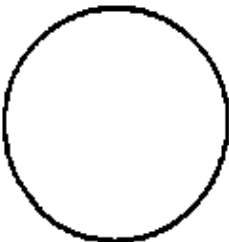


Put the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, plain ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.



(CENSOR STAMP)

W. H. KNOWLTON,  
AMERICAN RED CROSS,  
HDQ. TENTH ARMY,  
APO 357,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

BRUCE W. STOCKING, M.D.

BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(Sender's Address)

MUNCIE, INDIANA.

JUNE 29, 1945.

(Date)

W.H. KNOWLTON  
AMERICAN RED CROSS,  
HDQ. TENTH ARMY,  
APO 357,  
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BRUCE W. STOCKING, M.D.,  
BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,  
MUNCIE, INDIANA.  
JUNE 29, 1945

DEAR HENRY,

YOUR VERY FINE LETTER JUST ARRIVED, AND I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE OK AND IN ONE PIECE. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I LAST WROTE YOU SO I MAY TELL YOU THINGS THAT I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, FOR WHICH I DULY APOLOGIZE.

ALTHOUGH I WAS LAID UP FOR SEVEN WEEKS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH, I NOW FEEL BETTER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. IN JANUARY I WENT UP TO MILWAUKEE AND HAD MY GALLBLADDER OUT, LOOKING AS HAPPY AS ANYONE COULD UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. MY MORALE WAS HIGH; I SIMPLY GOT MY AFFAIRS IN ORDER, MADE MY WILL, AND WENT AND GOT IT DONE. COMPLICATIONS STARTED TO APPEAR ABOUT THE SECOND POSTOPERATIVE DAY, BUT AFTER COMMUNICATING WITH THE LOCAL BOYS WHO HAD ME BEFORE, THEY WENT TO WORK AND HAD ME STRAIGHTENED OUT IN A FEW DAYS, AFTER WHICH I MADE THE USUAL "UNEVENTFUL RECOVERY." I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY DIDN'T WIRE ME FOR SOUND. THEY MIGHT AS WELL SINCE THEY HAD ME PIPED FOR WATER AND GAS. TO ADD TO THE OCCASION'S JOYS MARY CATHERINE, WHO WAS STAYING WITH FRIENDS IN THE TOWN FELL DOWN IN THE BATHROOM AND SPRAINED HER BACK AND HAD TO BE IN BED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE TRIP HOME WAS A CASE OF ONE INVALID TRYING TO HELP ANOTHER.

LAST WEEK I DECIDED THE FINAL TOUCHES WERE FINISHED IN MY BECOMING JUST THE SORT OF STUFFY BASTARD I HAVE ALWAYS HATED. IN ONE AND THE SAME WEEK I JOINED THE ROTARY CLUB, WAS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF THE LOCAL SOCIETY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, AND OPENED NEGOTIATIONS TO BUY A HOUSE. THE HOUSE IS NOT THE ONE I LIVE IN,

WHICH HAS BEEN OFFERED FOR SALE BY MY LANDLADY AT A TERRIFIC PRICE, BUT ANOTHER ONE IN THE SAME DISTRICT. I HAVE ALTERNATED BETWEEN HOPE THAT AN OFFER I'VE MADE MIGHT BE ACCEPTED, AND FEAR THAT IT MIGHT. IF THE OFFER IS ACCEPTED I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT EVERYTHING I AM OR HOPE TO BE, I OWE. OF COURSE THAT IS NOT AN ABNORMAL SITUATION FOR A GOOD ROTARIAN. ONE OF MY GREATEST SATISFACTIONS IN BECOMING A ROTARIAN IS THAT THAT MAKES MARY CATHERINE A ROTARY ANN.

MY WORK CONTINUES IN THE SAME VEIN AS USUAL, SELLING THE DOCTORS THE IDEA OF LETTING ME HELP THEM FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEIR PATIENTS, AND THEN ATTEMPTING TO COME THROUGH WITH RESULTS. I HAVE SEEN SOME VERY BIZARRE AILMENTS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND AM ALMOST THREATENING TO WRITE A PAPER. I HAVE TOLD YOU, I THINK, THAT I HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO WRITE A PAPER JUST TO SEE MY NAME IN PRINT, CONTENDING THAT THE LITERATURE ALREADY HAS A HIGH ENOUGH FECAL INDEX.

I HAD A MOST WONDERFUL CONVERSATION WITH YOUR FATHER WHEN I WENT HOME TO MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S FUNERAL. HE IS A MARVELOUS OLD MAN, AND HAS A VERY HIGH OPINION OF YOU. TALKING WITH HIM TOOK ME BACK TO THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH. EVERYBODY ELSE I MET MADE ME FEEL AS IF I HAD ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE AND THE OTHER ON A BANANA PEEL. THE MOST SHOCKING CHANGE IN THE CITY TO ME WAS TO FIND GEORGE KELLY'S RESTAURANT IN THE OLD BUILDING OF THE CADILLAC STATE BANK.

YOURS AS EVER,

BRUCE

V MAIL

