Dear Mamma: – I received your welcome letter yesterday in the midst of the festivities. We certainly observed Christmas with eclah (?). Christmas carols by a quartette from Iowa, who serenaded this place and the other sanitariums and hospitals with which this hill is sprinkled, on Christmas eve. A Christmas tree for the children. All kinds of decorations, holly and evergreen wreaths, poinsetia plants, rd red and green paper bells and festivus (?) mistletoe and all the rest. The children got ten times
as many presents as they know what to do with. The dinner was fine – roast turkey, cranberry sauce, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potato, boiled onions, lima beans, celery, ice cream and chocolate cake, and egg-nog! Miss Standish certainly blew herself. I don’t think she made many presents except to the children but altogether she did as much or more than could be expected of one person. Then after dinner she let all the help go home so every one had a part in the celebration.

Our everyday menu is not so elaborate as the above, but we have plenty of substantial food – about every thing you could think of, first and last. Milk is served with all meals and you can have as much between meals as you want to pay for. I do not take any extra so far as three square meals are all I can take care of without exercise, I have not spent a cent for extras, except postal supplies since I have been here. Of course I have had to buy some
drugs which the doctor ordered – all for external use – and any laundry bill is extra. As for sleeping out doors that is all the way to do when you get used to it, of course the porch has curtains which are partly drawn at night, and on storming days, and one or two cold windy nights have been entirely closed. My cover is entirely woolen single blankets of which I possess seven. I hardly ever use more than four – two of them doubled, with perhaps another folded over my feet. The nurses say I take less cover-
ing than any other person on the grounds. Then at night and on cold days, I have a jug of hot water. I was afraid to tell them the first day that my feet were cold, as I expected they would say, “Please pass up two dollars for a hot water bottle”. But it seems the custom to supply jugs. This is snowy blowy day one of the most disagreeable we have had. It is not cold – about 30° I think. Yesterday was fine. I feel somewhat disquieted by the news about Irma. I think her lungs
and sputum had better be examined at once, as we don’t want to take any chances with T.B. as the dread malady is called in sanitarium circles. Then I think the house had better be disinfected, that is the downstairs bedroom and the south room upstairs. I will write Quincy to get the health officer after it. I thought I was careful but I did not exercise the care that we are obliged to, here, and when they have each room, with the bed and blankets, disinfected as soon as a patient leaves. I will be weighed again Tuesday as it will be then two weeks since I was weighed before. On Tuesday after I came here I weighted 104 ½; then two weeks after, I weighted 110, which was going some. I am sure I am still gaining but perhaps not so rapidly. I will have to close for this time as I have already stayed up over time. I am getting up to two meals now with the hope that it will bring my board bill down $4 per. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Ida