JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

Baltimore, Md. Sept.27,1917

Dr. Anna Shaw,
Women's Committee,
1814 N Street
Washington,D.C.

Dear Doctor Shaw :

Will you not thank the Press Committee for the kind message which came to me through Mrs.M. yesterday.

I am sure you must know how humiliated I am to be out of the race just now. I feel so like a slacker. When I came here, I did not think it would be for more than two or three weeks. I am afraid it is going to be much longer, that is, if I do what they tell me I ought to do and what my own common sense dictates. I have been putting off this matter for several years now and I am afraid I cannot do it any longer.

I hope that this does not mean that I will be of no use to the Committee. I think I will be able to do a little writing. I think I shall be able at long range to edit the Bulletin and to do something for the Food Administration. Just how much I can do, I shall know better in a few days.

I know how strongly you feel that you need active workers at this moment on the Committee; and surely no one can feel more strongly than I do about that. If, with the prospect of my not being of much use for two or three months, you feel that it would be wise for me to resign, and you can get some active prson to take hold, you know how glad I will be to abide by it. You know my interest is the interest of the Committee.

One thing I am feeling really anxious about and that is whether or not we are putting sufficient urge and push behind the Divisions of the country. The period set of for the drive, if I remember, comes from the 7th to the 14th of October. As I see it, this is very important forus.

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We must build up in every unit a strong, democratic, permanent organization to handle these recurring campaigns and drives. If the women who do the work can be urged to study each campaign that they make, so see where they have fallen down--how they can bring more groups in--develop more cohesion and a community cooperative action, we will have a Committee constantly strong, impervious to disintegrating, and which will not fall into the hands of one Society or a group of two or three societies. In this latter case, it never can be so effective as under our scheme, good work as they may do.

I have not received reports of the meetings this week. I am now able to read my mail and am to be allowed a stenographer every other day for an hour so you see I want to keep in touch.

Please give my affectionate greetings to all the members of the Committee.

Faithfully,

IDA M. TARBELL

per P.

Dictated but not read.

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