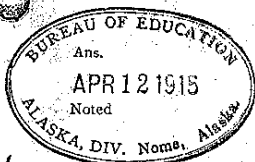


Mr. Walter Shields,
Nome, Alaska,
Dear Mr. Shields:-



Kotzebue, Alaska,
March 30, 1915

[Handwritten signature]

COPY

Your note written at bandle was waiting for me in Kotzebue when I got back from Selawik.

In regard to the hypodermic outfit you rescued from Buckland: I do not know of any school that needs it. I have no hypodermic syringe myself. The one I requisitioned a year ago died either in Nome or in Seattle. The implement I have been using as a substitute is an aspirating syringe which is much larger, much more formidable and more terrorizing. Though it does good work it would not in the States increase a physician's reputation for painstaking carefulness. This winter I repeated my requisition for a hypodermic syringe.

In the mean time until it arrives I could make use of the Buckland syringe, ^{whatever its model} and would carry it constantly in my grip if it is an aluminum cased one.

Had a peach of a time coming home from Selawik. Snow deep. Two days to Oksik. Three days from Oksik to Kotzebue. Slept out one night between Oksik & the reindeer camp. Deer were all in when we reached camp. The herd had been moved. Found Lester there with his dogs. He was freighting to Keana. He left the camp for Oksik the same day that Ralph & I left Oksik for the camp. We did not meet, but we both got lost in the same patch of tundra in the storm. The snow

as deep & still falling. Lester was afraid the wind might rise. So he turned around & followed his own tracks back to camp while the trail he had made was still visible.

Ralph & I fed our deer on a little knowl and in an hour and a half were back at the same knowl again crossing our own tracks again. I took out my compass then & tried to keep Ralph going straight in the direction of the camp as he supposed it to be.

By & by we found a dog team trail & mistook it for one coming from the camp & going toward Oksik. We turned into it as we supposed toward camp, though it was at right angles to the direction in which we had been traveling. Darkness came on. After a while the trail ended by turning back on itself. It was evident that someone had come out from somewhere become lost & turned back while his track was still visible.

We turned back until we found a good place for the deer. It must have been 9 p.m. by the time. Ralph dug away the snow, set up our snow shoes & threw the sled cover over them. This made a tent 4 feet high and large enough to cover our sleeping bags. The primus stove came in handy at this place.

The storm was clearing the next morning & Ralph could tell directions now. We followed Lester's trail back to camp. Lester cashed his load of freight and brought me home the next day, being fourteen

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furs in doing it so heavy was the trail, & he
tired his dogs from wallowing in the snow with
a load of freight the day he turned back.

Here's hoping you made faster time
back to Nome.

I stopped in Oksik over night only. Found
that Mr. Cox had gone to Kotzebue a few days
before to consult me professionally. So hastened
on. Spoke in the evening at Oksik to the natives.
Had for interpreter a woman who was half
diffident and half mischievous. She made me feel
like taking her over my knee and spanking
her with a piece of board.

At Oksik saw some of the Deering
reindeer men. They said that the herd was
all over now safely feeding on the reservation.
The herd was driven over in three divisions. One
of the boys was the native who was with us
when we went up the Kobuk last summer to
stake a claim ~~for~~ the reservation. He is very happy
in his new home.

Yours very truly
H. N. T. Nichols M.D.

Historical Note
Personal to Mr. Shields:

Mr. Cox has returned to Okech. He expects to return to Hotzebe before the break up, so as to be near me if anything alarming should develop on his face. He is going Outside on the first boat from Hotzebe, for X ray treatment in the States. From what he or his wife told me I am sure that they do not expect to return.