4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,

Vancouver, 8 B.C.

February 8, 1961

Dear Mr. Leeman :

I have been slow in answering your kind and understanding letter but please believe it was not due to lack of appreciation. One reason for delay was that I first wanted to have a talk with the writer of the attached letter -- Marguerite Schumacher - adviser to schools of nursing, University of Alberta, Edmonton. As she says in her letter, we had met before. Even then, I was impressed not only by her obvious efficiency but also by her warm and delightful personality. She has acquired both maturity and poise without losing either zest or enthusiasm and her present position gives her an opportunity to exercise the sort of academic leadership that is needed just now.

The Campus Mission that she mentions was carried on under the auspices of the Varsity Christian Federation and while I am not sold on this or any other evangelical approach, I had a chance to see this young woman in action and the response of the student nurse group was remarkable. Why am I bothering you about all this? Well, it struck me that she might have some potentialities as a writer, especially along the lines of the philosophy expressed in her letter. Nothing was said about any such possibility, however, and there is therefore no need to follow it up.

We had several informal talks that started me thinking along lines of my own which, I hasten to add, have no evangelical implications whatsoever. She made me wonder whether something useful might be written about the influences, tangible and intangible, personal and professional, which are brought to bear upon one nurse in particular as distinct from nurses in general. We agreed that the nurse who told this story should be free to write quite frankly about what those influences had meant to her, either for good or ill.

Yes, you have guessed it -- this is the new approach to the autobiography that I have been groping toward for so long. Chronological sequence could be disregarded although it would still be necessary to include references to experiences outside the practice of nursing which would constitute the background of the story. Do you think you could endure the submission of a sample chapter? If not, this is the time to dodge because it is in process of preparation.

I am on the track of an odd volume of Anatomy of Melancholy and would much appreciate any of your discarded M SS which would serve as a guide. Writing is a lonely business and it would be good to talk shop.

I do hope that all goes well and that the austerity of your regime has been mitigated a little.

With all good wishes,