

Kornaroek 11/27/63

Lieber Kind I suppose your train is just now somewhere between Washington and New York - I hope you have a seat and have slept well - or are sleeping well - and in that respect you are better off than if you were here - because with all the screaming one couldn't sleep a wink - even with fleecies.

I escaped from it all just a few minutes ago - coming down to the office to see about all the patients whom I told to come back - none of whom are here as yet.

The cause of all the to-do this morning was - as you can imagine - the fact that Kirsch told me on the telephone that his proposals had been accepted & were now in process, being mimeographed for dist'n to committee and Board members.

I'm not sure Mother herself knows what she screams about, but I feel it is nothing specific - only an indefinite fear that things are going to be changed. The appalling thing to me is the contradictions, the irrationality of it all. - Something

about which I can do nothing - reason has
no place in such a world and I have
the nothing due to offer.

Therefore have I promised myself to
isolate myself with my books and to
construct for myself an intellectual reality
so strong that it will harness these evil
passions toward some good. How else can I
live? - either in Konnaroach or anywhere else.

For the rest, I think I shall be well - better
perhaps than ever before - because of the subtle
significance that this madness has for my
self - the necessity of coping with it out
side should make it easier to cope with
on the inside - and feeling it as ~~some~~ experiencing
it as ~~some~~ something external - almost concrete
makes it easier perhaps to see and to understand.

Now, this must strike you as a rather sorry
letter - I ~~don't~~ hope it will not depress you -
it shouldn't - because it is the way I keep
from being depressed - and actually things

could be much worse with me. The
 role of country doctor suits me well and the
 nature of medical practice seems a much
 more compatible environment to serious
 philosophical investigation than academic
 life. This may be making a virtue
 of necessity - but oh! how necessary this
 form of self-deception is.

If I write in English today - you know
 I only choose the language of reason and
 clarity and moderation -

And you be good, don't worry about
 me - and come back soon.

Dein
 John

Love Margaret

11/27/55
11:30 pm.

This has been a busy day, ~~with~~
one of Elmer Reeves' children I had a most
extensive pneumonia - and they spent 8 hrs
here this evening, so that they might
be spared another hospital bill.

Mutti & Papa behaved a little better
this afternoon. They seem ~~slowly~~ to be
becoming gradually aware of the fact
that I am not trying to ruin them
after all —

Good night now.

Devin
Jochen.