

October 13, 1955

Love Margaret,

Before I forget: Please make the appointment - ~~or~~ with Dr. Dumphry - or change it if it is not too difficult to Tuesday October 18th.

This is very important. If there is any uncertainty about it - or if you cannot reach him, please call me in the evening - you can call anyway, but there will be little else to say, besides what the letters tell you. At the moment, every thing seems to hinge on Dr. Dumphry's approval of my therapeutic and diagnostic plans. Although, I am not certain I would be in favor of accepting his advice for immediate operation ~~or~~ if it were given dogmatically and without careful consideration.

At the moment my plans are as follows: Leave here Sunday morning. Arrive in Philadelphia Sunday night, late. Present Dr. Decker with pathological slides from gastric aspirations Monday morning. Leave for New York by 10 a.m. Talk with Dr. Korich early in the afternoon. Then after calling my uncle, leave for Boston. See Dr. Dumphry October 18th and then act according to news from Komaroch, from Dr. Decker, and Dr. Dumphry's opinion. Probably ~~he~~ I should return to Komaroch soon thereafter but I can't think that far ahead.

It has been a very strenuous day, mostly from responsibility. Dr. Gabriel has changed his mind and advises immediate, high power consultation. ~~He~~ Papa himself says that he would advise any patient of his to be operated on immediately, but wants to await Dr. Gabriel's second examination. He does not mind my consulting Dr. Dumphry. But at least for the next four

weeks, the decision rests with me. If I really persuaded father, he would go. But I am not convinced, and I cannot persuade where I am less than uncertain: 'dubious'. I am reminded of a line from Wilhelm Tell

"Doch besser ist's ihr fallt in Gottes Hand
als indie der Menschen."

Used in a different context to be sure. "It were better you should ~~fall~~ fall into the hands of God than those of men." an ingenious poetic dialectic of the two meanings of falling into some one's hands - not ^{an} common English idiom, - I suspect - as a German one.

So far as the ~~day~~ household is concerned, father could hardly be better cared for - or could he be more content. We have discussed the possibilities with much frankness, and since the spell of the practice has been broken - both mother and father accept the fact that they cannot continue now, and perhaps not later - they are much more relaxed and amenable than ever.

The dogs are more than charming. You should see them, when father, tired of lying in bed lets all three of them loose in the living room. They are huge. Jens is undoubtedly the most impressive. He is very handsome and has a great deal of character.

Mother just brought me a capsule of chloral hydrate
I want to go to bed early - sleep enough - it is only
10:15. - but I have never felt so much pressure and
I am trying hard to direct my thoughts. This evening
I looked at the pictures I took with that bigam film. The
color is poor, but the pictures are in part extremely
good. (I will bring them for you) That helped me
to relax a good deal. Tomorrow I will get a film and
perhaps take some more.

I still have a ~~good deal~~^{rough} of sheer medical
work to do on father before I leave. I must get busy,
but perhaps I can read a little Metaphysics tomorrow
evening. ~~Will~~ If not too many KTS girls have sore
throats. The only patients whom I am seeing -
are as I put it to Dr. Kirsch, members of the
"church family" ~~but~~ You should have seen old dad's
you see's expression when I said this to him in a
perfectly calm voice. He japed and - as if ~~I was~~ he feared
my treating him - said, oh he was sure ~~he~~ it would
be only the School - Well.

Now good night. You can call any evening
you like. I will write to your parents tomorrow.
Be good.

Ben
Jochen.

Write father and mother a nice letter, but leave out
any reference to Dr. Knick, Ritchie, or any of the problems,
because I will not permit mention or discussion of any
names or issues in his presence. No visitors at all.