

C o p y

Feb. 24/58

Dear Dannie,

I hope no news is good news and that all of you are feeling fit and that Hettie is over the operation. She will probably feel better than during the last years. Marion is quite all right except for a cold which she got last week and in Cuernavaca, and now I have it too, that is the least of my troubles. The Malta fever is still with me every afternoon for some hours and when it lets up, it leaves me flat for the evening. I think it is getting less severe but the Doctor says it will take at least two months more before I can get rid of it. It is a very strange disease but not as rare as I thought it was. I find all kinds of people here and at home, who have had it - and as in any case they usually had it for months before a doctor diagnosed it - and getting rid of it is a process of anywhere from six months to a year. The urinary and intestinal infection they found I had is definitely better.

You must be having a very severe winter and pretty well shut in. Here too we have had the worst winter they have had in perhaps half a century. It has been difficult to heat our house in Cuernavaca in spite of the big fireplace. They telephoned me today they had to put our old boxer "Malo" to sleep. He was ill for some months and making trouble for the other dogs. We shall miss him as we acquired him with the Cuernavaca house.

John Snyder was here for some days and stayed with Bill Draper. He seems in very good shape and his eyes seem to be much better. He has made a very useful director of Mexlight and tries to be helpful here, and at home.

I was sorry to hear that Dorff has passed away. I did not know him well, but had great respect for him.

I had a letter from Maurice Frère that he may come to Mexico in the next months. We are old friends and I hope he will bring his wife along when he does come here.

The new company building is almost finished. Five floors are already occupied. They tell me they have an office for me but I really don't want one. I go to the offices almost every day for an hour or so, but just to talk with Draper or Maryssael when they want to see me - or I them. The situation here in my opinion is not propitious for the private companies now - for the growth of nationalism in the last years has been fantastic and some of my best old friends have been attacked by the disease. Business in general remains good but people are less venturesome due to the developments here and to the recession at home which is sure to have repercussions here.

We usually have friends with us at Cuernavaca for the week end - and there is much to do here in the city - but I have no desire for the present to go out in the evenings. I usually go for an hour or

two and our friends bring Marion home.

We think of you so often and miss seeing you. We have no plans for travel - but I hope that in May this Malta fever will be licked, and that we can make a real visit home without any trip to the Lahey Clinic. The head doctor of the internal medicine department of the Clinic was here on a holiday several weeks ago and came to see me, and after asking all sorts of questions, he told me to stick to Dr Leon who is looking after me here.

Dr. Gordon and her husband are in Spain for several months. I think she is about to retire from her work at the Lahey Clinic.

Today is the first warm day we have had for months - and it is an abrupt change.

Do give our love to all the family and Marion joins me in the hope we may see each other soon.

Faithfully,

Sg: GEORGE