970 Main St.
Buffalo N.Y.
Dec. 20th.

Dear Ida:—

I meant to write to you first after I reached here but it has been hard work to settle myself to doing any thing and now I am going home tuesday for Xmas. I wrote you I was coming. Will arranged money matters by selling oil in advance so I came right off. Mrs C. met me and went to the doctor's office with me and he brought me here, a private hospital. It is run by a lady who is a trained nurse & doctor also. She hires trained nurses, the doctors of the city bring their patients here for operations, then they can have the best of care afterward & as they have only about 8 at a time, it is quiet the general hospitals are so noisy.

The night I got here a lady came into my room looked at me & said "I am Dr. Cruise you are Miss

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Tarbell I believe" Yes I said "You are to be operated on tomorrow morning. I will give you a salt-bath ~~early~~, you are to have no breakfast, etc" It came out in such a business like matter I felt ~~as~~ if I was a lamb getting ready to be slaughtered. Dr. Cruise is really very nice tho. It happened that Dr Mann was delaid till 5 P.M. & I had to go all day without a thing to eat as you ~~feel~~ as if you never want to see anything after taking ether. I hope I may never have to take it again. I was under it quite a long time never knew a thing. took me from the operating room to mine, never knew it. The first I came out I wondered who was groaning so, then as the nurse spoke to me I came to the conclusion it was I that was making so much fuss. Take it all in all it was a queer experience and I am glad it is over. I got along nicely afterward. It was not a critical operation but all I wanted thank you. What is troubling me is that I am not cured yet. Dr Mann says I must come back after Xmas, he is sure he can get me well. The people in & all around Buffalo seem to think Dr. Mann is just "it" if he cant help you no one can. The doctors from all over the country bring patients to him. I feel I am in good hands any way. He is very blunt & never hesitates to say he can or cant do for you. He is also a ~~fine~~ very good man, does so much for people who can not afford to pay him. He can demand any price but is very reasonable to all.

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Xmas Morning Titusville.

"A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year" to you. We have just got over our presents, the other household have gone home & I will try to finish my letter to you. I came Tuesday as I expected. I was used up but when I got here & found every one of the folks sick with the "grip" I felt better. It was so funny. Lizzie was laid up. Father able to sit up & Mother on her last legs. We got a woman to help & they are all better & around again. Tho. Mother has lost her voice almost — that is why we do not have the folks to dinner. Now dont worry over any thing I write or I wont do it again. I feel very sorry my last letter caused you such a "spell" — Would you like to know what we got for Christmas — We each

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