Winter Park, Fla.
Jan. 17 1944

Dear Dr. Hamburger , -

Your letter of inquiry reached me yesterday, and I am sorry that even a week has passed and no further word has gone to you; but it chanced that I seemed the normal one to whom Mrs. Grave could turn most easily, and my time has been much taken up with details. I began letters to you, Schmidt, and Hanson on the 12th; but on son Tom's arrival, discovered he was writing at least two of you, and felt it quite fitting that he do it; consequently did not finish. He doubtless was too busy and upset to include many on his list.

I easily realize how deeply disturbed you are by the going of our great friend, Caswell Grave; your messages to Mrs. Grave have helped her much, and if her strength holds out you will doubtless receive acknowledgment.

You ask for some details of his condition of late, and at the end; I am glad to write you thus, tho sorry to transfer the facts as to certain phases of the event. As he came through N.Y. en route here in late October, his (and your) friend Frank Hanson persuaded him to have certain x-ray plates made at the Presbyterian Hospital; their findings indicated that no signs of cancer (which he had feared much) were present; only a duodenal ulcer, at that time inactive. However, they advised putting himself under care of best available physician on arrival in Winter Park. This he did; among other things it was discovered that his gastric secretions contained no acid, -a condition wholly at variance with the ulcer diagnosis, but quite compatible with possible malignant growth conditions. Perhaps you knew Grave well enough so you can imagine him putting a very pessimistic interpretation on this fact, -along with continued loss of weight, lack of appetite, etc.

Six weeks after the plates were made in N.Y. another set was made here; a third set was due to be made on Jan. 10 at a near-by hospital, another six weeks having gone by. (I understand, as he did, that there is no use in getting such pictures oftener than at six-week intervals, as change in conditions takes place slowly). Caswell let the possibilities worry him severely, even tho the Dr. had told him there was not more than a 10% chance that the showing would be positive; sleeplessness resulted, and depression which the efforts of every one in the community could not dislodge. Some days he seemed quite himself took walks, made calls, drove down town; was dressed and about nearly every day. Correspondence with his Dr. brother, Floyd, in Minneapolis had reassured him: in case some operation seemed advisable, he and wife were to go up there and have the job done, -Caswell's bag was all packed for the trip

However, he lost his courage before the decisive pictures were taken, -such a pity; they were to

be made Mon.Jan.10. Sat morning,Jan.8, he seemed more normal than usual; wrote a letter to man who was to paint his house asking him to come the next week; himself washed the outside of certain windows; drove to town and made deposit in the bank. Ate a good lunch with Mrs. Grave,at home; as she settled down to read, he went out doors,as she supposed to stroll about the place or down street (altho it was rainy), and dismissed him from her mind. Not being a nice day,everyone in vicinity staid at home. Mrs. Budington and I dropped over to their house after supper,and were amazed to find he had been absent all the afternoon; a search began. He had gone into garage, carefully arranged to lead exhaust gas into car thro piece of garden hose, closed doors. He was found in the driver's seat. A note indicated his remorse in doing such a thing, but said,-'I am advancing rapidly toward invalidism and a psychopathic personality; this is intolerable,and I see no way out. Forgive and forget'.

His son Thomas arrived Tues.Jan.11,and a neighborhood memorial service (no funeral as such) was held at 4.00 that p.m. He had requested cremation,in a further part of the note,and this was arranged. Thomas returned to N.Y. this afternoon (Jan.17).

Certain women in nearby homes will stay with Mrs. Grave nights,others will call,of course; I shall assist with getting provisions,and drive her as she wishes til some companion comes to assume responsibility. A relative in California,a friend in St. Louis, or a niece and her husband from Daytona Beach,Fla. may come. The whole neighborhood feels very solicitous for Mrs. G, and we very much hope a rather permanent arrangement may be completed soon. Their home here is so comfortable and attractive, the climate so beneficient compared with that of the north, that ,indeed,she should stay here if possible.

I deeply regret to expose you to the same hurt we all here have experienced; but your intimacy over many years,and your admiration for one another have been so positive, that you have a right to share everything. The general world situation also preyed on his mind; so too the pathetic condition of his brother Ben; there was a summation of circumstances such that, if his own health should break, the problem was too great to solve.

In case you have any inquiry whatever which I am in position to answer, please do not hesitate to communicate. His long-time friend,Mast, has been asked to write an obituary citation for SCIENCE.

I hope your year is going pleasantly in spite of much pressure of congested programs; and that genuine satisfactions are plentifully mingled with hard work.

I am, with best personal greetings,
Very sincerely yours,

Robert A. Budington