

Tokyo

May 24, 1948

Dear Sally:

The clothes and books arrived on Saturday and thanks a lot. Gee I don't think I need any more things what with the two dresses that Ki sent me and the one dress I bought at the PX. I'll just save them to wear next summer maybe. They will of course require certain types of remodelling, but I guess I can do that alright. I did like that cotton dress which Su insisted on sending and I suspect that if I have another baby sometime I will just have to be pregnant in the summer in order that I don't have to buy fat lady dresses for winter too. Around here the big news is that Kenchan is really expected to die almost any day. He is supposed to have t.b. of the lungs and they say he is dying, but I was always under the impression that they vomited and coughed up blood in the last stages. Mostly his sickness is psychic and has been all along so that both Abe and I feel that he will just make up his mind to die one of these days and finally kick off without the usual symptoms of t.b. He is so thin that he looks like those pictures of the POWs in Germany. He is real emaciated and hardly talks and looks real scary. We went to see him yesterday afternoon because when we went over to the Yokoboris on Friday ~~xxxxx~~ night there was a lot of fuss and feathers about his having had a temperature and getting sabisii etc. and oba-san and zensiroo were in kind of a tizzy about having maybe to spend the night there. I doubt that he will ever get well, but I also doubt that he will just die right away. Honestly he is such a pain though, he could have gone to a sanitarium but he wouldn't go and his poor wife has had to nurse him all this time -- she says that bits her fourth year of having sickness around and nursing -- before Kenchan it was Yoshiko who had t.b. She sure is a patient soul esp. since they live in only one room. The kids over at Zensiroos are all afraid of getting t.b. so they object to the parents going over there too much and I really can't blame them much, after all they are all about the age when they are particularly susceptible to such infection what with ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ the inadequate diet these days.

It is supposed not to be the rainy season until June so it has been raining practically everyday or three days rain and one clear day for months now in this country. You wouldn't believe that it could rain so much. I must say that it is dousy weather in this country and boy the mosquitoes and the flies are as big as your fist. And there are millions of them too.

Sachiko's littlest kid who is about 10 months old is beginning to walk around holding on to things and is just at the age when he gets into everything in sight, got bit so bad by mosquitoes that his face and head are a mass of bumps. We took over some ~~addt.~~ yesterday on the change that maybe it would get rid of the things so that the kid wouldn't get chewed up at night. These Jap houses are fine and dandy -- they open up and let in all kinds of air and stuff -- if there were any air but the stuff like flies and mosquitoes and moths are a caution. Come summer I am not surprised that there is a lot of typhoid and dysentery because of all the flies and using night soil in the vegetable gardens. Not to mention the kids getting worms because of the o-tsuke mono which they eat. Over at the Yokoboris and at Maku's they don't eat mappa except cooked any more because of the danger of intestinal worms. I really don't see how under such unhygienic conditions the population of this country could be increasing, but it is. Maybe the ~~xxxki~~ sanitation sitch isn't as bad here as in other places in the world. The thing that is still amazing here is that they still give five vaccinations in one arm -- great big ones. They vaccinate for small pox but never seem to get around to typhoid which I consider a much more likely disease and certainly a more prevalent disease than the former. One of the gals I know has a cook who has a little baby about nine months old who went to get small pox vaccinations, but the gal insisted that the kid get typhoid too because it was so dangerous. The doctor refused to give typhoid to the kid, but the gal said if the kid didn't get typhoid shots it couldn't stay in the house because she would feel responsible ~~xxx~~ in case the kid did get it and give it to everybody. Honestly around here people say it hurts too much, so they would rather take a chance on getting the disease. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Really all the half baked doctors in this country would just kill you. They give chuusha for everything and nobody knows that in hell is being injected into them -- biggest market for the ~~xxxxx~~ hypodermic needle I ever did hear of. I'd really be scared to live like they do, but if you don't know any better I guess its alright too -- after all some places they only have medicine men but it doesn't seem to me to be much better around here.

The servants in this house think I am a little hysterical on the subject of flies and I have had to nag the life out of them to keep the screen doors closed and that even if they don't fit vderly well it is better to have the flies struggle somewhat to come into the house than just welcoming them with the door wide open. I think that the cook who is the worst offender has fina-

lly caught on. I will have to nag him some more about putting the garbage in the garbage can that has the lid not the can that has no lid which is intended for ashes from the hot water heater which is coal burning. It is an uphill grind alright. Also it takes practically all the patience I have to have to tell him everyother. day or so that lettuce should go into the vegetable humidifier part of the refrigerator and that oragnes don't go in there. I notice he still puts the fruit in the vegetable thing and the lettuce either dries out or gets rotten sitting in waxed paper with too much water. I dunno it must be like giving bath tubs to the coal miners who use them for storing coal.

Well there isn't much else going on around here. Next month Abe will be going down in Hiroshima and other such southern points for about three weeks. Seems to me like men here are always going off on field trips and the wives have to stay home unless they can get invitations to stay with friends here and there where the husbands happen to be going. Can't just up and go to a hotel or anything. So I guess I will be in Tokyo by myself again. I don't really mind very much ~~xxxx~~ except it gets annoying. I suppose we could wangle an invitation with some former student in Kyoto, but going down there in the heat in a non air conditioned train in the middle of a heat wave or the rainy season doesn't really appeal to me very much to say the least. You should see the seats in these trains and theatres -- they are about as big as kids x chairs in the states and real uncomfortable. Well that's about all this time. I hope this summer isn't too hot after that terfible winter you had this ~~wxxx~~ last year.

love to all

Mary