that long.

She asks over and over again - "Did Dr. Miller really say I should live like a normal being?" - and when I say "Yes" - "Well, he doesn't understand".....

This is early afternoon - and I feel very encouraged over responses thus far. I have an aunt who has a huge garden and we spent much time there. Tomorrow we get started working in Mother's flower garden - making curtains for the living-room and what-have-you.]

You were so good to call last evening - and I am so sorry I was only half-awake. [Please assure all who inquire that things are going as well as can be expected - that what strain there might be on me will be counteracted in the relaxation of being at home with my much beloved parents - who

1035

SFP 27 1940

(3)

are making Minnie feel as though she were a daughter here.
I marvel at the way they have absorbed us already.]

Shall try to keep you posted each week - but may
slip up occasionally. If I ever feel that this is getting
the better of me - you may rest assured I'll call for help.

Again thanks for that call - and Minnie, I hope ,
will soon write to you. She has a letter written to you -
envelope stamped and addressed - in which she thanks you for
the coat and all your kindnesses, but assures you that her
mind is gone! I doubt that she will send it now -

Much love - and I covet
your prayers,

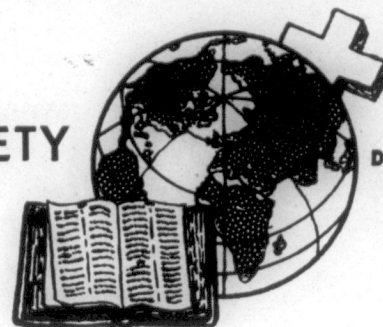
Katherine

1036

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

September 30, 1940

Miss Rebecca W. Griest,
208 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

My dear Miss Griest:

Thanks for your telegram of the 26th. I happened to be in St. Louis when Miss Schutze and Miss Vautrin made their train transfer in the Union Station there. I saw them for about fifteen minutes and my son and I helped them onto their train for Texas. I appreciate the information that they arrived safely at Miss Schutze's home.

Miss Bennett tells me that Miss Vautrin started off to Texas just as reluctantly as she started back to the hospital when she returned there something over two weeks ago. I am certain that you should not feel that there is anything at all personal in Minnie's reluctance to make the journey east when she left the hospital the first time. I believe that it is simply an inability on her part to come to a decision and then a reluctance to follow the suggestions of the rest of us. I am sincerely trusting that the sojourn in West Texas will prove a worth while experiment. I shall keep you informed whenever I receive information from Miss Katherine. I am a bit concerned about her and have warned her not to let her devotion to Minnie lead her to a break in her own health. Katherine is not very robust but she does understand Minnie quite perfectly and I am hoping that without too much burden to herself, she'll be able to bring Minnie a long way to complete recovery.

Cordially yours,

C. M. Yocum

P.S. Your letter just came as has also an air letter from Miss Schutze. She says they are "loving" her into home life and will keep us informed. Mr. Yocum comes in the office tomorrow again and will write you at his first opportunity.

Fannie Bennett

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

October 1, 1940

Miss Rebecca W. Griest,
208 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

My dear Miss Griest:

Thank you for your letter of September 28 following your telegram reporting your telephone conversation with Miss Schutze. As I have already indicated to you, we too have been somewhat concerned lest Miss Schutze should find the burden of caring for Miss Vautrin too heavy. I have written her a very frank letter urging her to keep us informed not only of Minnie's condition but of herself as well.

I have a good letter from Katherine written September 27. She tells me that the trip was uneventful and restful. She promises to keep me informed frequently. In her letter just received among other things she says, "The nearer we got to our destination the more restless - in a sense - Minnie became, but after that Mother-hug-and-kiss from my beloved Mother, I know lots of fear was driven away - or melted away!"

I have not written to Mr. Evans concerning this new move. I take it for granted that you have already notified him concerning it but I shall keep him in mind when additional information comes.

Cordially yours,

C. M. Yocum

CMY:427-b

1038

THE PSYCHOPATHIC HOSPITAL
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY, IOWA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 3, 1940

Mrs. Thomas Macmillan
Boards for Christian Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Mrs. Macmillan:

I was disappointed on returning from my summer vacation to find that Miss Vautrin had just left for a visit with Miss Schutze in Texas. Doctor Miller and the physicians of the staff felt that the risks to Miss Vautrin involved in pursuing further convulsive treatment were too great. She had settled down to such a status that they and Miss Schutze thought it would be wiser to have ^{her} leave the Hospital and test the effects of a freer sort of life.

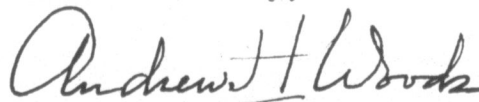
Miss Vautrin's personality make-up is such that elasticity and adaptability to new points of view are not readily available. Her response to the shock treatment gave me a good deal of hope that, if she could have gotten out into the open and kept entirely clear of the perplexities of her official life, the essential part of the disease would have been brought under control.

Living in the Hospital and continually puzzling herself over the expenses made it a little hard this time for Doctor Miller to get into the right sort of touch with her. We shall keep hoping now that the sort of life Miss Schutze is providing for her will turn out to be what she needs.

Human minds are less simple than automobiles. Fortunately, they have a yet more helpful way of curing their own troubles than one finds in automobiles. Our chief contribution is by way of environment. I am hoping now that Texas will prove to be the right thing for Miss Vautrin.

With cordial regards,

Yours sincerely,


Andrew H. Woods, M. D.
Director

AHW:FS

Please Return to Marfa, Texas



R. M. Brent

October 3, 1940

Ans 10/30/40

Dearest Rebecca:

So many letters
were started to you
while I was still
in the hospital,
but none were
ever sent - why?
It is difficult to
analyze the cause.

The two packages
came while I was
still at the hospital.
Again they revealed
your thoughtfulness
and love. I should
have written you at
once that I had re-
ceived them & thanked you.

OCT 3 1940

Doubtless you have heard that on September 20, Mrs. Doan and Katherine Schutze went to Iowa City and in conference with Dr. Miller it was decided that I should come down here to Marfa with Katherine. We left Iowa City on the 22nd, drove to Indianapolis and on the 24th left there for Marfa, arriving here on the 26th.

Surely it was good of Katherine to invite me to her home and to give time to me. Whether or not it was a wise plan remains to be seen. While Katherine is happy to be with her parents, I am not sure that it is good for her to be with me.

Today they are having a fair in Marfa and are having rodeos out at the fair grounds. I did not go because I was afraid it would be too much for me. Katherine has just returned from it (4 p.m.) and said it was very hot and dusty, and, of course, very exciting.

Thank you so much for my birthday telegram. How did you

remember it? I received two others
and all were appreciated.

Katherine thinks I should ask
you to send my winter underwear,
the brown jacket to my suit (the
one with the fur collar), the knit
dress, and the raw silk pajamas
if Harriet put them in. Are there
any stockings in the trunk?

Rebecca, dear, do help yourself
to anything in the trunk you
would like.

I am sure the war situation
is as heart breaking to you as to me.
What does the future hold? May
America be guided aright.

Affectionately yours, Minnie.

8 October 1940

Dear Dr. Woods:

I now have to thank you for your note from Pleasantville, Pennsylvania, and your letter of October 3 from Iowa City. In the latter, you refer to your judgment that Miss V. Mautrin would not have slumped after the first release from the hospital "if she could have gotten out into the open and kept entirely clear of the perplexities of her official life." You know how much some of us had counted on the consummation of the plan for her immediate translation to the New Hampshire hills with friends who would have brought into the days nothing of the old problems. But that is a past chapter, and the word Miss Griest has had from Miss Schutze after the first days in Texas give definite hope of a happy outcome of the experiment.

Thank you for bits of your own unique wisdom, added to the more usual paragraphs of your two recent letters. You have said many things to me in the course of the last twenty years which I do not forget, but which come to the troubled level of problems now and then and make me grateful for your clarifying meditations. - I wonder whether you saw the play "There Shall Be No Night" when you were in New York last. It has been an inspiration of a new sort from the accomplished writing of Robert E. Sherwood and the brilliant acting of Fontanne and Lunt. It is to close on November 2nd, and if you did not see it, I should like to send you the text, which we are now promised on October 10th.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Dr. Andrew H. Woods
The Psychopathic Hospital
Iowa City Iowa

Marfa, Texas

October 15, 1940

Vautrin

Dear Eva Macmillan:

Letter writing has been very difficult for me as I have been passing through "the valley of the shadow" otherwise you would have received many of them. What a thoughtful, generous person you have been during all of these months, and how many things you have done in my behalf. Your many messages of encouragement have been received and deeply appreciated. Also the generous offer to drive to Iowa City and to take me East. I think I never did let you know how much that offer meant to me. I wish I had been well enough to have taken the trip at that time.

What a friend you have been to Ginling! Your constant effort in behalf of the college has meant everything to Dr. Wu and the rest of us. I wonder how the recent political situation in the Far East is effecting the Christian Colleges.

Doubtless you have heard that I left Iowa City on September 22 - and that I am now down in Marfa, Texas. Mrs. Doan of the U.C.M.S. in consultation with Dr. Miller decided that I should come here. I hope the move has been a wise one and that I shall recover soon. How I long to help carry the burden again and to feel I am of some use.

Marfa is a small city of about 4000 situated on a plateau surrounded by mountains. Yesterday on a drive we saw 40 antelope. Recently we have had a heavy rain so that the air today is clear and refreshing. It was good of Mr. and Mrs. Schutze to take me in to their home.

Again I send you my appreciation and love. May you find much joy in your work.

Affectionately,

Minnie V.

19 October 1940

Dear Minnie:

It was a grand ending to a busy week to have your letter come in on the last mail. It gives me a chance to celebrate Saturday evening by replying briefly before taking to my bed for a good long sleep. I need it, for the days have been strenuous, and last evening was prolonged in an almost ludicrous way, which you will appreciate.

Since the arrival of Swen Ming-ching, who is here to study cinematography on a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship, I have seen him once or twice and have enjoyed talking with him. Yesterday it seemed as though he might have a photograph or two which could be used in connection with the possible publication of the journey of Josephine Fuller from Tainan, across North China, and southward through Chungking and Chengtu to Indo-China and Siam. I sent him a special delivery note, and found a telephone message here at the Parkside when I returned at nine o'clock from the office, where I had been re-settling myself after a refurbishing of the room by painters. When I reached Mr. Swen at International House (which is at the other end of nowhere from here) he suggested that I come up to talk with him that evening! It was about the last thing I wanted to do, but I did not know whether his own personal problems needed talking over, or whether he had some pictures which we could consider together, or what. So I went, and finally reached home again at midnight. That is not my idea of a good schedule, but I enjoyed the talk, in which an S. K. Chen finally joined. Chen asked me for news of you, and both the men sent their best greetings. It seems that Chen sent a package to you in Nanking after your departure, but it has been properly acknowledged. You probably know what it is. I told these good friends that you and K.S. were romping around the large state of Texas, which I had no doubt would restore you both. Swen is living at International House, 500 Riverside Drive. I believe that Chen also lives there. Swen is likely to be away from New York for considerable periods of time, for he must spend some weeks in Rochester at the Eastman laboratories and elsewhere. (Incidentally, I did not come away last evening with any pictures. Swen had left his treasures with his supervisor at the American Film Center. I believe he was wanting company, "thought I would like to get out into the glorious moonlight" - which was really glorious last evening. We of Ginling have, of course, been interested in the Swens ever since you wrote us of their wedding under such remarkable circumstances.)

You will be a bit astonished to find an item in the enclosed bulletin which refers to your very own project in Nanking without mentioning your name. I saw the text of this bulletin early in its career, when this item was differently phrased. I imagine the editor who finally sent the thing to press thought this wording the proper one at the moment in order to relieve you of every possible bit of publicity during the beginning of your furlough. - - It gives me a strange feeling of something-or-other to have one of these bulletins come out under another primary responsibility than my own. For three years I have been doing this work for the entire group of colleges, but asked this year to be relieved because I have an entirely fantastic amount of work to do, and in this year of Ginling's Anniversary I thought I should let

OCT 19 1940 (27)

get a bit of insight into the burden of the editorial task and leave me somewhat more time for Ginling. You will see that we did supply a fair part of the news notes as from Ginling. The long quotation is from Eva Spicer.

You have been good enough to refer to my offer to come on to Iowa City and be the vehicle of your move from those rolling plains. You may be certain I should have enjoyed to be your companion for some days of leisurely travel. One of my notions is that a motor trip to be really fun should mean about 150 miles a day - the rest of the time being rest or tramping or just nothing. Whenever you have an urge to use the undersigned chauffeur, just let her know. Some day soon I will tuck into an envelope a color glimpse of Miss Ellen Cook at the door of her little house. It is taken with my Leica camera, and I am hoping to have it reproduced for a Christmas present for the Cooks, so you can send it back at your leisure. I find that color films like this charm almost everyone - and they are not yet a hackneyed experience because the reproduction of the really attractive natural colors has been a relatively recent achievement of the film manufacturers. A few years ago the colors were a bit queer. - - Two other hostesses of mine in the Adirondacks a fortnight ago have been very happy with the kodachrome glimpses I have taken of them. One of them was Mary E. Woolley, who lives on the shores of Lake Champlain. I found her with autumn colors against the blue of the Lake and two huge handsome dogs. The result in pictures is good! You can think of this as a part of your wandering when you summon the chauffeur.

My typing seems to be getting worse and worse - much worse than yours has been in conditions offering more excuse for error. The next move would seem to be to a horizontal position for ten hours or so.

"Hoping you are the same" - - as to the horizontal position and the long sleep - -

Affectionately yours,

Eva

To make my confession complete, I ought to add that I shall probably use the Saturday Evening Post as the nightcap reading. This week's issue has a good leading story about a man's relationship to his very human mother. It is written in a rather jerky jumping about from one time spot to another in the narrative, but it is worth reading for the warm humanity of it.



Marfa, Texas
Tuesday, Oct. 23
(17)

Rev.
10/20/40

Dear, dear Rebecca:

Before me on the
table I have spread
all your good letters
and your loving
birthday telegram.
And at the same
time I recall the
four packages that
you have so pains-
takingly assembled
and sent on to
me. How can I thank
you for all you
have done? You have
truly been a friend

127

OCT 20 1940

in need - one who has [3] been loyal during all my long silences.

I think of you so often, and of the sadness you have been through because of the loss of your brother. How alone it leaves you and how lonely. I think of your sister-in-law too and the children. You have been brave through it all.

I am wondering if you are especially busy these days just before the election. I suspect you are

OCT 20 1940

following the campaign and speeches with much interest. I wonder how it will turn out on November 6th?

I am sure that the situation in Europe is as much on your heart as on mine. I cannot feel it is possible that London is bombed so tragically every night, and that so much of the beauty I saw in 1931 is now no more. How England holds out as she does is an evidence of her

OCT 20 1940
(4) magnificent courage.
May she not be defeated.
I wonder where Eva
and her family are
at this time. Where
ever she is I know
she is working for
she has tremendous
energy and the will
to do.

The bombing of the
Burma Road, is tragic,
isn't it? It doubtless
means increased bombing
of all the West China
cities as well. I wonder
how long the colleges
can remain in
Chungking? Japan will
learn from Germany
that it is permissible
to bomb open cities,

OCT 20 1940
(5) and that cathedrals,
and colleges are
legitimate targets
for bombs.



Rebecca dear, I
suspect you wonder
why I came to Texas,
and perhaps you are
not a little disgusted
with me. I only
know that Spring
Mill Park and Marfa
were suggested by
others, - and I also
know that on August
16th when I first
left Iowa City and
again on September
20th when I left the

OCT 20 1940 -
[6] Second time, my mind
was in a sad con-
dition. Both times I
felt I was going insane
and that they were
preparing to send
me to an insane
asylum. I truly was
not a healed person
at either time - this
I confess with sorrow
for I realize all too
well that the hospital
at Iowa City is a
very wonderful one
and I should have
recovered there. Why
I was not able to do
so I cannot explain
and it is now the
great sorrow of my
life.

OCT 20 1940
[7] Why did I not go
to Jaffrey, N. H.? At
both times that it
was suggested, I
felt I was going in-
sane, and it did
not seem right to
impose myself on
friends whom I did
not know very well.
Perhaps it was a
mistake, and perhaps
it would have been
better had I gone
there - as you and
Miss Hodge and Mrs.
Macmillan planned.
I did not know what
was right and could
only pray that my
friends should be
guided aright.

{87} OCT 20 1940
Dawn here at Marfa,
I am trying to recover.
I crocheted and read
and garden and help
with house work, but
it still seems to me that
I am on the road to
insanity - no matter how
hard I try to make
myself think otherwise.
You can imagine how
unbearable such a
life is. Pray for me,
Rebecca, that I may
soon pass through this
"valley of the shadow".
Little did I ever think
that Minnie Vautrin
would be in this sad
state.

With love and deep
appreciation. Minnie

P.S.

OCT 20 1940

Dear Rebecca -

I owe you for
stamps for the
four packages
you have sent,
and also for
dry cleaning which
you so thought-
fully had done
for me. Will you
please ask Mr.
Evans to pay you
for it.

Did you realize

OCT 20 1940

that you sent
a white jacket
in the last package
that did not
belong to me?

Shall I return
it or did you
mean it for me?

Lovingly

Minnie

The Psychopathic Hospital
Iowa City
November 18, 1940

Please Return
H.R. 18.

Miss Katherine Schutze
Maria, Texas

Dear Miss Schutze:

It was good of you to give me this full report about Miss Vaurtin. From my vacation camping trip in New Mexico up along the Chaco Canyon, a good picture of the general kind of life comes to me as I read of the daily program of your household. It is a glorious country, thanks to the elevation and the nearness to the tropical climate. Our winters up here are trying, largely because outdoor life becomes more difficult.

You are of course impressed with the obvious fact that Miss Vaurtin's intelligence remains in excellent working order, although to her it seems to be less effectual. This is largely because of her absorption in thoughts primarily produced by her depressed mood.

If you and Miss Vautrin were to read any scientific book that deals with this sort of temporary disease, the chief impression that would be made on your mind, if the book were clearly written, would be: given a state of the endocrine organs which produces a deficiency in the endocrine substances normally thrown into the blood that stimulate the sub-thalamic regions of the brain and produce enthusiasm, eagerness, zest for life, there will always be a secondary defect in those feelings, that is a depression. Whenever the thalamic region of the brain works in that way, then memory and ideation form thoughts in accord with that depressed mood. In the post-menopause time of life when these depressions come on, the trend of thought is usually toward self-depreciation, ideas of guilt, belief that others see no more value in the victim.

Nature is continually struggling to rectify the defects in the endocrine system after the menopause. In most women and in the corresponding changes in male, the readjustment is gradually but promptly made. In the victims of involuntional melancholia nature keeps up the struggle often for many months, but the numerical, that is the statistical expectation of recovery is so large that everyone suffering in this way has a right to expect to get well. We have had patients here during the past year who had struggled along more than two years and then, like the breaking of spring after a long winter, the change came. Weeping had endured for a long night, but joy has come in the morning.

NOV 18 - 1940

The gloomiest time is usually from 2 A.M. until noon. As you have observed, a good deal of excitement in the evening tends to emphasize these feelings of depression the next morning.

Miss Vautrin will understand if you abstain as much as possible from argument about her situation, for she herself will know that even when she sees a things intellectually with clearness she will always revert to the same line of questioning, in doubt, hesitation. During this unhappy time the moving picture film of ideas that ~~bring~~ come up in her consciousness will persistently tend to bring unhappy pictures, where the actual situation of life, were she will, would bring appropriate and joyous pictures. Regarding our attitude toward keeping her with us, ordinarily she would ~~bring~~ accept my word knowing that I have no motive and no foundation for desiring to have her leave this Hospital. Her worry over finances and my feeling that your good sense and deep interest in her and the general situation of your home combine to offer excellent conditions for her getting well supplied the reasons for my consent to her leaving the Hospital.

It will be a pleasure to me if you can find time now and then to let me know of her progress.

Yours sincerely,

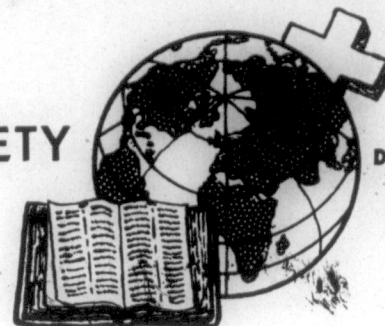
Andrew H. Woods, M.D.
Director

1054

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST

DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Department of Africa and India Missions

C. M. Yocum, Executive Secretary

Department of Latin America Missions

Mrs. Robert A. Doan, Executive Secretary

Department of Oriental Missions

Alexander Paul, Executive Secretary

E. K. Higdon, Executive Secretary

Cable Address—"GO"

Telephone IRvington 1166

November 29, 1940

Miss Rebecca W. Griest,
208 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dear Miss Griest:

I have your letter of November 25 and have just talked with Mr. Higdon about it and obtained from him the last letter from Katherine in which she says the following:

"Miss Vautrin seems so much better some days, but recently she has been more depressed than usual. I just wonder if she will have improved enough by the new year for me to even think of leaving her."

You will understand by that last sentence of Miss Schutze's that she had planned to be able to do some promotional work or to go to school. She has decided that since this is the year for missionary study of China that she will do the deputation work. Also, since it is so uncertain about the return of any of our China missionaries who are now home on furlough, it is more certain that many of them will be coming home for a forced furlough.

Perhaps you will have heard from Katherine by the time you receive this letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Hazel I. Scott

Secretarial Assistant,
Division of Foreign Missions.

FB:A13-b

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA 150 FIFTH AVENUE NYC

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

2 December 1940

Miss Minnie Vautrin

c/o Miss Katherine Schutze

Marfa Texas

SIXTY GINLING FORMER STAFF ALUMNAE ASSEMBLED SUNDAY IN CELEBRATIONN
OF GINLINGS TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ASKED ME TO TELEGRAPH YOU
AND KATHERINE LOVING GREETINGS.

REBECCA W. GRIEST

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.

1056

Marfa, Texas

December 11, 1940

Dear Eva:

Your letter concerning Mei-yün arrived several days ago and I hasten to answer it, although I can add but little information to that which you have already collected. The information will be late in reaching you.

I do not recall just why* it was that Mei-yün left Hafei. She worked very hard while there too hard perhaps, over details of the work. I remember that she was deeply interested in the work. Miss Teagarden can give you more details about her relationships there and the quality of work she did, than I can give you.

After leaving Hafei I believe she came directly to Nanking and became principal of the Presbyterian Girls' School when Daisy Hsiang-lan came to America.

* It seems to me she went to Yenching after she left Hafei.

for graduate study. OCT 11 1940

I do not remember what she did in the autumn of 1937 but believe she was in Nanking although the Presbyterian Girls' School probably did not open. Late in the autumn she went to the West - and I heard that she taught in a government school outside of Cheungtu.

Mei-yin is a girl with a splendid earnest spirit, but as to mental ability, her college work was not above a 'C' average. I would not encourage her to work for a Phd for I doubt if she should undertake that strain. Where the money comes from for her study I do not know. She is a good friend of President Y. G. Chen's family but I doubt if they could help her much.

I hope this information may be of value to you.

Sincerely yours,
Minnie V.

one more (to follow)

DEC 11 1940

One morning in a recent series of Matins talks given over our radio here, W.O.I. by Prof. R.M. Porter, Head of the Seed Laboratory at Iowa State College, on the topic, " Shall Christian Beliefs and Practices Live in Our World," he was speaking on the sub topic "Freedom of the Spirit," and he said-----

"I know personally a woman whose name is Minnie Vautrin. She was a teacher in a woman's college in Nanking China, and when in December 1937, the Japanese army captured the city, and the soldiers began to mistreat the men and women of Nanking, Minnie Vautrin went from house to house gathering together the young women, and marching them past lines of Japanese soldiers to Ginling College. She bravely told those soldiers that if anyone attempted to touch or harm one of those girls he would have to kill her first. But her task was not completed because throughout that first night and for many nights thereafter, she and her faithful Chinese friends kept watch along the walls of the compound, and whenever a soldier attempted to scale the wall, he was pushed back. That kind of courage comes only from belief in a power greater than one's own, and illustrates a determination to support the cause of right and of freedom regardless of personal consequences."

Prof. Porter was at one time at Nanking University, and is a leader in the work for China in this community, and in the Cosmopolitan Club at the College.

Mrs K. W. Brown,
1014 Kellogg Ave.
Ames, Iowa.

Dec. 11, 40.



COWBOYS' PRAYER

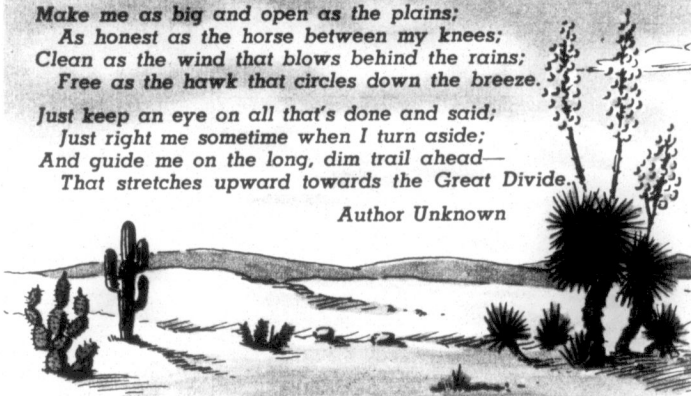
O Lord, I've never lived where churches grow;
 I've loved creation better as it stood
 That day you finished it, so long ago,
 And looked upon your work and called it good.

Just let me live my life as I've begun!
 And give me work that's open to the sky;
 Make me a partner of the wind and sun,
 And I won't ask a life that's soft and high.

Make me as big and open as the plains;
 As honest as the horse between my knees;
 Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains;
 Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze.

Just keep an eye on all that's done and said;
 Just right me sometime when I turn aside;
 And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead—
 That stretches upward towards the Great Divide.

Author Unknown



N-25—COWBOY'S PRAYER

1940

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

9A-H768

POST CARD

Dear Eva:

A lovely poem from
Texas. The longings ex-
pressed in it are
similar to my own.
 Lovingly, Minnie

DISTRIBUTED BY J. R. WILLIS, BOX 668, ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

GENIE CURTICH-CHICAGO "C.T. ARTLORTONE" POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

Marfa, Texas
December 14, 1940

Dear friend:

May the Christmas season
bring to you - and to your dear
ones much joy - and a deeper
understanding of the wonder of
that first Christmas so long ago.
And if the New Year would
bring a lasting peace to this
war-torn world, what a
blessing it would be to countless
millions! May that be the
New Year gift to all of us.

I never have thanked you
for the telegram which you
so thoughtfully sent me on
my birthday, and for the
many messages you have sent to
me from time to time. And for
all that you have done in
my behalf about which I do
not know, I am truly grateful.

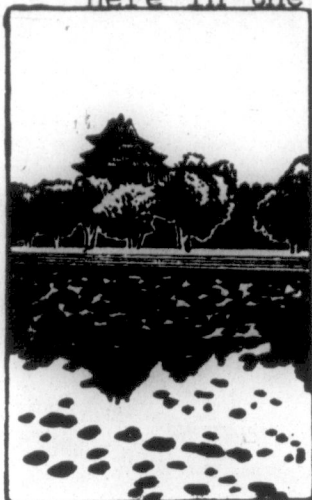
Again I wish you a blessed
Christmas.

Lovingly yours,

Winnie Santini

We are both ashamed that we did not send a message to the 25th Anniversary - but we sorta get absorbed in ourselves out here in the prairie We are now enjoying the reports - although they bring sighs and lamentations from Minnie. But I tell her - there wouldn't have been a Ginling if she and others hadn't been so unselfish... But telling her makes very little impression - only time can do much for such an illness.

Please
Return to
R. V. S.
(17)



Marfa, Texas
Dec. 14, 1940

My dear Rebecca -

Of course, you have been waiting for another letter from me - and I keep delaying and delaying. One reason is because from time to time I see Minnie has a letter addressed to you - and from it you can more or less judge how she is getting along. She always wants me to 'censor' her letters, but I refuse, for I think she should feel that what she writes is hers - and not something dictated from me.

We made out an outline of what we have been doing since coming to Marfa - and she has been following that somewhat in writing letters to friends in China, for I have insisted that she must not tell them just how she feels - for it would only upset them. She is still insisting that she is on the verge of losing her mind - and each new experience she goes into with fear and trembling - insisting that it will be the undoing of her - and pleads that I not send her to the insane asylum! Well, that is all still the symptoms of her illness - instead of fever or chills she has this obsession - and it worries me very little! She carries on conversations as interestingly as ever - takes part in all sorts of family activities and is slowly entering into the life of the church and community. I honestly believe some friends believe I'm the 'crazy one', for they certainly see nothing amiss in her reactions and interests! Ha!

I am making a copy of a letter I had from Dr. Woods in reply to a long one I had written to him. I believe so implicitly in what he has said to me and what he now writes, that I can only feel encouraged about Minnie - but realize that it will still be months and months before she actually shows much improvement.

I am being assailed on all sides for visits to various churches and friends, but am not making any definite plans to leave Minnie. I was away last week and she got along just fine, but until I hear further from Dr. Woods - we are both staying on here and enjoying real home life. I dare say I get more real pleasure out of it than does she - for she keeps insisting that housework seems such a waste of time when we should be in school studying or doing something more constructive. But that is another degree of fever in her illness - and I'm just enjoying every minute I have at home with my beloved family. I tell you - you'll have to go a long ways to find another mother like this one of mine!



DEC 14 1940

Quite naturally Minnie is anxious to see her relatives - and I do wish she were able to have Xmas with them, but that is out of the question. They simply would not, I believe, have much understanding for her mood.

She has at last - upon her own initiative - packed some packages and mailed them out! That is about the most encouraging thing that has happened recently. She has also been busy on Christmas letters - even wrote one to Dr. Wu - sent it airmail - So rejoice with us!

You know one of the biggest fools in the world ... in the person of one Katherine Schutze. On the last Sunday in November I went to San Angelo to make a Woman's Day address - on the return the next day, was in a bus wreck. The doctor then - and Bob Wilson (and family of Nanking who were here when I got back) thought it as only a bruise - but if it got worse to have an x-ray. Well, I stayed off it for several days - then went on a trip to Houston and Dallas - making more Woman's Day talkie-talks! To make a long story short - I have walked here, there and yon during the past two weeks on a broken leg When I got home Monday had an x-ray - and the fibula is broken into - but because weight has been kept on the tibia - the bone has managed - and it is a miracle - to keep together. Am now on crutches for three weeks - hoping it will grow together!! Now answer me - why wasn't I wise enough to have that x-ray when the accident happened - and then stayed off it - but I would have missed seeing some friends..... So since there has been no ill effect - perhaps it is just as well I waited!!

Rebecca - I trust that during the coming Christmas Season you will experience deep joys in service - and that during the New Year there will be peace. Do forgive my long delay - but remember, no news is good news.

Lovingly yours,

Katherine

Marfa, Texas <sup>(17
over</sup>
December 23, 1940

Dearest Rebecca:

Your good letter of December 18th arrived several days before Christmas and was deeply appreciated. Your package was opened on Christmas Eve when the Schutze family opened theirs. Thank you so much for sending me the book, Rebecca dear and for your thought of me. I read the book in the summer of 1939, but it is the kind one likes to read a second time.

We had a very happy Christmas here in Marfa. On Tuesday evening we had great fun opening our presents and unopened cards; then at 11:30 we went to the service at the little Episcopal Church. Christmas Day we were out at Katherine's Aunt Helen's whose home is on the edge of Marfa. Naturally I thought much

DEC 28 1940 ⁽³⁷⁾

of my family who were together
up in Shepherd, Michigan, and
was sorry it was not possible
for me to be there with
them. My brother has five grand
children none of whom have I
yet seen. All but one of my
nieces was present at the family
gathering.

I cannot forgive myself for
not getting a message to New York
for the Anniversary Celebration.
You wrote me in plenty of time
and there is no excuse for my
negligence - to be constantly
absorbed in one's self is deadly.
Both Katherine and I appreciated
the telegram which was sent
to us. Mrs. Macmillan had
sent me a copy of the program
at the dinner, and the service
at the Church. Surely it was a
lovely service - and I can well
understand what you said
about soaking your handkerchiefs.
The loyal friends of Girdling are
legion - and it is a cause for
deep thanksgiving. Those of you
who have labored for the College

here in America have done nobly
I can imagine that ^{DEC 28 1940} there were ³⁷ ~~were~~
groups meeting to remember
the occasion in many places
in China - Nanking, Shanghai,
Hongkong, Peiping as well as
Chengtu. I was interested in
hearing that groups of friends
met in Chicago, Ann Arbor,
and Los Angeles as well as in
New York.

How I pray that Yining will
continue to grow in richness
of spirit, and that she will
be worthy as an institution
to be a "chosen vessel" for
the Church. May the words
"Abundant Life" come to have
a reality for each member
of the staff and each student.
And I pray particularly for Yi-fang
that she may continue to
have courage and strength
and vision. How I wish it were
possible for her to have a
real rest - she needs it so
badly.

DEC 28 1940

I have been very much interested (41) in the bulletins of Pendle Hill which you have sent to me. I have always had a longing to go there for a period of study. I thought this last bulletin had some really prophetic sentences in it, revealing Dr. Hodgkin as a man of vision and the utmost consecration. What a princely man he was, and how Christ-like.

I want to explain why I did not accept your generous offer, written about November 1st, to send out things that were in my trunks at your home. In the first place, I did not pack the trunk so I do not know what is in it - I have a vague idea that there are some scrolls and China and tapestry, and in the second place I felt it was asking too much of you to have you send out the things. I had a number of things here in Texas which I did send out to friends. I hope that some day I shall feel like sending

DEC 28 1940
3/ the things that are ^{yard} home ⁽⁵⁷⁾
- The two tallest candlesticks I pur-
chased especially for my "Living Link"
Church which is at Mt. Vernon,
Ohio - that I do remember.

And what shall I tell you
of Maafa and of West Texas? It is
indeed a friendly section of
the U. S. A. or at least Katherine
has a host of loyal friends here,
who love her dearly. As you
go down the streets almost
everyone speaks to you and even
as you walk along a country
road the occupants of many of
the cars speak to you too.

As to climate - although today
is cloudy, most of the days have
sunshine, which keeps it from
seeming too cold. There is
little rain - I believe the average
is less than ten inches per
year. But there is dust - plenty
of it, which I do not like very
well. They say that the spring
months are particularly dusty
and windy. I believe that the lowest

DEC 28

1940

temperature we have had this winter is 18° above zero which is about the same as Franking (67)

As you know, instead of farms surrounding our little city there are huge ranches, consisting of thousands of acres. Many of the ranch men have their homes in the city and merely go out to supervise. Fortunes are made - and lost in the ranch enterprise as far as I can understand from our table conversation.

Rebecca, dear, I thought of you at Christmas time. I suspect you made preparations as usual for your home Christmas in spite of the ache in your heart. I hope that there was much of joy and gratitude in your heart in spite of your own personal loss of the past summer, and in spite too of the tragedies in so many countries of this our wonderful world.

With much love to you and with deep appreciation for all your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Affectionately

Minnie

Vaubert



Dec. 31, 1940
Marfa, Texas

My dear Rebecca -

If I get a lot of letters written within the next eight hours, then I won't have to make a resolution that I will write them!! Just now I'm answering some letters that were sent to us on the ship back in May! My Chinese friends must have a very high opinion of me!!

What a delightful book on Chinese Epicurean Dinners - yum, I get real hungry just looking at the outside cover of it!! Last evening we had some Mexican food - it is also delicious, but for some reason, my salivary glands work over time when Chinese food is the topic of conversation. Thanks oodles.

I feel real ashamed now that Christmas is over that I didn't send out at least a few greetings, but I sold the cards I had brought from China to use - and applied what I got that way to China Relief. Good for China relief, but too bad friends did not hear from me.

What word about Harriett and Mrs. Thurston returning to the States. Isn't the news distressing that so many are leaving, but I believe it is the only thing to do in the face of what is certain to happen.

Much love to you - and all

sorts of New Years greetings. My, I wish
we were not in for an evening ~~of~~ fire-works,
but the town is full of them. They wouldn't
sound so funny to those who fire them had they
ever heard the real thing!

Lovingly yours,

Katherine