P.O. Box 148,

Lagos, February 20, 1927.

Dear Margaret:

Two ships and no letters! My only consolation is that none of the rest of the colony have had a mail of any sizé. The next boat should bring a deluge. I hope so!

A new man has been added to the staff, — another Californian. Mr. Batchelder worked two years with Kellogg in the State Hygienic Laboratory, also for a couple of years at the Hooper with Meyer et al. and has done three years of his medical course. He seems to be a good sort, and a great improvement on the Russian who preceded him.

I have had a very interesting Sunday. Most of the day I have been going through a dress rehearsal taking rabbit blood and making all the different kinds of cultures that one would make from a yellow fever patient. On Wednesday (Feb 23) I shall sail on a French boat for Accra on the Gold Coast, taking with me a trained native laboratory assistant, ~~and~~ a personal "boy,"

60 guinea pigs, and a great array of glassware, culture media, dark field apparatus, etc. I have been doing a little laboratory work here, but should have more time for it in the field away from executive duties. There have been nine cases of yellow fever at a town 42 miles inland from Accra and there may be more. Dr. Baner has been very helpful in planning the trip and outfitting me. Perhaps I shall send for him later to carry on when I return, if the Lagos situation continues quiet.

Dr. Baner and I have been doing some interesting experiments with filters. It had been supposed that feces had so many spirochaetes, etc, in them that it would be useless to try to find leptospira. We inoculated ~~leptosp~~ feces with Leptospira icteroides and obtained abundant pure cultures by filtering laboriously through Berkefeld V and N. We assume that the cultures are pure, and they look it because the filtrate from feces which ~~[illegible]~~ were not inoculated stayed sterile. The new type of ~~Seitz~~ filter (Seitz the only) lets nothing through, ~~even when~~ not even ~~fr~~ from water inoculated with Leptospira.

Dr. Mueller, who is still in hospital with appendicitis will come out this week, and he will sail for home on March 25. He is the pathologist of the group, and his 18-months period of duty is about up.

The home office sent me a federal income tax return just as if it were on time and as if I did not have the sweetest business manager in the world at Hastings. I hope you did not have much trouble in filing and paying the tax.

The enclosed pictures were taken by Mr. Hogan, Secretary of the Commission. Save them for me. They were taken in our portable staff house from America. The oil-painting effect is due to developing films in warm water. I shall get you some better pictures later, but I am specializing in other lines now. I hope to induce Mr. Batchelder to take over the developing + printing. The first motion picture films have not yet come back from England. I hope they turn out well.

Do write often, and tell me in your next how Auntie Gertrude is getting on. You have not mentioned her.

Best love to you and all,

Hellen.