

Walker Winslow correspondence

Section 74, Pages 2191 - 2220

This collection of papers largely consists of handwritten and typed correspondence between Walker Winslow (also under the name Harold Maine) and his third wife, Edna Mansley Winslow, the bulk of which dates from 1948-1951. The letters can be chatty and newsy, providing details about each of their daily lives and activities, what they were reading or music they were listening to, their work (his writing and therapy, her writing and painting), and other related topics. The letters could also be very self-reflective and analytical regarding their relationship to each other, discussing their sexuality and concepts of fidelity, relationships with others, their health and various injuries and illnesses they each had, money, their mutual loneliness, Edna's drinking, and other topics.

Some of the letters were written while Winslow was working at and writing in Topeka. They were also written while the Winslows lived separately in Santa Fe, New Mexico; various parts of California (especially Big Sur or Oakland); various parts of New York (especially Rochester and New York City); and in Kansas. The letters document the rise and fall of their brief and intense relationship.

Also in the materials are a few of Winslow's typed manuscripts and poems, many with copy-editing marks and annotations or corrections, including a copy of *If a Man Be Mad*, as well as two published versions of the book (one in French). There is also correspondence with friends and relatives of Winslow and/or Edna; Winslow family photographs; some sketches Edna drew, with her handwritten notes on the back, perhaps for letters to Winslow; a letter of recommendation from 1889 for Winslow's father; and extensive correspondence between Winslow and Dr. Karl Menninger. Some of this correspondence regards articles and the book Winslow wrote about the Menninger Clinic; there are also interview notes and transcripts from interviews Winslow conducted with Dr. C.F. Menninger. Topics of Winslow's writings include Henry Miller, psychiatry and life in asylums, and the Synanon Foundation.

Creator: Winslow, Walker, 1905-1969

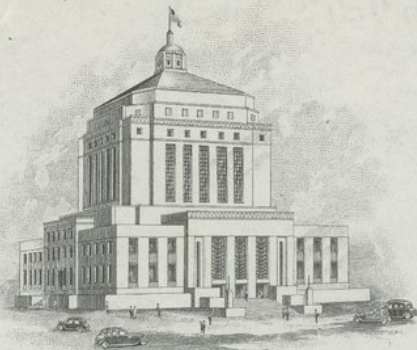
Date: circa 1943 - 1969, undated (bulk 1948-1951)

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Winslow, Boxes 1-7

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

H. P. GLEASON
SHERIFF

LEON H. ADER
UNDER SHERIFF
OAKLAND 7, CALIFORNIA
July 29, 1949

COMMUNICATION FROM
ALAMEDA COUNTY
REHABILITATION CENTER
Box 787
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA
JAMES G. TERRY, M. D.

Dr. Karl Menninger,
Chairman, Dean's Committee
Winter V.A. Hospital
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Karl:

I am enclosing a fiscal report for the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center to give you some idea of the scope of the work being done here. As you can guess from the number of patients, the work has gotten slightly out of hand. However, I feel that by trial and error we are developing a system that will lead to more adequate treatment as well as a more thorough clinical system.

Dr. Hall tells me that he has been passing my letters to him on to you and through them and through the mail I have sent Mr. Lundgren I have tried to keep you informed of my activities without involving you in too much personal correspondence.

I do not need to tell you how pleased and happy I am that our Aide Education Project was approved by the Rockefeller Foundation. To me this makes an historical moment in the development of psychiatric treatments. Knowing your very strong feelings in the matter, I am sure you are with me. You can be sure that I will continue to do all that I can to further this project.

At the moment I am awaiting a possible assignment to do an article which will tell something of this development.

I also feel that I should tell you that the work I am doing here is influenced by the work I was allowed to do with you in Topeka. ^{independent} You have set standards that anyone who comes under your ~~care~~ is challenged to meet.

I would like your response to our report. Later it might be possible that Dr. Terry or myself could do something on the clinic for the Menninger Bulletin.

Respectfully,

Harold
HAROLD MAYNE

WALKER WINSLOW, Mental Health Therapist.

WW:mw
enc

H. Maine

August 19, 1949

Mr. Walker Winslow
Mental Health Therapist
Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center
Box 787
Pleasanton, Calif.

Dear Harold:

I just this morning got back from a vacation and read your letter of July 29th, and the report of the Clinic which looks most interesting. I hope you will carry on and let us have an article for the Bulletin about it later. I think you and Dr. Terry are to be congratulated on the fine and original work you have begun here. I think no one would have prophesied that you would have had so many patients so quickly.

I haven't had a chance to talk to Dr. Hall about the developments at the State Hospital, but I understand they are good.

Sincerely yours,

KARL A. MENNINGER, M.D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

mm

September 7, 1949

Mr. Harold Maine
330 Van Beuren
Oakland, California

Dear Harold:

I promised to write immediately after I telephoned to you. My failure to do so is partly accounted for by the fact that we have had some trouble about the administrative head, which I told you I thought Heitzel would take. Heitzel studied it for a week very carefully and finally declined it for several reasons. In the first place, as a veteran he gets a bonus of \$50 or \$75 a month provided he will go to school, and he has been going to Washburn. In the second place, he has about five months of accumulated sick time and official leave which he would lose. He would also lose his seniority and everything else at Winter and in the Federal Civil Service. Consequently, we are working on one of the other men.

Now I think I ought to tell you that the Chief Aide has had his salary set at \$3500 a year up to \$3800 a year, whereas for the Administrative Assistant, which is what we thought you might want to be, the highest entering pay is \$3204. I told you I thought it was around \$300 a month, and so this isn't as good as I thought. We might be able to get it raised, or you might come on as Chief Aide and then if they can raise the other job, transfer to it and let someone take over the administrative responsibility. I am going to have John Anderson write you a little about what we are trying to do and enclose it in this letter. We all want you to come and I hope you will. I think we can use you in several other capacities for which we may be able to get a little extra compensation for you, but I am not certain enough about this yet to be very definite.

You will be very much interested in the enclosed letter to one of our doctors from a patient here who himself is a doctor, by the way. I think it will set you up no end.

Sincerely yours,

KM/dfs

Karl Menninger, M. D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

Harold Maine
% Walker Winslow
General Delivery
Pleasanton, Calif.

May 4/50

Dear Doctor Karl:

I have just finished my first month away from the clinic and back at writing. It is a period of readjustment that hasn't been too easy. I needed a rest, for I'd put just about all of myself into that job for a year. It was a one man show that was becoming too much for that one man. But I was placed in the position of trying to keep the same treatment standards I had demanded and that is a situation that would be good for every writer who has been critical of institutions. And I not only had to keep my own standards but found that I was eternally stuck with your standards as well. One thing I can always do when I get lonely in what I try to do is to think of you. I doubt that you'll ever understand just what you have meant to me.

The social service group here, and several doctors, want me to set up as a private practice counselor for alcoholics. With writing being as uncertain as it is, the idea is tempting. I wonder what you think of a layman doing that sort of work. I would have my doubts about the advisability of it were it not for the shortage of people who understand the problem. I would only take people who had been seen by a psychiatrist and re-referred to me. I realize, too, that before I attempt such a thing it would be better for me to work at least a year in some institution where my work could be controlled by well trained psychiatrists. I can't feel that the last year has been adequate in that sense.

However, it will be a few months before I know just what I will have to do. Maybe in the meantime I will have the chance to talk to you.

One of my projects in writing arises out of my experience with alcoholics and it is about this that I would like your advice and comment at this time. Once when you were talking to me about alcoholics you made some remark about the puzzling occurrence of spontaneous recoveries. I, too, have seen a good many. And often when I was counseling someone I had the feeling that I was acting more as a witness than a therapist. One thing seems certain, thousands of alcoholics make socially recoveries each year all by themselves and, I imagine, much to their own surprise. In many cases the recoveries may occur because of the cumulative effect of treatment. Maybe maturation is the factor, but in that event we do not know the factors bringing about that maturation. I should think that it would be important to all who have to do with alcoholics to know as nearly as possible just what does take place.



Walker Winslow correspondence

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Here is my project. I am having my agent approach READER'S DIGEST with the proposal that they allow me to do a short article on alcoholics who get well alone. In this article I would request that every self-recovered alcoholic who reads the article, or who is known to readers of the article, fill in an appended questionnaire. The point to the initial article would be to get the magazine and the readers steamed up over a treasure hunt for "the lost gold of personality" or whatever it is that enables some people to get well alone.

The important thing, of course, would be the questionnaire. There would have to be key questions through which we could really determine whether or not the person had been a true alcoholic and whether or not they were primary or secondary addicts. Of course, I could make out a haphazard questionnaire alone, but I think this is a matter for experts. What I'm asking of you is a large order but here it is: What would you, as a psychiatrist, want to know about this group? How could that information be best obtained?

As nearly as I can figure, psychiatry, Alcoholics Anonymous, and all other methods of treating the alcoholic, are reaching less than ten percent of all alcoholics. The disease remains a family problem and our education to the effect that alcoholism is a disease has far outranged our ability to cope with the disease. The result is that the average family thinks its alcoholic is sick until he refuses to respond to treatment or, A.A., and from then on regards him as a moral derelict. Hope for spontaneous recovery might have some effect on such ambivalence.

The article that revealed the findings of the questionnaire might have several good effects. Anyway, I think that my project is important and I hope that I can make some magazine see it. If I had some way of reaching a large enough segment of the public I'd apply for a Rockefeller grant for this project.

I know how cramped you are for time but I would deeply appreciate your feelings about this idea of mine. This could be either just another stupid self-help article or a real contribution.

I wish I trusted my agent. I believe that if I were to go to READER'S DIGEST myself I could sell them this idea.

Again, I will have to apologize for taking so much of your time. In a month or so it is possible that I will drive East and at that time I will stop in Topeka.

Sincerely

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

May 11, 1950

Mr. Harold Maine
% Walker Winslow
General Delivery
Pleasanton, Calif.

Dear Harold:

I was glad to have your letter of May 4th and to know what you are doing and thinking.

I don't believe I can advise you in regard to setting up as a counsellor for alcoholics. I really don't know what you could do; so much depends upon the relationships you establish with others. In general, I think it is much better to be associated with physicians or with an organization than to try to do things alone. That is the opinion of most doctors, and it is also my personal opinion. It is so easy to run into difficulties when one is by oneself.

In regard to the article for Reader's Digest, I can only tell you that I am so confused by their policy and their method of operation that I don't know what to expect or what to suggest.

I just got home from a trip to Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, ^{and} St. Louis and I leave in a day or two for New York so I am writing this with great haste between trains. Let me know what happens.

Sincerely yours,

KARL A. MENNINGER, M.D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

Birth - File unknown

220 Grand Avenue
Oakland, California

June 21, 1950

Karl Menninger, M.D.
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I did not acknowledge your recent letter, but I have pretty well followed your suggestion as to my role as a consultant on alcoholism. So far I seem to be quite well accepted, and in most cases work under supervision of or in accord with some ethical practitioner.

I started this only because there is a need for someone such as myself to see those alcoholics whose problem could not be treated either medically or psychiatrically en toto. I am also coordinating local medical services so that alcoholics who become a problem to their physician can be referred to me and medical care and hospitalization arranged. I am sure my entire plan would meet with your approval.

Once I get this project organized, I will have time to devote to my writing.

In a letter from Dr. Karl Bowman I note that the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology are meeting in San Francisco next week and the following week there is a meeting of the American Medical Association. If you are in town, I would like very much to see you. My telephone number is Higate 4-3064, and I am always in between 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on week days.

With very best wishes.

Cordially yours,

Harold Maine
c/o Walker Winslow



Walker Winslow correspondence

*File
Harold Maine*

Dr. Karl:

It looks like Harold has weathered his storm and is not as interested in coming here as he was previously. Anyway, I found it difficult to get him on the payroll here because of the civil service and veterans status requirements, but am still working on it. It doesn't appear that anything is available at the Clinic now either. The best bet would appear to be the Rockefeller grant if and when it comes through. The AA boys were in to visit the other day and I told them Harold might be wanting to live here. They said to tell him to come on and he wouldn't have to worry about a job--they could use him if the hospital couldn't.

Pete



Walker Winslow correspondence

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, NY

Feb. 4/51

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

When I left Topeka something was said about my coming back in two weeks. However, when I talked to Dr. Robbins he pointed out that the project for which I was hired would run out in the meantime and that the need for me would have to be subjected to evaluation. He asked me to write a summary of my experiences, which I am doing today.

In the meantime, as I understand it, Dr. Robbins is going to talk to the people I have worked with and get their general feeling about my work. This seems wise to me, before any plans about the future are made.

I'm generally in a spot. There are debts I have to pay which cannot be payed on my salary in Topeka but which could be met with one check from any major magazine. For this reason I am writing as much as I can until things in general clarify themselves.

You know how much I have appreciated your faith and understanding. Working at the Clinic was a great experience and a rewarding one. What more I can do will depend on Dr. Robbins' decision and the effectiveness with which I am able to work at my writing.

Do you know the industrial psychiatrist employed by Eastman? Dr. Will mentioned him to me. It strikes me that his work might be made into a piece for POST or some other magazine. ~~and~~ An introduction from you would be very helpful.

I know that you understand that I wouldn't have left Topeka except for imperative personal reasons. Those reasons are rapidly resolving themselves to the point where I can keep my personal life out of my public work.

Respectfully
Harold
Harold Maine

** Eastman Kodak - Rochester*

Wm wrote

*McM
Kahn
Robbins
I can*

February 8, 1951

Mr. Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N. Y.

Dear Harold:

Karl passed on to me your letter of the
4th.

The psychiatrist at the Eastman Kodak
Company is Dr. Ralph Collins. Please use this letter
as an introduction to him, to indicate that I am glad
to vouch for your ability and your ethics and good
judgment.

Sincerely,

WCM-n

William C. Menninger, M.D.

Walker Winslow correspondence

February 20, 1951

Mr. Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N. Y.

Dear Harold:

I miss you around here. I hope you and Doctor Robbins get something worked out. I suppose you are still pretty uncertain about when you even could come back, aren't you? I hope things are going well.

Congratulations on your splendid article in MANAS. I sent it over to Doctor Robbins. I think it is a splendid article and it emphasizes a point I believe in very strongly, or rather two points. First, that about helping others and secondly that about the "hour of man."

Sincerely yours,

KM/dfs

Karl Menninger, M. D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, NY

Feb. 21/51

*call at
winter* *mem =
Lambert*
*political
psychiatry*

Dear Doctor Karl:

As I explained to you in my last letter, I am in contact with Dr. Robbins and he is attempting to evaluate my possible further usefulness to the Clinic. I couldn't afford a return trip at this moment unless something positive awaited me. In the meantime I have re-established my writing contacts and am attempting to get myself out of the hole.

In line with my writing, I am asking your advice on a very delicate matter. I am putting this matter in your hands first, and in a hurry, for reasons that are obvious. Two of the major magazines have a potential assignment open to some writer in the field of mental health. It has to do with a psychiatric evaluation of Pres. Truman, because of his recent outbursts, both epistolary and vocal. These have not only been in bad taste, but of such a nature as to shake the confidence of the public. Many are made sensitive to the Truman situation by the memory of the psychotic break of Sec. of Defense Forrestal. The politically ordained conjectures of columnists further complicates the situation.

Since much is going to be written in which Psychiatry will be made to seem to have made pronouncements, I am attempting to do an ethical and thoughtful treatment of the Truman situation, using only statements from responsible psychiatrists. By turning to the literature of psychiatry any writer can stack the cards in whatever direction he wishes. By using a conversational technique one can get all sorts of conjectures from psychiatrists who are caught off guard. For example, I've already gotten the opinions that the President suffers from a compulsive-obsessive neurosis, a situational neurosis, and that his conduct should be considered from a purely normal point of view, with due allowance made for the physical strain of office.

It seems to me that the public needs assurance that:
1) That the medical advice available to the President is also a protection to the public. 2) That grossly psychotic, or even dangerously neurotic behavior could be detected and controlled before it became disastrous. 3) That Psychiatry as a whole is responsibly concerned with public welfare.



Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

It was my feeling that if several psychiatrists, assured of anonymity, would answer the questionnaire enclosed, this would be evidence that they have given thought to the situation. It wouldn't be very reassuring to the public to know that the only science that can offer them protection against a psychotic ruler is so aloof as to disregard even its own welfare. I have to ask some of these questions, but I personally feel guarded and thoughtful statements which would establish the confidence of the public in psychiatry are what is needed. "No comment," answers would be taken to mean the worst.

I am not seeking your endorsement of this project and you know me well enough to know that I would not use your name unless I was specifically told to do so. It is my ultimate trust in both your ability and friendship that makes me consult you first. If I drop the whole matter it will show up in the hands of Deutsch, Maisel, Whitman, or some staff writer. I am not at all sure that it won't anyway. I am trying to circumvent that.

For the protection of Psychiatry, as well as a check on my own judgement, I would greatly appreciate your reading my final draft of the article, should I get the assignment. If you would do this I would assure you of every protection. And you know that I want to maintain my own reputation. I may be slowing down and thus losing this assignment by placing this matter in your hands, but I would rather do that than act rashly. I would also see to it that any biographical data on me kept the Foundation out of the picture.

If you and Dr. Will would care to make general and anonymous statements on the implications of the Truman affair, it is possible that I wouldn't have to go further. In this regard there arises the question as to whether the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shouldn't be subjected to at least the amount of psychiatric screening that is given a private, even though this screening took place while he was holding a much lower office. This gives rise to the question as to whether we utilize psychiatry where it might matter the most, etc. Again, I assure you that whatever you say will be treated as confidential. I won't trust the magazine with your names, but will merely present, anonymously, the statements given me.

If I get enough psychiatric opinion to carry the article I can then devote most of my space to what the legal steps would be in committing a President, should he be mentally ill; examples of mad rulers who held sway before the time of psychiatry; a study of the personalities of those who would inherit the Presidency in case of Truman's death or removal from office; the need for psychiatric attendance of those in high office, etc.

Walker Winslow correspondence

-3-

My hope is that I can take sensation#, as such, out of sensational material and emerge with a compelling and enlightening piece of writing which served the cause of psychiatry as well as contributed to national security.

I gave much thought to the matter of bothering you with this project and finally decided that you would want me to. I will be most grateful for and welcome any suggestions you may wish to make. As a scholar, you may be able to give me a hint or two as to public figures who would make good comparisons with Truman.

As it is imperative that I get into action at once, I would appreciate an answer as soon as is possible.

As ever

Harold



Walker Winslow correspondence

This will be enclosed 2 questionnaires.

President Truman's outbursts of irritability, as well as his uncontrolled invective in recent letters, has given rise to doubts as to his emotional stability. Private circulation newsletters have gone so far to suggest that the extent of his instability is known only to the few people close to him and that not even they can control him adequately. Already columnists and popular writers are putting psychiatric tags on him.

Since an assignment to interview psychiatrists and report on their opinions of the President is going to be given to some writer, I am entering into the competition in hopes of being able to represent psychiatry fairly as well as protect the national security involved.

I think that I have already convinced the editors that ethical psychiatrists do not indulge in long distance and extra-sensory diagnosis. However, I am sure that any ruthless reporter could get enough opinions on the President to place psychiatry as a whole in a bad position. It is also possible for a skilled writer to quote from the published works of prominent psychiatrists in such a way as to make them seem to have made a statement. Worse yet, the writer can cook up his own statements and make Psychiatry responsible for them.

As an antidote to the above dangerous possibilities, I am asking for assistance in the preparation of an article that will offer psychiatry a maximum of security. Here is what I propose to do. I am polling ten psychiatrists in widely scattered parts of the country, asking that they answer the enclosed questions, or make a statement, and return either to me unsigned and without a letter head. This will assure these interviewed of anonymity, if they wish it, and at the same time enable me to quote correctly and offer the magazine supportive documentation. I understand, and will make the readers understand, that I have merely solicited skilled conjecture, professional concern or statement as to what you feel Psychiatry's role should be in a case like this.

It must be remembered that the psychotic break of another holder of high office, Secretary of the Defense, James Forrestal, is still fresh in the memory of many people. These would feel that some reassurance or warning was in order in the present case.



Walker Winslow correspondence

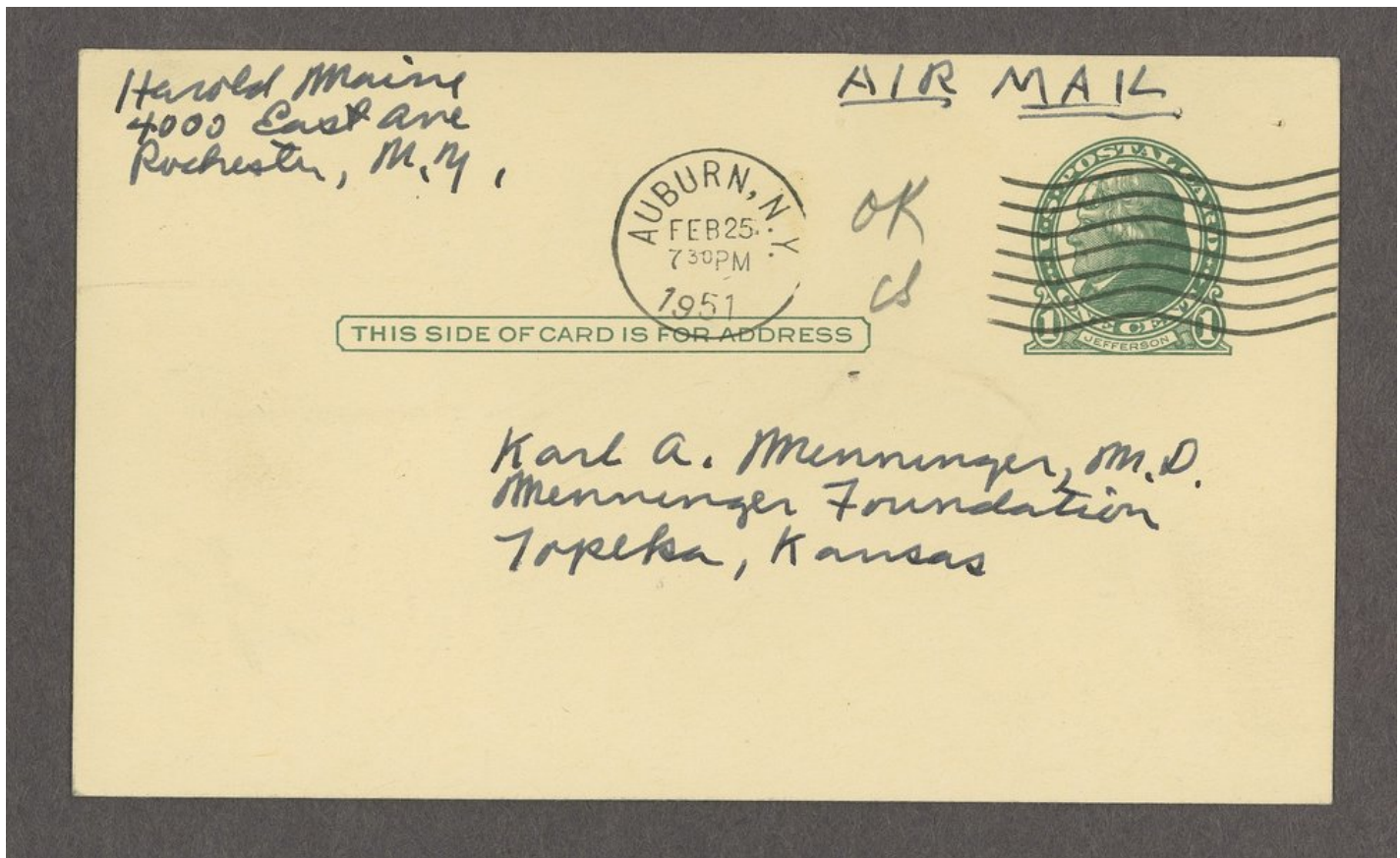
I promise anonymity and a confidential handling of any or all material given me. Since I will query at least two psychiatrists in any given city or psychiatric center I will be unable to identify anyone who answers on plain stationary. I further promise to quote exactly.

Harold Maine

- 1) "As a citizen are you worried by the irritability and undignified letter writing of the President?
- 2) Do the president's present actions seem to you to be in keeping with the personality that has been known to you during his years in office?
- 3) Do you feel that the outbursts of temper displayed both in speech and by letter merely the outbursts of a man responding normally to the strain of high office and the consistent attacks on his administration?
- 4) Do the above mentioned outbursts seem to you to be:
a. a normal release of pent up emotions; b. a danger signal.
- 5) Would your conjecture be that: a. the president suffers from a neurosis of long standing? b. A situational neurosis? c. No neurosis?
- 6) Do you feel that there should be a psychiatrist in attendance to any president, that a regimen of mental hygiene is as important as general medical care? (This question does not apply specifically to the present case.)
- 7) Do you believe that a President, in office and under stress, could undergo psychiatric treatment; ie. would it be wise for him to show subjective concern when the objective affairs of state make such extraordinary demands upon him?
- 8) Do you feel that a man whose judgement is faulty in minor details can be trusted in affairs of great importance?
- 9) Do you see any significance in the President's recent statement to a group of young people that there was no future in the presidency?
- 10) What should the role of psychiatry be when a man in high public office is showing significant signs of potential mental illness?

If you feel it impossible to answer any of the above questions would you make a statement as to the ethics involved?

Walker Winslow correspondence



Walker Winslow correspondence

Dear Doctor Kane:

2/25/50

a little serious consideration has told me that I want no part of the Truman article. Please disregard + forgive what I feel to have been a thoughtless request.

I greatly appreciated your comment on the article in Manus. They want me to prepare an article on the history of the foundation. I would do a really thoughtful piece for them. all is well here except that I'm in bed with the flu + Edna is not recovering. I'm in constant contact with Dr. Robinson as ever
I Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

*Political
Psychiatry*

March 2, 1951

Mr. Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N. Y.

Dear Harold:

I think it is a very good idea to give it up. As a matter of fact, I think it might be very unethical for any psychiatrist to give opinions and it certainly would lead to bad reflections against psychiatry. I talked to a couple of newspaper men about it, very generally, and they both thought it would be very bad.

I am sorry to hear you are having the flu, but I keep hoping you will be coming back here any minute.

Sincerely yours,

KM/dfs

Karl Menninger, M. D.

Walker Winslow correspondence

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N.Y.
March 4/51

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I feel rather sheepish about being taken in with that Truman idea. The only excuse I can think of for this hole in my armor is that it came up while I was coming down with the worst case of flu I have ever experienced and from which I have just recovered.

I have given my agent notice that our relationship is to end when he has exhausted the material he has on hand. He has been completely inept in the handling of mental health material because of his insistence on either sensationalism or escape. I have had him turn down sound ideas only to see the very same idea done at a much later date by some other writer.

It is very important, I think, that I reestablish myself as a writer. But I have a tough grind ahead, working as I will be with no capital and without a good agent until such a time as I can prove myself to be worthy of an agent. I realize now that the inertia of the last couple of years has come from the constant vetoing of every good idea that I've had by a man who had no understanding of what I was all about. He thought, for example, that THE HOUR OF MAN was seditious. He also felt that in a time of national emergency it was dangerous to expose the decline of the V.A. And yet he would suggest something ten times more dangerous.

There's an article I'm very late in attempting, but one which could have a tremendous effect on the destiny of V.A. That would be a personal interview with Doctor Magnuson relative about what has happened to V.A. in the last two years. As you know, I tried to sell the idea of doing another article on Winter Hospital to show the end results of the V.A. policy. That story is killed because I got in too early with it. Do you think it possible that Doctor Magnuson would grant me an interview or that you could vouch for me? I'm pretty sure someone is ahead of me, nevertheless I should make sure.

I am doing an article on the Foundation for MANAS. Though I won't get paid for this it seems to me that the reprints might be helpful to you and that there is a chance of the article being picked up by a digest magazine. I have enough material to do a "rough" which I would then like you and Doctor Will to pass on.

As ever

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

March 12, 1951

Mr. Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N.Y.

My dear Harold:

I am not at all surprised that you were interested for a time in the Truman idea, but I agree with you that it would be quite impractical to write it.

I am glad you are changing agents.

You would have no trouble whatever in seeing Magnuson. He would be delighted. He is in Washington most of the time where his address is 3121 "O" Street, NW. His Chicago office is 700 North Michigan Avenue. I am enclosing a letter which will explain itself.

I ought to tell you that Magnuson has a lot of forceful points, but he has weakened his position in what is for some of us a very embarrassing way. He urged all of us to support his successor, saying that he couldn't think of a better man for the job, that we shouldn't rock the boat, that everything was going to be all right, etc. Then he writes us personally that he is not going to take this lying down and that we are not to let the bureaucrats move in on us, etc. I really don't know exactly what his game is. I admire him as an individual and he is a good personal friend, but I expected ^{to see} him win out in that fight with Gray and it looks to us as if he lost. A lot of people don't like it, but they don't know what to do about it.

By all means go and see him.

I am very glad you are going to write an article about the Foundation for MANAS, and I hope you will let us have a chance to get some reprints. Let Lawder take a look at it.

Sincerely yours,

KARL A. MENNINGER, M.D.

Encl.

to date 2-26-51
cc: J. M. Magnuson
cc: W. C. Lawder



Walker Winslow correspondence

*File
unopened*

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, NY
March 19/51

M

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I want to thank you for your introduction to Doctor Magnuson. Now I hope that I am able to make use of it and that he will feel free to talk to me. There is a chance, however, that even those magazines that might be interested would feel that I didn't have enough of a Washington background to handle the story.

Ideally, the story I'd like to tell is that of the end effect of politics on the individual hospital, the individual patient and the individual doctor. Enabled to do this, I could make whatever Dr. Magnuson has to say more meaningful. But I have already tried and been turned down on the idea of showing what has happened at Winter Hospital.

There is some significance in the apologetic rejections of the idea. Gray picked a strategic time to move in on Magnuson; ie., under the cover of a national emergency that makes the V.A. medical plan seem a little inconsequential. And you can't tell me that he isn't depending on the shortage of doctors as an excuse for lowering medical standards and getting back to the patronage system in which hospitals would be located according to political influence rather than scientific strategy.

Something I could never understand was that, with the amount of power he was given, Gen. Bradley didn't kick out the whole herd of old Hines functionaries. I saw exactly the same inspection teams arrive at Winter that I had seen whitewash Palo Alto when it was at its worst. You are as well aware as I am, and perhaps better, how many managers were retained who were not only incompetent in a medical sense but who were too highly competent in a political sense.

Probably to really speak my piece I will have to do another book. When I do, believe me that Winter will play a large role. I think the story of your fight for higher medical standards than either Hawley or Magnuson intended is one of the most heroic in the annals of medicine.

I haven't heard from Doctor Robbins as yet. In another three weeks or a month I should have my business in order so that I would be able to work with a free mind on both my writing and my job. I have been made an interesting offer to run an advice column for a large monthly magazine under a pseudonym. It is their idea and if it materializes a lot of my problems are taken care of.

Walker Winslow correspondence

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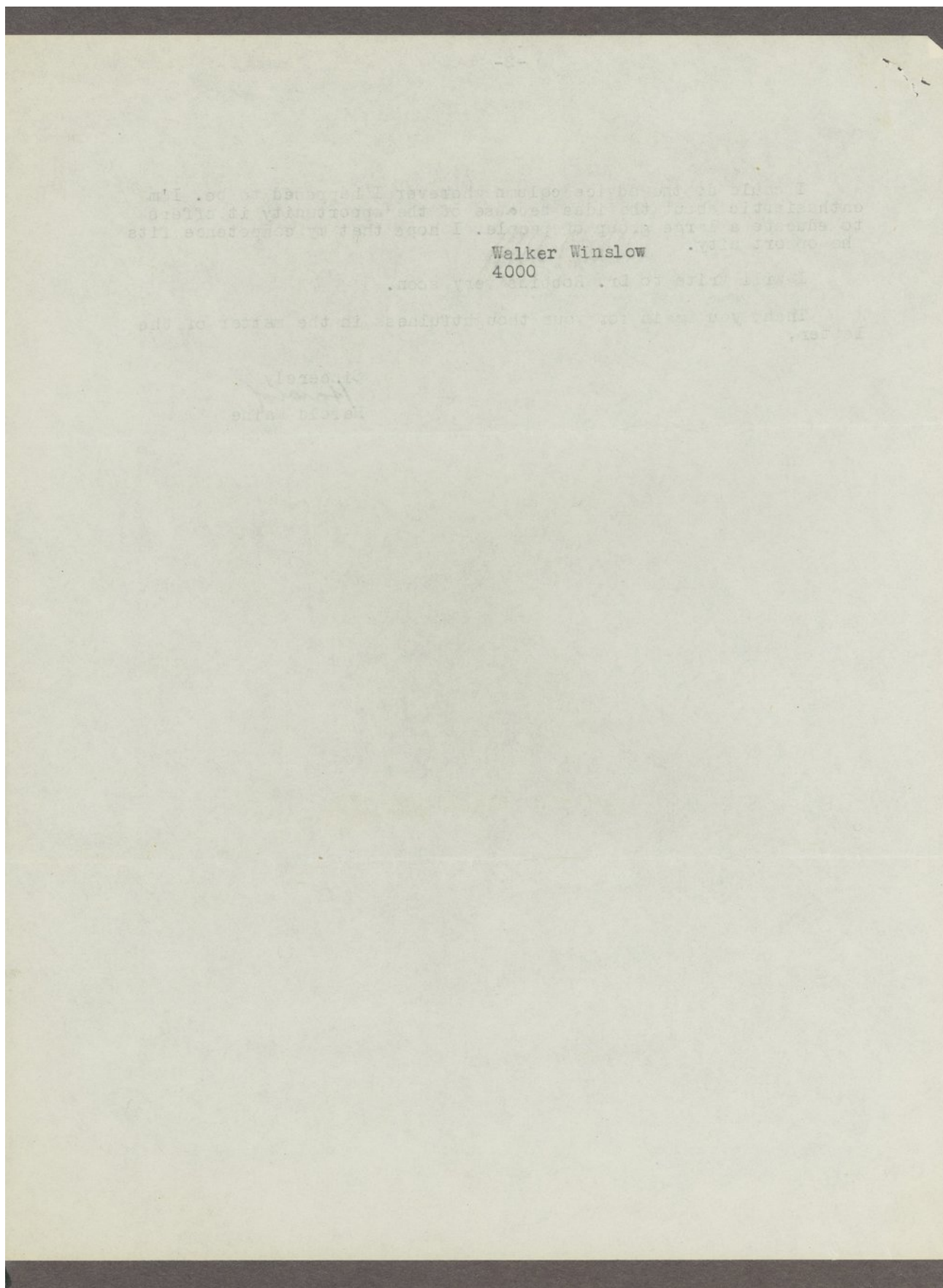
I could do the advice column wherever I happened to be. I'm enthusiastic about the idea because of the opportunity it offers to educate a large group of people. I hope that my competence fits the opportunity.

I will write to Dr. Robbins very soon.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in the matter of the letter,

Sincerely
Harold
Harold Maine

Walker Winslow correspondence



Walker Winslow correspondence

March 21, 1951

Mr. Harold Mine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Maine:

Dr. Karl is recovering from a bout of pneumonia, but he asked me to copy the following excerpt from a letter received today from Doctor Magnuson and send it on to you:

"Thanks for your letter and I'll be glad to see Harold Maine, anytime -- I read his article in the Saturday Eve Post and thought it was great.

"Tell him I have all the dope here at my house and I will give him everything and all of my time he wants -- I'll be back in town April 7th, in the mean time if he wants any of the papers I have and the report to the Senate Committee I'll tell Miss Winters to give it to him."

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Dorothy Sellars
Secretary to Dr. Menninger

Walker Winslow correspondence

DR. PAUL B. MAGNUSON
700 NORTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO

Dear Karl

Thanks for your letter
and I'll be glad to see Harold Maine
any time - I read his article in the
Saturday Eve Post and thought it was
great.

Tell him I have all the dope here
at my house and I will give him
every thing and all of my time
he wants - I'll be back in town
April 7th, in the mean time if
he wants any of the papers I have

Walker Winslow correspondence

and the report to the Senate Committee
I'll tell Miss Winters to give it to him

We are going to win this fight I
think and win it so it will stay
won for a while - that gang on
the tenth floor is groggy from
the knocking around they have
taken from the medical men and
the news papers - It's all been good.
I'm here until we really win

My best to you and Bill
and the boys & girls on your staff -
As ever

Paul



Walker Winslow correspondence

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, NY
April 4/51

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wins*

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Clinic
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I was sorry to hear that you were ill. It was thoughtful of you to have your secretary forward the agreeable news from Doctor Magnuson. I have written to him and will see him in Chicago at his convenience. This interview, coming as it will, before my trip to Topeka, will work out very well indeed.

It was as I thought. Neither of the big weeklies, Post and Collier's would touch the V.A. story. But Ladies' Home Journal is very much interested and encouraged me to go ahead with the story, on speculation. That is, they are agreeable to my idea if the treatment suits them. This is encouraging. I have just done another piece for them.

If LHJ follows my idea, I will write a fairly short lead in piece saying that keeping an eye on the V.A. is the woman's home front job. I will then tell why she should do this, how she should do it, etc. Women staff writers visiting several hospitals could then report what they were able to find. If LHJ is willing to spend the money, this could be a very impressive report. As badly as I need money, I'm willing to forego a big fee if they will follow that plan. I have just sent them this idea after they had approved of my more general outline. So it isn't official yet.

Since I'm routinely get kicked square in the teeth for my efforts at crusading, the issue of any writing on V.A. is in doubt until we see it in print.

Hoping that your health has returned, and looking forward to my visit to Topeka,

Sincerely

Harold



Walker Winslow correspondence

*Robbins
File unnumbered
KRM*

Harold Maine
4000 East Avenue
Rochester 10, NY
April 13/51

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I just this morning wrote you an ebullient letter about the material Dr. Magnuson had placed in my hands. Then I phoned Washington for an appointment only to learn that last week he had given the same material to READERS' DIGEST staff writers and that the article would appear in June. Of course this is all to the good, but he succeeded in making a damned fool of me. I had to call Ladies' Home Journal and they withdrew their assignment. It now becomes obvious that Dr. Magnuson withheld the material from me until the other story was in the clear. Last week I got a rejection from Reader's Digest because the National Mental Health outfit, to which I am alleged to be an editorial consultant, had given conflicting material to a LOOK magazine writer. This was on the Aide Training Program. This business gets a little frustrating after while.

The first of the week I am leaving for Topeka, hoping to get a couple of stories that may have a chance before the other writers get there. Also I would like to have an hour of your time if you can spare it. I am really at the point where I desperately need a friend. I really wouldn't ask for this time if my problem wasn't serious and imperative. Your belief in me has been one of the high points in my life, and I need this belief now more than ever.

I will be staying with Dr. Hall and will call you as soon as I get into town, probably Thursday.

The write up TIME gave you was deeply moving to me. Your humanity found an eloquence that should forever stifle the church people who pretend to find psychiatry a threat to religion. But it is odd that it took a psychiatrist to restate the principles laid down in the Sermon on the Mount. And make them a living reality!

You certainly did all you could about this Magnuson business and your letter to him, and his to you, had precedent over the Reader's Digest Business. Still, it's his crusade so I can't be too critical.

as ever

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

Jeau

Harold Maine
June 12/51

Dear Dr. Karl:

Mr. Lewder tells me that some thought has been given to having a book done about your father. It occurred to me that perhaps I could do an article about him for Saturday Evening Post, or some such magazine, that would arouse interest in such a book, as well as letting the public know a magnificent man.

I don't know how you or your father would feel about the article but I am sure that I could do a compelling job if given a chance. You know what my feelings are about your family and the role it has played in modern life. If you are at all interested, I would like to discuss the article with you and your father so that I could do the preliminary work of getting an assignment. ###

Since your father's health hasn't been good, he may feel that I am descending on him like a vulture. This is one reason I hesitate to approach him directly. I would far rather let the article go than approach him at a time when he is likely to be hypersensitive. Since considerable time would have to be spent on the article he'd soon become aware that I'm not rushing things.

I have just finished Lucy Freeman's book. It is a pretty sad job, possibly one of the worst offenses ever committed against analysis. She neither makes the reader want her to get well or convinces him that she is well. She's a good reporter and a fine person. I wish for her own sake that she could withdraw the book. But I imagine that it will sort of withdraw itself. It isn't very good reading either

Harold

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