

My dear parents, Engel 1/11 @ Bern, Wednesday, Oct. 25th 1939

Your communications Nr. 7 & 8 I got last week, I have not got them here, so that I cannot answer properly. I remember I was much impressed by father's English, I did not know you knew English so well. It's as good as mine, anyhow. I'm glad to hear mother has raised some vegetables. It is outrageous to work for nothing.

There are some news here. First, I finished my exam last Friday. On Saturday morning I went to the police & learned the Liegen. Feinden polizei had refused to assent to let me work at the clinic on the grounds that my visum was not all right. The same thing over & over again. The Police of Zurich as well as the Health-Board of Zurich had recommended my request warmly, & the Police of Zurich had "recurrant" themselves, & did so urgently. I asked my referent there whether it could be useful when I went to Bern myself, & she said in my case the personal impression might be helpful. She wished me luck & good success, & I took my bike & went off on Saturday afternoon. I need not pay my room any more, Fil. Diebold told me three weeks ago, I could leave whenever I liked, she would not let the room at present. She told me to leave all my things

there. Oh yes, I forgot: after my exam I went to the Landi (I could not go to the police in the afternoon), & when I came home, Fil. Diebold had put a basket with fruit & chocolates in my room & a card "heartly cordial congratulations" though she knew I was going to leave in the next days (I wanted to leave because there is no stove, we cannot get oil because of the restrictions). - Well, Saturday afternoon I was off. It was not raining much, & I went as far as Baden. I had a cold, & Fil. D. gave me a fine Kapuze to keep me warm. I lost it (the cold, not the Kapuze) the first day.

Baden is a nice town, very small, situated finely above the steep banks of the Limmat, wooded hills around it. It has a small, very nice old part. I paid 1 Fr. for a nice room. Next day I went on. It's the light that makes the colour, there was no sun. I went through the "Jurazentke": hilly country, everything very soft. Few fields, all woods & meadows for the good swiss cows. The woods were all brown & red, they'd have been gleaming should would there

Thursday morning: the sun is coming out & I'm going on to Thun. Write to my old address in Zurich!

There have been sun. But it was quite nice anyhow - beautiful
medieval castles, ~~in~~ sweet little old towns littered over the
country. I ~~was~~ reached Bern on Monday morning, washed etc.
& went to the police. My referent turned out to be an
embittered old spinster - even her smile was cutting. I did not
have any success except hearing rude things. I tried to reach
the next higher one, & wrote to him - no success. I spent a day
on that affair. But you never can tell what a thing is good
for. I had no time to go to the American consulate in Zurich,
though I heard ~~some interesting~~ things are different now because
of the war. Well, I went ^{there} there. There was a charming lady, who
~~conversed~~ with me & told me, "to come whenever I liked she'd
be delighted any time I came etc. (I'd like to know how
much was Menchen's influence - on the other hand, she didn't
say I would when I said "Mr. M., you know his name?" but
afterwards, when I said ^{in my mind I hope people don't take} "he is in Baltimore she said, "oh yes, I
~~know that,~~ ^{of course,} well, she told me she ~~did~~ could not say
anything definite here, but in her idea I could go about Xmas.
Well, even think it may be March - I had better learn
for the exam there & learn English ~~the~~ till then, may be then
work at the clinic. At least from the financial point of view
it's better - this will be a nasty affair, in the beginning, before
I ~~am~~ ~~allow~~ have I passed the exam. Well, & I don't expect
it will be easy to find a post, either, but I'm not afraid of that.
I hope I'll find some kind of work ^{there} that will allow me to learn,
before I've passed the exam. - Will you be good enough to write
to Miss Gutz, Krotek - I don't know where she is; the exam is
different in any state, & it only entitles to work in that state.
(How I am to find out which state is best I don't know yet,
but I want to have an idea of the exam in general. I don't
think it differs so much in the different states.) Will you ask
her, whether she could send me the regulations ~~about~~ ^{that is, in it} in her state.
And: whether I am allowed to take a post in a hospital, paid
or only for board & lodging, before I have passed the exam.

And, what is necessary in case I've passed the exam & want to move to another state. - I'll write to the board of education etc. 13

Dear parents, you know Bern. It's very beautiful, & I'm glad I've seen it. I saw some very beautiful things, & met some new interesting people. I'm staying in a home for girl-servants etc. The most beautiful thing I saw perhaps is the view of the town ~~on the~~ from the ^{parken} ~~best situated~~. I went (near the Barengraben). There ~~was~~ were 4 brown ~~horses~~ ^{horses}, they danced & capered, hopped, turned round & took all kinds of funny positions to please the visitors who fed them. Much the same as with men. The rain ^{came} was pouring down, but it didn't seem they mind. I went to the ~~Art~~ Gallery as well. There were the best pictures of the Basel gallery (because of the war, & the ~~angel~~ ^{angel} wasn't there), & the best of the usual Bern ~~and~~ ^{exhibition} some very beautiful Glodla pie painting; I was much impressed by the "night" & a self-portrait. I went to the historical ~~go~~ museum as well. The famous Flemish carpets were taken off - because of the war - but there were many "antependium" (to be hanged in front of the altar), embroidered ~~the~~ ^{the} ones. One of them - high gothic - was marvellous.

I'll go on tomorrow ~~to~~ to the Berner Oberland - the wether is not good, but it has "light moments", when the clouds part. In case the wether is good in the Wallis, may even be I'll go there. I can't go to any mountains, because there is snow ~~down to~~ ^{down to} 1500 m. But you can see ~~rough~~ ^{rough} from the valley, too. I'll snatch what I can now. I have time, as mother said. When I come back to Zurich I'll try to ~~be~~ prepare for the exam as good as possible, & that I've got to apply to the Jewish community now, as I want the fare & want money to pay my living, now I have not got the post. So I had a start at once & went here, & got 10 fr. so that I could stay out some days. They were very nice (I ought to go in Zurich, of course).

As to the whole affair - I don't know how you will take it, I hope you will be glad. I may just as well tell you now I had the idea to work at the clinic some time to learn

something I go to China then - I hoped ^{the Chinese Red Cross} they would pay me the journey
in this case. I'll write there anyhow (I tried to get on in that direction
for some months, but have not done anything definite), but it seems rather
clear now, after what I've heard here, that they are not in a position
to pay the journey even to skilled surgeons. I could get the ordm, & it
seems I could get good recommendations, I could get the visum, & I
could get work once I am there - but nobody can help me to come
get there. That finishes it for the present. I'd have preferred
China very much. Anyhow, even if I could get to China, which is
not the case, I probably ought to go to America first, ^{when my turn comes now} because
I lose the possibility if I don't. Besides, I want a ^{survival} fundamnt. I
can only get in a good clinic, so if I cannot get it here - -

I know one thing: the only good side of emigration is the
possibility to see & learn what one would not have seen &
learned otherwise. So I'll make as much of that as possible,
& take any opportunity to go to new places, see new
conditions of life, & new landscapes & widen my horizon in
any direction. I've learned much in Switzerland, but this is no
more than a beginning. I hope to be able to go to Asia one
day, anyhow. I'm afraid I'm worse than the elephants-child
with his 'satiabile curiositas', & no bicoloured python ^{snake} to be
seen - ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~thing~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~interesting~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~possibility~~ ~~of~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~new~~ ~~places~~ ~~and~~ ~~seeing~~ ~~new~~ ~~things~~ ~~and~~ ~~learning~~ ~~new~~ ~~things~~

Well, in this respect I think I ought to be glad I can go to the
states! - & to be happy I'm spared to sit here & not be able
to work. You cannot have just what you want, & others are

There is one point that is not nice at all & "lies in
my stomach" very much that is I cannot see you on the
way, as I could have done in case I'd ^{have} gone to China. But
don't worry, I'll come soon enough, I don't think I'll be
long. I'll take any opportunity, & we'll find some way.
The lady at the consulate said America is the right place for me,
as it is for people who like to work - may be she is right, I'll
have a little luck too. - The others want to sleep. I must
finish - yours Hannah