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October 23, 1918.

Dear Dr. Branson,

I have been so busy that I have not had a moment in which to explain to you about the crisis in the college which served to make it necessary for me to act very promptly and take students convalescent from influenza out of the class rooms for a week.

About eleven o'clock on Wednesday October 16th, I think it was, some professors came into my office saying that the other professors had drawn up and were having signed a circular letter to the Health Department demanding that the college be closed for four days, i.e. until the following Monday, because it was impossible to carry on classes for two reasons: first, because of the incessant coughing of the convalescent students which alarmed the class and the lecturer and made it almost impossible to conduct the work; second, because many of the students seemed to be too weak to do their work. Two professors had closed their lectures and had sent away the students and others felt that the lectures ought to stop. I pointed out that we could not close the college for four days without greatly alarming the parents of our students and practically breaking up our college work, as they would be sure to think that there had been a terrible access of the epidemic and nothing we could say would reassure them; and further that after our physicians had managed the epidemic so splendidly it was very unfair to throw discredit on their work by taking such an action. The members of the faculty whom I talked to saw both these points but felt that they could not continue their work with the coughing ill students. As a compromise measure there seemed nothing to do but to assure them that if they felt that the students made it impossible to carry on work because of their coughing and sneezing and because of their inability to do it, I

would agree on behalf of the Health Department to keep the convalescent students out of classes for one week and to ask Dr. Rea to examine them again at the expiration of the week and give those whom she thought able to carry on their work a certificate.

This was satisfactory and the entire agitation subsided.

I had to agree that the action should be taken at once and it was announced at noon in the halls that day. Dr. Rea was away at the hospital and I had called you up so often and interrupted you when you were so busy that I hesitated to get Miss Johnson to trail you. I felt that it was an order of the Board of Health made in answer to a request of the professors and that it had no medical significance. I called up Miss Johnson however and asked her to explain the situation to you as soon as you came in. Miss Orlady, who is acting for Miss Taft during her illness as temporary head of the Health Department, called up Miss Mills and explained the situation to her and asked her to explain to Dr. Rea. Unfortunately I had an engagement in Philadelphia and had to be away all the afternoon and Miss Orlady also had an engagement. As Dr. Rea told me afterward, she reached the Infirmary just when her office hours began before there had been any time for the situation to be explained to her and found twenty-five students who had misunderstood the announcement clamoring for a second certificate to admit them to classes. It was a terrible situation as Dr. Rea knew nothing about what had happened. She called me up that evening and when I explained everything to her she was as nice as possible and seemed to accept my explanation. She is as nice as possible.

I ought also to say that in order to check the sneezing and coughing which has been so disturbing in the classrooms we said that students must cough and sneeze into their handkerchiefs and we imposed a fine of \$5 on those who did not. It has had a most magical effect as in chapel in the morning now I never hear a single cough.

This letter requires no reply but I was anxious that you should understand the real emergency that arose. If all our professors had demanded to have the academic work of the college closed we should have had to close it.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Thomas F. Branson
Rosemont
Pennsylvania.