

temporarily at
2025 O Street, N.W.
Washington -
Sept. 26th 44

Laurie Darling:

Your tragic news of Betsy reached me just as Shirley & Eliot passed through N.Y. on their way home. They begged me to drive down here with them, so on less than ~~an~~ hour's notice I packed up & came with them two days ago. The first day here was devoted to selecting a Vocational High School for Janie, & this second day Eliot & I spent at the Zoo, beginning to gather material for a project we may undertake together. So here is your letter still unopened, though I did want to write immediately.

What a frightful thing to have happen to your dear Betsy. It just wrings my heart to think of her - & of poor you, who struggled so valiantly and yet must now leave her to what may be months of this deadly malady. I only hope it isn't sleeping sickness, even though polio is dreadful - the other somehow seems so long and so hopeless.

How I pray that some one of these very latest methods of treating polio may avail, & prevail, in her case, & that you may soon hear that she has turned the corner, and is regaining the power of speech & movement. Such miracles do occur, more & more frequently nowadays. I am glad you were able to leave her in the hands of both the sister and a competent night nurse.

But I know, my Laurie, how hard it must have

been to leave at all. Thank goodness you were able to be with her when she needed you most desperately. It must have been the greatest comfort to her to have you right there, loving & willing her to pull through.

I hope you were able to fly back to Boeing - train-travel is so horrid these days.

What you say about possibly breaking away, & coming East once the Germans are licked is very exciting & good news. It would be marvelous for me. To plan for it. It will give us both something to look forward to. And I believe we could block off the alcove in the studio for a dark room, or make some arrangement for you so you could work.

And Shirley, to whom I read your letter says "Be sure to tell Laura that if she has any business to attend to here in Washington, she must surely make this house her headquarters."

George Putnam, from whom Shirley has just heard - has been stricken with a severe sort of Jungle Fever, & is being invalided home, & probably honorably discharged from active service. Too bad - but he has had a memorable experience over there. So you really think he may be contemplating a fourth marriage? Dear me!

I'll be returning to New York in a couple of days, & will write again soon, dearest - and do hope to hear better news from you before long.

your infinitely sympathetic
Brendie