

December 19, 1916.

Dr. Henry Spence,
Jersey City,
My dear Dr. Spence,

Mr. Steelman told me last evening that you suggested to him that he write you a letter, setting forth the reasons why he thought it might be a good idea for Whittier House to carry on the Fresh Air work which has lately been abandoned by the Jersey Journal and why he thought it would be a good idea to have the money now in the hands of the Journal turned over to Whittier House. I saw him at a meeting last evening when he told me this and as I had lunched yesterday noon with Miss Grish, and as our reason for meeting was this very one of Fresh Air work, he asked me if I would not write you instead of him. At the outset let me say that I regret exceedingly that the Journal has felt it wise to abandon its summer work. When it was started several years down at Bradley Beach, no other work of its kind was being done by Jersey City for Jersey City, and it has always seemed to me one of the best and one of the most needed activities ever carried on for the children of Jersey City. Since the starting of it, similar work has been started by other organizations though no one of them was carrying on so large a work in so large and so broad a manner. Four years ago Whittier House began to have its summer camp but this camp was intended for working girls for boys and young men and for fathers and mothers with their children. All paid their board, a small sum being charged, and children only were taken when chaperoned by some older member of the family. Two years ago we bought a farm of a hundred and thirty acres with an old farm house on it, barns and other out buildings, hoping at some time to enlarge our work. Now the thought has come to be suggested by outsiders, "Why not enlarge Whittier House summer camp by joining with it much of the work that was carried on by the Jersey Journal,