

*For
Mrs Bliss*

December 14, 1945

Major General William Lassiter, President
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Santa Barbara, California

Dear General Lassiter:

Two weeks bronchitis have pulled me down, and therefore it seems unwise for me to come to the meeting this afternoon.

Before I left the East Mrs. Bliss talked to me at considerable length by telephone, and after personal news had been exchanged she sent messages to her friends here in Santa Barbara, and especially on this Board. She said she had excellent reports from her husband as to the progress and attractiveness of the Garden, but that he had said nothing regarding any preparation for a Director's house.

I answered her that as far as I knew the Board felt it inadvisable to make a start in this direction, as they were fearful of adding expense. To which she replied that she was greatly disappointed, as she thought her letter suggesting the anonymous gift had made it clear that the giver hoped the Board would do certain things - such as add to the Director's salary, provide a Director's house or give him a rental equivalent until a house were ready.

Quite clearly she was disappointed as she said she thought the fund given would make a foundation on which larger possibilities of service could be built, with necessary additions and help from the community.

Mrs. Bliss asked that I write her what the Board and the Finance Committee might ultimately decide.

With real regret at being prevented from meeting my friends on the Board today, I am

Yours respectfully,