Main Nurses Home

Johns Hopkins Hospital

Baltimore, Md.

June 19, 1948

Dear Mrs McVicar,

I understand that a meeting of the History of the School of Nursing Committee is shortly to take place. As you are aware, there are personal reasons which make it necessary for me to return to Canada shortly before my USA permit expires and I therefore am not in a position to ask for the privilege of conferring with the Committee. In my report to the Editorial Committee I have given a full account of the work accomplished to date and although this did not take the form that had been anticipated I hope that the Alumnae Association will feel that a basis has been established for the history of their own School and a contribution has been made to the history of nursing in the United States and abroad.

It may facilitate the work of your committee if I make my own position clear at this point. You will recall that in preliminary correspondence I expressed some doubt as to whether anyone who was not a graduate of your own School ought to attempt to interpret its spirit and aims. I am now convinced that this doubt was justified so far as I am concerned and must ask to be allowed to withdraw as editor. I do, however, feel a distinct responsibility regarding the exploration and organization of material related to the earlier years of the School -- that is to say, from 1867 to 1907. If your Committee wishes me to complete the task which I undertook in this area I shall be glad to do so subject to the prevailing financial arrangement. I quite realize that you may prefer the incoming editor to take over the project as a whole and in that event I shall be qui in accord.

I shall always look back with pleasure with the unique privilege which I have enjoye in being permitted to examine source material which few Schools are so fortunate as to

possess. I am most grateful to your Committee and to the School of Nursing for affording me so happy and stimulating an experience.

Cordially yours

Ethel Johns