my dear Clara,

I read over your letter very carefully and like yourself I felt discouraged over the length of time and amount of work you must do before you are ready to hang out a shingle labeled "Dennis, Surgeon". However after thinking it over I decided to talk with Dr. Ritchie. He and Dad went through medical school together and were close friends all these years and he would have a real interest in your best opportunities. Also I
know he had recently gone over this matter very carefully in
regard to his own son Wallie.
so that his information would be
recent. So I took your letter to
him and he cleared up many
things in my own mind. For
instance, as Dr. Zimmerman put
it, it "would depend on how
much Dad's friends could do for
you" - that is, turn work you
way. You might label yourself a
surgeon but, until a certain amount
of time had elapsed and you had
of time had elapsed and you had
a certain amount of experience, a
patient would hesitate to trust his
life in your hands. You might
much better be in a hospital where
you are getting this last experience
and the most in a few years time
where, with good work, you are building up a prestige for yourself, so that at the end of the nine years spent in Johns Hopkins you may walk out with a reputation so well established that no one would hesitate to pay you to work for you — provided there is any to be 'enchanted as I'll explain later. Meanwhile you have room, board, and later a small salary or fellowship. Many do not stay the full nine years but four or five or six give just that much prestige and experience most valuable — much more than you would be able to get in private practice — which would mean general practice, working toward surgery until you have joined a clientele and confidence of your patients. With a few words Dr. Ritchie made clear to me that the whole practice of medicine has changed tremendously since the time he and Dad started in. Most doctors are trying to do their own surgery and are not referring cases to the surgeon as they did in the past. Also, their work is much of it contract work, that is, the man working for the Great Northern Railroad, working for the great Northern Railroad, being in need of an operation for appendicitis goes to the J.N. Surgeon. The man working for the Hoist & Derrick Co., goes to the surgeon of that company. That trend has been growing for years and is quite commonly established now.
you may remember that Dad was the consulting surgeon for the Great Northern Railroad and the surgeon for the Great Western. I think much of the things Dr. Busch had said and evidently what Dr. Zimmerman wrote you but it clarified the conditions to my own mind.

As for the financial outlook, it is a long hard pull anyway for a man in medicine and for a man in business depression. During the last few years of business depression, many of the doctors have been very hard,
pressed. Some few have had to close up offices entirely, some are just behind in rents and other bills. Mrs. Bische said she heard Dr. Foley say that he hadn’t collected enough for two years to pay office expenses, let alone household and family expenses. And he was one of the lowest practitioners here. He is lucky, I could have private means.

Dr. Bische’s talk has been so pessimistic that I have been annoyed. Of course he himself is “sitting pretty” but all his views as expressed to me are black—about medicine and black—about medicine and financial conditions. He has painted things so black that my reaction was keen to discount what he says.
Perhaps it was only badly expressed when he was tired because he is not a medical person. He and Mrs. Buchel are spending a month in Florida. Katherine and Glenn are stationed in Washington for five months when Glenn is doing some special economics for the government I think.

Dr. Buchel said to you he felt that he thought some service this week in the surgical hospital was of the best. He said it would be a good thing for you. He also said that he thought to continue the service of Johns Hopkins Hospital would be the very best training for you. If you could get the appointment, no one knows your taking any part of the four years course at any other school, after all where you are getting the very best training for you. If you could get the appointment, no one knows your taking any part of the four years course at any other school after all where you are getting the very best the country could offer. Why change? And there is a chance for prestige, good with the name "Johns Hopkins" all think the two months. The abilities this summer would have paid off. If you can get it, then we turn to the place. Dr. Buchel has made for Wallace and which in fact might be good for you since you both wish to take up surgery. Wallace has four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery. He will have four years at surgery.
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in Edinburgh studying Pathology and Anatomy. He had one year internship (rotating service) at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, one year service on the faculty of U. of Illinois, doing Pathology and studying Pathology. Now he has a three year fellowship at the U. of Illinois Hospital. He is working like the dickens. He has one night a month to write letters and I am engaged to Alice this and I believe she sets of home just hoping he may have a minute when he will leave time to telephone her. But I course she will know.
have her own private income and walkie will have the backing of a very large and influential family of Winter's. Then you are? It is not especially bright for immediate financial results. But I don't think anyone ever expects that of a man starting in medicine. Dad considered himself fortunate to be taken into the firm of Western and Rogers, where for two years he was paid twenty-five dollars a month (no room or board). As a special favor he was allowed to open a cot and sleep in the office at night. He had a little lunch of soup for breakfast, a few lunch | with tea at one of the saloons, and a twenty-five cent dinner. He managed to go
to the office occasionally when he and Dr. Goodwin sat in the gallery. It was stiff times and hard work and a long slow pull. There is more competition now. He was married a thirty-two and his wedding trip was a gift of the doctors with whom he was then associated. He couldn't have afforded it himself. He was married when he was thirty-seven and then he had to study abroad for a couple ahead to study abroad for a year with a war nest egg in reserve, or so then he specialized in surgery.

I believe all this is explained to the best of my ability, if there is any obscurity let me know and I'll do my best to find out.

Dr. Ritchie said he would inquire around at the U. and see if there was any likelihood of your being able to get this same fellowship here in two or three years if you thought you wanted it. It will let me know after a while. Not necessary for you to write him at present. Be sure to write him at present. Be sure to write Dr. Zimmerman and thank him for his advice if you haven't done already done so. I understand he spent several hours looking things up before answering.

I saw Nancy & her clarion children when she was home. I hope to live west when she was home. I hope to live east next year for certain and am not sure you just