

Ducas, Dorothy  
1945-52

April 7, 1945

*free*

Dear Dorothy:

Mrs. Roosevelt asked me to tell you that she will mention the subject of your letter of April 2, in her column.

Sincerely,

Miss Dorothy Lucas  
1065 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York

dorothy ducas  
1065 lexington avenue  
new york 21, n. y.

*Thank  
you wife*

April 2, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

The memory of our lovely luncheon with you last Wednesday lingers on... It was so good to see you again, and unexpectedly pleasant to have you to ourselves! I want you to know how much I appreciate your giving me the time in the middle of your so-busy schedule.

I returned from Washington on Friday, leaving Tom with his grandparents until to-day. That gave Jim and me a childless Easter weekend, and the first days alone together without small fry in tow for many, many months... We rather enjoyed it, and still, we were pretty happy to see our young man this evening. Strange how one loves the ties that bind, and miss the nuisances when they aren't there!

There was so much I didn't get to talk to you about, which would be true even if we talked for hours, I'm sure. Among the things I meant to mention was the new \$1,267,600 appropriation of the National Foundation for the training of additional physical therapists. Scholarships now are being offered to graduate nurses from accredited schools, graduates of colleges offering degrees in physical education, and college students with two years of college work including biology and other sciences. The next courses at accredited civilian schools of physical therapy open in May and June, and we are eager to get as many people started as we can, for the shortage of physical therapists is alarming. There are areas of the United States in which there are no qualified physical therapists at all, and hospitals which have physical therapy departments are almost all understaffed.

*Al*

I know I do not have to tell you what it means when an infantile paralysis epidemic breaks out and you can't find the sufficient number of trained, helping hands. We all hope that 1945 won't be a bad year, for none of those trained under our new scholarships will be ready to practice till 1946. However, you have to start sometime, and we have at least made the money for tuition, full or partial maintenance and transportation, when necessary, available in 1945 --to begin training the urgently-needed people for this work.

Do you feel you might mention this activity in your column some time? As you know, aside from work in the infantile paralysis field (and none of our scholarship grantees need promise to confine themselves merely to this one disease) physical therapy is increasingly used in the treatment of other diseases and disabilities. As interest in physical medicine grows, the demand for trained physical therapists grows, too. It is being used in Army and Navy hospitals and in industrial medicine where it is much in demand for treatment of injuries due to accidents.

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I have asked my secretary at the office to send you under separate cover a memo which went out this week to all national magazines, asking for cooperation in calling attention to this branch of medical service, in the effort to recruit young men and women for physical therapy as a career. It would be most helpful if you felt you could mention it in your column. If there is any other information I can give you along these lines, you have only to let me know.

Aside from the physical therapy program, and my new booklet on Tuskegee, and a new Manual for Chapters which I am preparing, I have been doing my monthly article on Better To-Morrows for House Beautiful -- and my free lance writing has fallen by the wayside. I intended doing a lot of writing this year, but with these activities and closer supervision of children and hearthside, I find I just don't get the uninterrupted hours for any ambitious writing project. Sometimes I feel discouraged; then I think how much more important it is that my family is well and unbombed, and I haven't the heart to complain, even to myself. I think this is why so many mothers of young children have been able to give up work which once was important to them. It still is important-- for peacetime. But nothing really matters, in wartime, except the preservation of your family and your country!

I do hope I'll have occasion to see you sooner, this time; and please do keep it in mind to come see our house in South Salem, N.Y. (near Ridgefield, Conn.) when you are in that vicinity this summer. We'd adore it.

Much love, always,

*Dorothy*