

September 19, 1947

Mrs. Harry F. Johnson
213 North 12th Street
Wymore, Nebraska

Dear Dorothea:

I have just read your letter of the 17th in which you refer to some mending that your mamma might do. You perhaps will recall that I have tried for years to slow Gertrude down in the matter of straining her eyes. I have objected to her doing so much fancy work, and she reads during the day and frequently reads herself to sleep at night; although, since we occupy adjoining beds she is doing less of the latter.

While we were at Gull Lake - to be exact, I think on August 5 - Gertrude suddenly experienced a blurring of her left eye. While she could see around the penumbra, she did not have any vision directly in front of her. We went to an oculist in Brainerd who could not tell what was the matter, and after coming home, we went to Dunlap, who has Dr. Powell's business and office. Dunlap has the reputation of being honest and he said he could not definitely decide what the trouble was, and made an appointment with Dr. Billingsley of Kansas City, who is the head of the eye department for the medical center, formerly the university hospital at Rosedale. We went down a few days ago and he said there had been a slight hemorrhage which had not entirely passed. He cautioned her against close work with the eye and recommended the use of a patch when reading, in order to take all strain from the affected eye. He was encouraging in believing that the difficulty would pass, but under the circumstances, I think that it would be unwise for Gertrude to attempt any avoidable use of her eye. She is still reading and going on about as usual, for, as you know, it is mighty hard to hold her down. We were in Kansas City for three days straight, but she received her dentures last night after the further adjustment had been made, and while she may want to go down again to have some further work done later, we are practically through.