Newport News, July 11, 1918.

Dearest:

Haven't I been reforming? I've sent not more than ~~one~~ letter in two days on the average for a week.

I am enclosing my last letter from Gertrude. In a few days Mrs. Falconer will be back and then ~~she~~ Gertrude will know what ~~can be done~~ she will do.

Enclosed is a wrist watch for Peg and a pin for Gertrude. Last time Peg got a pin and Gertrude a wrist watch. I can't think of anything nice enough for you, Margaret.

By the way, a bill for about four million dollars has just gone through Congress like a land slide and is before Pres. Wilson. It creates a Division of Venereal Diseases in the U.S. Public Health Service, provides a subsidy for the states, gives some extra money to the ~~army~~ Secretaries of War & Navy for V.D. control, and appropriates for research work in V.D. I don't know what more we could do to make the V.D. program permanent. The bill was looked after by Mr. Moore of Portland Oregon;

(over)

but all of us had a chance to criticise + amend. I stood out for calling ~~it a Bureau of Venereal Disease + the~~ the Division in the P. H. S., a Division of Venereal Disease, and the bill probably went through that way. So the action of the Calif. State Board of Health in changing the name of the Bureau there to "Social Hygiene" is no longer serious, although somewhat unfortunate. I have ~~not~~ not heard who was responsible and why, but I have written Dr. Watters for particulars. This change happened after many other states had followed suit and had adopted partially without exception the term you + I had decided on. I think the term has its disadvantages, but it certainly ~~is~~ is straightforward and ~~clear~~ clear.

Yesterday I had an hour's conference with Mr. Homer Ferguson of the Newport News ~~Ship~~ Shipbuilding + Dry Dock Co. He is much interested in our work and I expect to interest his chief surgeon in establishing a venereal disease clinic ~~and~~ for the men and doing educational work among them.

To-day I went over to ~~Newport News~~ Norfolk with Col & Mrs Lynch & Lt Col & Mrs. Cumming. Col Lynch & I visited the Naval Base and I saw the medical aide & the Commandant about the V. D work. I also saw Surgeon Young (formerly of Chicago) U.S.P.H.S. and Dr. Cuverse (U.S.P.H.S) recently of S.F. It was a nice trip, but a dreadful little tub of a boat. In California we would drag it into the estuary at Alameda and let it rot in the clam flats. Here it is the regular ferry between two cities of over 100,000 population each.

The Naval base is on the site of the former Jamestown Exposition. The buildings are permanent and handsome, in contrast to the temporary structures being thrown up everywhere by the army. While crossing ~~the~~ Hampton Roads I saw a ~~dirigible~~ captive balloon way off ~~on the bay~~ near the ocean. There

were baloons and aeroplanes in ~~the~~ and near the hangars at the naval base.

Mrs. Cumming asked whether you would come to Newport News.

I received several communications about the freight, which is on the way. The bill of lading was announced in a letter from the quartermaster in Washington. I wrote to Victor & Meads asking that one of them designate a warehouse to ~~in~~ which the furniture can be delivered. I received also letters from the S.F. Quartermaster and from the ~~Students~~ express. the I. M. asked questions which I cannot very well answer, because the express company did not tell ~~how~~ how many pounds were books & how many were other personal effects. So we shall have to pay for ~~a~~ a larger share of the crating, etc., than otherwise. I shall study the whole thing further and may have to carry on ~~a~~ correspondence with the company

before I can decide about the amount of freights I shall ~~only~~ get only the flight allowance of captain because my notice of promotion went via Calif. and reached me one day after my orders to active duty. However it will not mean very much money as it looks as if ~~to~~ most of the freightage, ~~with~~ if not all, will be paid by the army.

It is nice and cool. Last night I woke up & pulled a blanket over me. So you see the weather is fine for summer.

We move into our new quarters to-morrow and things ought to begin to move.

I expect a letter from you about to-morrow, and it will be very welcome.

I miss you very much,

Wilbur.