4-26-1918

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-04-26, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-04-26, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

Transcription
Dearest Dada:

This is just a note. We are so worried about Father. He was taken to the hospital eight days ago. For two days he improved, after which a reaction seems to have set in. Finally this morning the doctors said that his chances of recovery are slight: about 20%. Mother insisted on his being moved home, and here he is in spite of my brother’s, the doctor’s, and my objections. So far we have been unable to secure any nurses. Mother says she does not believe in doctors, & that no one could cure him but God. Hence she refuses to let him be sweated to throw off the poison. I am frantic, for I believe his only chance lies in being sweated, as his kidneys are not working. I am almost going crazy with the tension and Mother’s refusal to follow the doctor’s directions. At the hospital, he was forced to drink water: here at home he hasn’t drunken any water at all. With two babies in the house under three years old, it is impossible to keep the house quiet! Oh, God!

I have given up my room to the babies and am now sleeping in the den. I have stayed up nights at the hospital with Father, and have run into it about 4 times a day: yet I do not feel tired physically. I feel snappy and mentally fatigued.

The doctors say that the poison has gone to Father’s brain. He sleeps most of the time, and his face is swollen.

With much love

Mayling

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Dear Dad,

This is just a note. We are so worried about Father. He was taken to the hospital eight days ago. For two days he improved, after which a reaction seems to have set in. Finally, this morning, the doctors said that his chances of recovery are slight, about 20%.

Mother insisted on his being moved home, and here he is in spite of the doctors and my objections. So far we have been unable to secure any nurses.

Mother says she does not believe in doctors, that we should turn to God. Hence she refuses to let him be swaddled. She tries to throw off the nurse. I am frustrated, for I believe his only chance lies in being swaddled, as his kidneys are not working. I am almost going crazy with the tension and worry. I have also been drinking water; he has not drunk any water at all, with two babies,
mentally fatigued.

The doctors say that the poison has gone to father's brain. He sleeps most of the time, and his face is swollen.

With much love,

May 19

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Received 28 May

Miss Louise S. Horne School
Tragedy at New York City
New York
U.S.A.

Not by

in the house under three years old. It is impossible to keep the house quiet! Oh, God!

I have given up my room to the babies and am now sleeping in the den. I have stayed up nights at the hospital with father, and have run into it about 4 times a day. I do not feel tired physically. I feel snappy and
mentally fatigued.

The doctors say that the poison has gone to father's brain. He sleeps most of the time, and his face is swollen.

With much love,

[Signature]

Received
28 May

Miss Laura Van Rensselear, Ph.D.
12 East 89th Street
New York City
U.S.A.

Thank you for your kind wishes.

[in the house under three years old, it is impossible to keep the horses quiet! Oh, God! I have given up my room to the babies and am now sleeping in the den. I have stayed up nights at the hospital with father, and have run into it about 4 times a day. I do not feel tired physically. I feel snappy and...]

Dear Miss Lucent D. Long Mills,

324 West 87th Street
New York City

U.S.A.

Received
28 May

Polly 41

I have been very busy, and have not yet had time to reply to your letter. I am doing as well as I can and have kept up my spirits. I have been feeling a bit better, and hope to be able to write to you soon. I am very grateful for your kind words and wishes. I pray that God will bless you and your family.

With warm regards,

[Signature]

[Stamp: Handwritten notes on the right side of the page]