

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1950

Dear Mamma,

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I can't thank you enough for taking care of Laurence for such a long time. I can only hope you weren't just being cheerful to the sick when you kept on saying you didn't mind. What we should have done without your help I can't imagine, except hire a practical nurse (if possible) which would have put us even further in the hole than we now are. - I went downtown with father the other day to get some maternity clothes. The car trip was something of a nightmare, but I had to do it, and I took along a Thermos with cocoa and a bread and butter sandwich. As soon as the car stopped and I had eaten half of my provisions I was allright again. I bought one skirt, one pair of slacks, one everyday warm jacket, and two slightly more dressy jackets to go with the skirt. Also two nightgowns in flannelette, a garter belt, and a bathrobe- all maternity, of course. I still haven't gotten any pants or slippis, but I have spent \$110! I was simply horrified. I didn't buy anything that was expensive, nor anything that I thought I could possibly do without. With only one skirt and one pair of slack, I don't know how I'll ever be able to send them to the cleaners, but I just couldn't spend any more. William had to buy a suit and a topcoat this month, too. No use thinking about it, thinking won't help.

As William probably told you, we think we have finally found something that helps me with some of my symptoms. Unfortunately, it too is very expensive, and I have found out by trial and error that instead of the once every fourth day Dr. Norton said would probably do, I'll have to have it every other day. Fortunately, Dr. Norton is sure it won't hurt to do it more often at all. It's a naturally manufactured hormone that apparently I don't manufacture enough of. It has the effect of making me feel pretty good the day after the injection, from the middle of the day after till the middle of the second day after, sometimes longer. I have more energy, less indigestion, better morale, and I don't burst into tears two or three times a day as I do when I don't have it. In short, it's a real blessing. It doesn't help the eating busines at all, I'm sorry to say. I have still got to eat solid food every hour on the hour when I'm awake or I feel frightful. But with this hormone, plus the usual frequent Ralston, I manage to feel much better. Whenever I go to the ourth day without an injection I feel the same as before, - sick, tired all the time, headachey, and like a perpetual fountain of tears. Also I still seem to feel tired and sleepy around ten tirty in the morning, even when I've had an excellent and full night's sleep before, and the injection hasn't worn off. Apparently it doesn't effect the need for extra sleep and extra food. Well, Thank goodness for what it does do.

Perhaps William also told you about Laurence's school situation. This week it's only one hour a day, next week it will be two hours. He has gone twice, with no reluctance. Betsey goes with him, which is a big help, and I think the shorter period is an improvement from his point of view, if not from mine. He keeps saying he is going to live in Wisconsin when he grows up, so Betsey will have to live there too. He said he hugged her and called her darling but she didn't like it very much. So he told her she'd have to like it when they get married. I've got to stop and eat again.

LOve,