

January 4, 1929

Happy New Year to you and may you escape the Flu.

Yesterday I was standing at the window of my office as I sometimes do not looking at anybody or anything in particular but just thinking about what is going on in the world and I saw two girls meet. It was quite interesting. Intensely interesting to a man. They got about four steps apart and got a running start. One got the other one by the neck and then they swapped Flu germs. Well my thoughts of educational problems in America were chased out of existence. My thoughts "flu".

Do not kiss and do not be kissed. You have had your chance at that already. Jiggs came in one evening about 11:30 and said, "Daughter, was not that man kissing you." She said, "Papa, you do not think he would stay that late just to hear me sing." I do not know whether her voice is any better than Maggie's or not. You have been home and kissed your home folks and others. I suspect that is one of the most dangerous ways to pass germs. I regret now that I did not tell you to refrain from kissing one another when you returned. A man who did not know that he had the Flu but who did have it came into a dentist's office and had some work done. The next day the patient was down with the Flu and in a few days the dentist was down with the Flu and the doctor looked into his mouth and as he opened his mouth he coughed at the same time and in scheduled time the doctor was down with the Flu.

Now influenza is all over this whole country and it looks like we are in the beginning of a real genuine epidemic of it. The best thing to do when you begin to run a temperature or if you have that aching feeling, the best thing to do is to go to the Infirmary and go to bed. Three or four days in almost all cases will put you back on your feet and if you must cough, cough in



your handkerchief and do not broadcast those germs for your fellow classmates to pick up. I was talking with the Superintendent of the City Schools yesterday. He says there is less Flu in town now than there was when you went home before Christmas. Do everything you can do to keep from spreading this disease that is nation wide. We are going to take care of you if you get sick. Do not sit down and write one of those distressing and alarming letters to your home folks. One or two cases we have had in which the girls wrote home and the parents came hurrying to see them. In one case the parents travelled one or two hundred miles to see a student who was attending classes. I am thinking about having a regulation if you send for father and mother to send you home to stay with them because you get the Flu or get homesick do not sit down and write one of those distressing letters home. Have backbone enough to write this kind of a letter, "Dear Mother, I am love sick. May I come home to see him." College girls and boys are funny things.

You conducted yourselves splendidly the last week of school and also yesterday on Registration day. I hope you will not get sick. I want you to do everything you can to help us hold it to the minimum. A person who is sick falls down in her work. I hope you had a real enjoyable Christmas and that you will have a successful year. I believe you will. The student body of this college this year has shown a wonderful spirit. I think this is the finest bunch of young women I have ever worked with. Now enter into this new quarter with the same kind of spirit that you showed last quarter. This is one of the few colleges in North Carolina that did not close ahead of its scheduled time for Christmas. I noticed in the paper that the Secretary of the State Board of Health advises the colleges to open and go on with their regular work. He says there is less danger in school than to have the young folks running around here and there. Dr. Laughinghouse was a doctor in the army during the last Flu



epidemic. He knows something about how to handle it thru actual experience. One of the best ways to keep from taking it is to keep fit, take exercise every day. Keep yourself physically fit, as that is probably better than anything else that is known at this time. We went thru the other epidemic without having a single case of pneumonia and without a single death. Now if you will help us we will help you and probably we can escape this epidemic for most of you have already been exposed and there is a bare chance for us to escape. Now is the time to pass the winter term examinations. Begin work right now and may this be the best quarter of school work you have ever done in your life. Again I wish you a most successful and happy year of 1929.

Robert H. Wright, President