[Draft of letter of 28 Nov. 1949 to Pfefferkorn

I had just written to Mrs Brack asking for your Californis address when, to my great pleqsure, your heartening letter arrived. Mrs Brack and Mrs McVicar will have told you how very pleased I was to hear that you had taken on "1908 and after". You will also have heard that at the meeting of the HistoryCommittee which took plave just before I left Baltimore last March, I strongly recommended that a further effort be made to find a graduate of your own School who would handle the later years. I had many reasons for so doing, some of which will already have been made plain to you. But, above all, that I had not the academic background nor was I I did feel sufficiently in sympathy with certain trends in nursing education to be able to interpret the present aims of the School with ~~the necessary~~ detachment. and complete lack of bias. This, most emphatically, is where you come in. You are recognized ~~admitted to be~~ an authority in this area and, furthermore, you will be far better than I to avoid certain complications which are likely to arise in the handling of the Lawler regime. In other words, dear BP, I think we shall make a fairly good team. At least I do qualifiy as a good mid-Victorian.

Mrs Brack asked me for my reactions regarding phases of the project and it seems to me that these may be of interest to you. I shall be interested to hear how they strike you:

I am plowing ~~along~~ steadily along, following the general chronological order and marshalling my facts into a more or less sequential narrative. There will be two major biographical studies -- Hampton and N utting -- ~~but in~~ neither ~~case will~~ these will be carried beyong the 1907 period. I do not think that it will too difficult to hitch the two parts of the book together especially if we can work together on a connecting chapter, but I should very much like to know how you feel about this.

So far, I have done no re-writing. The whole mss. is rough-cast and will probably remain so until the whole outline is pretty well filled in. It was most reassuring to to told that you think that the preliminary examination and classification of ~~documents~~ source material

documents was thoroughly accomplished. It was a rather ~~grisly~~ tedious and ~~very~~ extremely time-consuming job and I still have an uneasy sense that ~~axxxx~~ other valuable ~~source material~~ documents may yet b be discovered in some neglected cupboard or bookcase that ~~ought to be available now.~~ was not kept to be collected However, I did my best to ferret out everything I could so my conscience is clear no matter what happens.

My little house is ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is just a grey stucco bungalow, not very convenient, and not very new. But, oh, Blanche it is so unspeakably good to have a roof of one's own, a weedy patch of garde, a place to shake one's dust mop .. I have been wandering over the earth and sea for too long. Vancouver is a good place to ~~choose as a haven.~~ cast anchor You must see it before you go East again.

Bel

4519 Fifteenth Ave. West

Vancouver, British Columbia

Canada

November 28, 1949

Dear RP :

I had just written to Mrs B rack asking for your California address when, to my great pleasure, your heartening letter arrived. Mrs Brack and Mrs McVicar will have told you how pleased I was to hear that you had taken on "1908 and After"! You will also have heard that at the March meeting of the History Committee I strongly urged that a further effort be made to find a graduate of your own School who would handle the later years. Some of my reasons for so doing will already have been made plain to you. Above all, however, I did feel that I had not the academic background nor was I suf sufficiently in sympathy with certain trends in nursing education to be able to interpret the present aims of the School with the necessary detachment and complete lack of bias. This, most emphatically, is where you come in. You are an acknowledged authority in this area and, furthermore, will be far better able than I to deal with the complications which are likely to arise in the treatment of the Lawler regime. In other words, I think we shall make a fairly good team for, at least, I do qualify as an authentic mid- Victorian.

Mrs Brack recently asked me for my opinion regarding some phases of the project and perhaps me statement may be of some interest to you. I shall be eager to know how it strikes you:

<u>One volume is better than two</u> :

1. The cost of production, advertising and promotion would be substantially less.

2. There need not necessarily be any sharp break between the two parts of the work. The year 1907 definitely mark d the end of an epoch in the history of the School and this fact should make the inevitable transfer from one writer to the other seem less abrupt than might otherwise have been the case. At a later stage in the project, it might be possible for the writers to work together on that portion of the manuscript which is to constitute the connecting link.

3. I should prefer to defer publication until both manuscripts have been completed in order that the writers might have an opportunity of comparing notes and thus avoiding errors and conflicting statements.

4. The value of the total project, especially for reference purposes, would be greatly enhanced if it were to be published in single volume. Furthermore, the preparation of the index, bibligraphy, etc., would be simpler and more efficient.

The shaping of the policies which were to govwen thw "ospital and its school of nursing

"Author" or "Editor" :

I agree, in the altered circumstances, that it might be preferable that both the writers should use the term "author" rather than "editor". It should also be made clear in the published volume exactly what parts of the work are to be attributed to each author.

(End of quotation from statement)

I am ploughing steadily along, following the chronological order, and marshalling my facts into a more or less sequential narrative. There will be two major biographical sketches — Hampton and Nutting — but neither of these will be carried beyond the 1907 period. I do not think that it will be too difficult to hitch the two parts of the work together, especially if we can arrange to work together on a connecting chapter. I should very much like to know how you feel about this.

So far, I have done no re-writing. The Mss. is rough-cast and will probably remain so until the whole outline is pretty well filled in. It was most reassuring to be told that you think that my preliminary examination and classification of source material had been thoroughly accomplished. It was a tedious and time-consuming job and I still have an uneasy sense that other valuable documentation may yet be discovered in some neglected cupboard or bookcase which was not brought to my attention. However, I did my best to ferret out everything and my conscience is clear no matter what happens.

My little house is just a grey stucco cottage, not very convenient and not very new. But, oh, Blanche, it is unspeakably good to have a roof of one's own, a weedy patch of garden and a place to gather one's bits of things around one. I have been wandering over the earth and sea for too long. Vancouver is a good place to cast anchor. You must see it again before you go back East again.

Let me hear from you soon.

Affectionately yours