

State of Washington  
Department of Agriculture  
Office of State Chemist  
University of Washington  
Seattle  
Maria Y. Orosa PH.C. Assistant Chemist

July 21, 1920

NOTE: There are pages missing from this letter.

I am able to tell you that I now have a good position here, because in America they do not appoint those of color for office work. Instead they are employed as servants<sup>a</sup>, hotel housekeepers, shipyard workers and others. Among fellow Filipinos, I am the envy here and you may have been told that they're envious. Here in the University, I am considered Faculty although I have no teaching responsibilities. My name appears in large letters at the door of the Food and Drugs Laboratory, which one sees before entering. You will see my name among the faculty in the Bulletin of the College of Pharmacy, which I'm sending so you can see for yourself. You'll notice too, that the stationery used by the office and which I'm using for this letter, contains my name. Important people who are passing through, such as Yangco, Kalaw<sup>b</sup>, Osias<sup>c</sup> and others are happy to see me setting an example for other Filipinos and is a source of pride to them.

My laboratory is connected to the office of the Dean of the College of Pharmacy and in his absence, I am responsible for the office and the Laboratory. Often, I am alone, and when the Dean is away from the office for long periods, he asks me to open his mail and attend to his correspondence. Mother, I had thought that I didn't make a mistake in accepting this job, just as you perceived. You can ask Pepe about my standing here as he stops by the office often, having lunch here as it's too warm to return to the house. Sometimes I'm not really busy, so I take the opportunity to study. Don't imagine that I'm wasting my time, what I'm learning here, you cannot purchase with money. My experience here will also help when I return, in order to attain a better position, so it's productive.

Starting the month of September, I will resign this job so I can study one more year in order to earn a Masters' degree. This is the advice to me by Dean Johnson, that I can finish in one year. Although I really want to return home in order to help you, I will endure for another year so I can earn the Masters. Upon my return home with these degrees I will be able to obtain higher and better paying positions. Please don't fret, one year isn't all that long. You can be assured of my help and support upon my return. There's not much more I can say, but you'll see when I return. I am sending through you, a letter for Manong Jacinto Camantigue. In the letter, I'm telling about my staying for another year, and the same thing for our application for pensionada<sup>d</sup>.

The Dean tells me he is willing to lend me money for whatever I'll need for the extra year I'm staying, but I said it won't be necessary. He has done me a lot of favors already and it would be embarrassing to ask for more.

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Footnotes:

a – Maria used the Spanish word muchachos, literally boys, which Filipinos use to describe servant boys or girls (muchachas).

b – Teodoro Kalaw, also from the province of Batangas, was a historian, secretary to Manuel Quezon and member of the Philippine Assembly.

c – Camino Osias was a pensionado who graduated from Columbia University. He was a member of the Philippine Mission to the U.S., and later a Senator.

d – it isn't clear if Maria is applying for some kind of scholarship through the pensionado program. She had always been self-supporting during all her years at the university.