

Konnarock, Va., November 17, 1939

My dear Mrs. Schaufuss,

enclosed you will find the report which you asked me for before I left New York.

Up to now, I did not receive an answer as to my letter which I had sent to you on November 7. Be kind enough to let me know whether or not we can rely on the help of your committee in case that need should be. ~~And~~ so far I can see there is no chance that things will be settled here.

You received a copy of my letter to Dr. Kirsch, I guess. As a matter of fact, I was told before I left New York that I should receive the Virginian license without another examination and that I could begin my practice within a few weeks after my arrival here. Now, I am in a position to see what's what! I was not able to judge about the situation during the first weeks because nobody said what he meant and everybody was ^{afraid} to tell too much. I learned only in occasional conversations with several inhabitants and through the conferences with the different physicians of this region and through the conference with the secretary of the Medical State Board what my situation will be.

Several inhabitants of Konnarock told me that they did not believe that the medical center would be built at all. It had been promised for two years. It was to be begun already in June, and I was told that a week after I should be here the architect should come up here in order to talk about the realization of the plans. (I did not see him until now)

They urgently need a doctor here, and the people welcomed us in the kindest manner. So I would not have liked it to disappoint them.

The physicians who live and practice in the neighboring villages were said to be glad to have a college residing in Konnarock because they did not want to drive up here which meant to them a real strain. Actually, only one of them who has a big practice wishes me to get through and to help me by advice and by letting me get experience in his practice. Two others, I met yesterday. They had already conferred on that matter.

my The younger one wanted ~~me~~ to be confined on these three small villages here around (probably because he has been afraid of missing a patient). The other tried to talk about what he had done here in former years and how hard his practice had been. But what he did not say was more important. When I asked him for his opinion and advice, he said I

should keep quiet for two to three years during which time I should try to learn the language and to prepare for the State Board Examination, "The refugee-question is a political one, he said. You see, if a man committed a crime, he should keep quiet and should not go to the court in order to defend himself before he was accused".

I thought I had misunderstood him because I could not expect that a so-called "well-educated" man was able to compare me with a criminal only because I am a refugee.

A pastor who was present at the last conversation told me his private opinion: "It is only a commercial question. If the doctors do not object, why, then, do they not give written declarations that there is need of a physician and that they agree?"

The secretary of the Medical State Board refused licensing by reciprocity. He did not give any promise as to the examination; neither if the Board will drop the first part of the examination, nor if it will ~~me~~ admit at all. I am completely convinced (without having any proof for it) that I would not be able to pass any examination in the state of Virginia, even if they would admit me.

Accordingly, all prospect here are as bad as they can be; there is not even a ghost of a chance as it seems to me. I am therefore determined not to spoil my time here in waiting, but to go back to New York State and to settle at some place there under the anticipation that I can get the money which is necessary for a settlement and for the first time until I shall be able to make a living. To find out the place where to settle, I need the help of the Resettlement Committee and I am expecting Mr. Tannenbaum's answer with a great interest and somewhat impatiently.

Today, I learned that Dr. Kirsch will be here next Tuesday, but he will not be able to influence the attitude either of the Medical Board or that of the physicians here. As to me, I am not willing to agree to any new condition or restriction only on the base of promises.

We both are deeply depressed and do not see any way to get out. We rely on your willingness of helping us.

Respectfully and very sincerely
yours,

.S. Just now, we received your kind letter. We already got a copy of W. Heilmann's letter to you. That you cannot take care of us any longer, hurts us, but we realize that, under the present circumstances, your strength is more successfully used and urgently needed in the Immigration Service. We only hope that the new worker whom we shall depend on may have qualities similar to yours so that we can look at her with the same confidence with which we always confided in you.

Mrs. Meyer asks me to give you her love. I send you my most respectful compliments.
Yours very sincerely,