

*(In reply to personal letter - typed from
Mrs. Brack, Sept. 15/50)*

4519 Fifteenth Ave. West

Vancouver, Canada

September 19, 1950

Dear Mrs Brack :

Welcome to the salt mines. It is good to hear that you had the sort of holiday that makes one willing to face the grind again. This has been (and still is) a truly halcyon summer. Almost lovely enough to make one forget that another "very unusual" winter may be just around the corner. Yes, you must come up this way -- between May and September. Never risk it in the winter or early Spring.

All summer long, Heaven help me, I have wrestled with the spirit of Adelaide Nutting, like Jacob with his angel. Whenever, for a moment, I feel that I have seized that elusive essence, she flings me off and sends me flying. It will not be for me to pluck the heart out of her mystery but perhaps I shall be able to show what she meant to the JHH and what the JHH meant to her. The draft manuscript will, if all goes well, be ready for you and the committee towards the end of October.

Mrs McVicar has kindly forwarded criticisms and suggestions from Miss Wolf, Miss Betzold, Mrs Kieffer, Mrs Athey and Miss Dunbar. All these will be carefully studied and dealt with in due course. I should be grateful if the manuscript could be sent on to Miss Pfferkorn as soon as possible as I am naturally anxious to get her reaction to it. It might also be helpful to her to have my manuscript at hand for reference.

Which member of the family intends to enter the Carnegie Institute? Perhaps all of you except the distinguished surgeon and the budding Broadway star. More power to all of you. The University of British Columbia is to bestow an honorary degree next week on Dr Bronk of the JHU. I have been requested to don my scarlet and black robes and to walk in the academic procession. Shan't do it. I look and feel like Mrs Astor's plush horse.