

HARVARD COLLEGE

DEAN'S OFFICE

DELMAR LEIGHTON, DEAN OF FRESHMEN
JUDSON T. SHAPLIN } ASSISTANT DEANS
DAN H. FENN, JR. }

9 UNIVERSITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

July 22, 1946

Dear Dr. Meyer,

Your son has been admitted to Harvard College. In a college as large as Harvard it takes some time for teachers and administrative officers to become acquainted with their students; yet the important arrangements that have to be made at the very beginning all call for a knowledge of each man's special characteristics.

Will you, therefore, write us about him, as fully as you are willing, with reference to his individual qualities and needs? In case he has deficiencies in his earlier education or weaknesses in character or health that we ought to know about, please remember that your reply will be regarded as confidential and will be accessible only to your son's Faculty Adviser, to the Medical Office and to Administrative officers. The more frankly you write to us, the more likely we are to be in a position to help your son.

While we believe that no students have been admitted to Harvard who do not have the capacity to do good college work, the transition to university conditions is not always easily made, and we wish to help students as much as we can to facilitate this adjustment. Special arrangements under Faculty supervision have been made to assist students, particularly in the early period. We ask for your cooperation in notifying us if after his college work has begun you have reason to believe your son is having difficulty. No student needs to seek assistance from sources outside the University.

Sincerely yours,

D. Leighton

Dr. Heinz C. Meyer
Konnarock,
Virginia

Kennarock, Va., September 14, 1946

Mr. Deimar Leighton, Dean of Freshmen
Harvard College
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Information on Ernst Jochem Meyer.

Dear Mr. Leighton:

In reply to your letter of July 22, 1946, I am giving you the information you requested. I will try to put aside parental bias in these lines and to be as objective as possible.

My son is sensitive to drugs of the pyrazolon group and had a granulocytopenia as a result of that hypersensitivity several years ago.

For about four years, he has lost considerable amounts of albumin in the urine without any pathological findings microscopically. After physical strain that albuminuria, which I have considered orthostatic in nature, increases considerably and causes general malaise, headache, and inability to concentrate on his study. I have therefore advised him to be moderately active in sports, calisthenics, etc. and to have his condition checked upon regularly, but I have hesitated to consent to his ~~anxious~~ intention of taking on additional duties besides his academic work. Since, however, he had been anxious to contribute to the cost of his training by earning some money while in college, I agreed to let him try to take a job. On the other hand, I am somewhat worried that he neglects to be regularly re-examined -as young people will do- thereby jeopardizing the opportunities Harvard offers him.

He is a rather sincere boy for his 16 years and has tried so far to shape his life on principles rather than on expediency. This explains perhaps why he is somewhat outspoken and individualistic and relies more on himself than on others in his personal life as well as in his work. He is cooperative, but will not forget the goal and the principles he set for himself. He will defend the position he takes and yield only convincing arguments, which will make him occasionally appear disputatious. His ambition for good grades is caused not so much by a desire of being known as a good student, the motivation being his wish to live up to the expectations put in him and the goal he is aiming at.

This sincerity leads him to prefer the association with older, more mature people to that with boys of his own age. He therefore does not enjoy things which make life worth-while to other teen-agers.

It is difficult for me to estimate the extent to which administrative officers and teaching staff take interest in a student's private affairs and his personal traits such as those mentioned. (I was trained in Germany where -as you probably know- the student was entirely on his own and the university authorities and teachers took no personal interest in a student unless there was a private friendly relation between a professor and a student.) I have therefore hesitated to bring these problems before you fearing it might appear imposing or consequential, an impression which I wish to avoid under any circumstance; on the other hand, I did not want to withhold any information which might be of help to you and his teachers. It was the same uncertainty and indecision as to how far you expected me to go in my information concerning my son which kept me from answering your inquiry at an earlier date. I hope you will understand and excuse the delay.

Sincerely yours,

Heinz Meyer.