

4519 Fifteenth Ave. West

Vancouver, Canada

September 19, 1950

Dear Blanche :

First let me try to answer the question embodied in your letter of September 15 :

As you are aware, President Gilman did draw up the original plan of organization for the JHH School of Nursing but he did this in his capacity as temporary director of the Hospital and not as the president of the Johns Hopkins University. He did not suggest any direct link between the School and the University. It was evidently his intention that ultimate authority and control should be vested in the Board of Trustees of the Hospital.

So far as I have been able to discover, the idea that the School should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Hospital and placed under the direction of the University was never considered by Isabel Hampton during her term of office. There is no documentary evidence that such a proposition may have been informally discussed either with Miss Nutting or other leaders, such as Miss Dock. Personally, I doubt it.

I have not found any source material either at the JHH or in Miss Nutting's private files that would indicate that she was considering University control prior to her departure from the School in 1907.

You probably have a reprint of an address that she gave in 1914 (more than a year before the letter you mention was published) which is entitled "The Work of the Johns Hopkins School for Nurses." My reprint indicates that this appeared in the Johns Hopkins Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 286, in December, 1914. On page 2, you will find this rather enigmatic statement:

"... this school was established in connection with a great new hospital, which had become famous in a sense, even before its doors were opened..... As a part of the noble university which had become pre-eminent throughout the intellectual world, it was to be a centre for advanced scientific teaching and for sound methods of work. Moreover, the training school was not to be a merely necessary factor in hospital administration, but was an institution as definitely provided for by the will of the founder as was the medical school. His directions read: 'I desire you to establish', not 'in', but 'in connection with' the Hospital, a 'Training School for Nurses.' The School was, therefore, to stand on a strong foundation." (The italics are mine.)

I refrained from any reference to this wording when recording the original letter although I was very much struck by it. It seemed to me to defer any discussion of its precise meaning until Miss Nutting herself did so. Well, that is all I can do for you this time. Hope it helps a little.

So far, criticisms and suggestions have been submitted to the Committee by the following: Miss Wolf, Miss Betzold, Mrs Athey, Mrs Fieffer, and Miss Dunbar. Miss Taylor and Miss Dines have not been heard from as yet. I have written to Mrs Brack today asking her to expedite matters as much as she can and to send the Hampton era mss. on to you at the earliest possible moment. It would be very helpful, if somewhat painful, to get your forthright reaction to it.



