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OFFICE COPY

Copies sent to
Miss Schoell
Miss Hobson
Miss Castro

October 1, 1918.

(Aubrey)
Dear Sir:-

Miss Marie Schoell, who held one of our French Graduate Scholarships here last year, and is engaged to teach in the Medel School of the Department of Education of Bryn Mawr College for the current year, tells me that in addition to teaching all the French in the Medel School she wishes to continue to carry on at the same time the work that she has been doing under your direction during the summer.

I have told her that much to our regret it is impossible for us to permit her to do more than a certain limited amount of work outside of her duties in the Medel School. I have told her further that if it were possible we would release her entirely from her engagement but that at this time of the year we cannot secure another good teacher of French, and that we shall therefore be compelled to hold her to her engagement. I should like to say also that by teaching the French in the Medel School as well as I am sure that she will, she can do a great deal to help to introduce good methods of teaching French in secondary schools in the United States. Our Medel School is visited during the year by very many teachers from different parts of the United States who observe the methods used and go back to put them into practice in their own schools. I have ~~also~~ also pointed out to Miss Schoell -- and I think that she agrees with me fully -- that even if she wished to break her engagement with the Medel School, which is not I think the case, it would not help the cause

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of French in this country and that as we are unable to obtain anyone else it is her duty to stand by her engagement. I should like to add further that the Medel Schohl opened yesterday. I ought to ~~add~~ that Miss Schoell had no thought of breaking her engagement but believed that it would be possible for her to do full work in the Medel School and at the same time do full work for you, which I have told her is from our point of view impossible.

After talking over with her fully the work that you have assigned her we have agreed that in view of the fact that as a matter of helping on the war we wish to cooperate as fully as possible with you and with her in your care of the interests of the French students now in this country, we are willing that she should attempt to do some part of the work assigned her with the understanding, however, that if in our opinion she is not able to do the teaching of the Medel School with sufficient energy and vitality to make it as successful as it ought to be she will agree to drop all outside work and confine herself only to her teaching.

We are in the midst of a very serious outbreak of Spanish influenza and in consequence we have put in force an absolutely strict quarantine, as you will see by the enclosed statement. The members of our teaching staff who do not live on the college campus are compelled to be vaccinated and are not allowed to travel on trains outside of Philadelphia. We are especially anxious not to have any infection from the New England states where the epidemic is so much worse even than it is here.

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For this reason we cannot permit Miss Scheell to go to Washington until she has received the four vaccinations of "Influenza combined" serum, and she cannot go to Springfield at all until the epidemic in New England is over. ~~For this reason~~ ^{it} will be wholly impossible for her to meet in New York and take to Springfield the ten French students who are (she tells me) expected to arrive in New York about the end of next week. Some other arrangement will, therefore, have to be made for getting these girls to Springfield and putting them into families there.

There will, however, be no objection to her writing once a month to the 120 French students who are now studying in different colleges in the United States and there will be no objection also to her visiting the French girls studying in the Commercial High School in Springfield once a month and talking to them, etc., as soon as the New England epidemic of Spanish influenza is over. Before then we believe that it is not safe for her to go on account of our quarantine and of the many little children in her classes in the Medel School. As soon as her vaccination takes effect she will be able to go to Washington to talk this letter over with you and arrange further details in regard to it.

I hope very much that you may approve of the arrangements that we have made and that you may agree with me in thinking that through them Miss Scheell is able to keep the more important part of her work of the supervision of French students. I am very much afraid, however, that she may not be strong enough to do this double work but in any case we are entirely willing that she should try the experiment.

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I cannot close this letter without expressing to you my great interest in the effort that is being made by the French Government to put the teaching of French in this country on a proper basis. The faculty of Bryn Mawr College has been delighted by the success and ^{and} cooperation of the French women who have come over year after year on our Graduate French Scholarships. Their scholarly interest in their work, their sound school and university training, their patriotism and love of French learning and literature have made a lasting impression on all who have learned to know them and have increased, if that were possible, our love and admiration for France.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Aubert,
Directeur de Service d'Etudes et d'Information,
French High Commission,
15th & M Streets,
Washington, D.C.