

March 5, 1918.

President E. H. Russell,
Fredericksburg, Va.

Dear Russell:

Replying to your letter of Feb. 26, I will say that I think my present housekeeping arrangement is ideal theoretically but it has seemed at times not to work out practically. I am saying this strictly in confidence, as I should not care for anyone at the school or any of the members of the Board to hear this, as we are hoping things will work out all right, and until a fair trial is given everybody it had better be kept quiet.

There is no affiliation between the housekeeping and household arts department save that the supplies for the laboratory work in cooking are bought thru the school dining department to get the advantage of wholesale prices, the head of the home department is nominally a member of the household arts department, gives some instruction in cooking in large quantities to a few students who particularly interested along that line.

We pay the head of the home department, who is the housekeeper, \$90 per month and board. She holds a B. S. degree from Columbia. She is a well-trained woman, but a little hard to get along with people. It is difficult to secure co-operation between her work and other departments, because she cannot get along so well with others in charge of departments. She also has some trouble with her help frequently.

The trouble about this sort of thing is that when you get a woman who is technically trained she wants a lot of money--we must increase ours now in order to hold her--and there seems to be always some undesirable feature, usually personal. Somehow they seem to have cranky ways and are hard to get along with. I have about come to the conclusion that when I lose my present one I will try to find just a plain, practical housekeeper who has a good disposition and who can get along with folks and keep things going in cheerful sort of way. I thought I had had an ideal arrangement, but I am feeling a little doubtful this year, and should advise you to go slow in following my arrangement. I am inclined to think ours will not last much longer. I shall be glad to go more into detail about this matter when I can talk with you. Please keep this confidential as I do not want to get into any deeper water than we are at present.

Very sincerely yours,