Tuskegee is a retired little town, situated 40 miles east of Montgomery. It is a typical Southern town, with the court house in the centre, a few stores on the main street, and cows lazily browsing on the sidewalks. The natural beauty is marked; gentle sloping hills covered with grass, tall pines, stately oaks, and an abundance of flowers which bloom at all seasons of the year, making the air fragrant with their perfume.

In such an Eden as this are found many suffering with diseases brought on by non-observance of the laws of health; for this is a portion of the South known as the "Black Belt," and black it is, not only with people of this despised hue, but black with disease and death.

In the vicinity of our school are hundreds in need of medical attention. Children with tubercular tendencies, sore eyes, various skin troubles, and in a pitiful condition generally. Women with faces bearing the marks of pain upon them; faces which testify but too plainly that life is a burden with such diseased bodies. In the miserable log-cabins which are dotted here and there over the country, will often be found a fever-tossed patient, with flushed face and bounding pulse, suffering in every fibre, but entirely without any medical aid either in the way of nurse or doctor, parents or friends, totally ignorant of their condition. Among them the most abject poverty, the blindest ignorance and the deepest apathy prevail. There is often the most stolid indifference as to the fate of the sick. This condition is to be largely attributed to the fact that medical attention, as a rule, is beyond the reach of but a few. The doctors charge $2.00 per mile for a visit, and this does not include the medicine.
Now, where a person—as the majority of these do—lives ten or twelve miles in the country, and the doctor must be assured of his money before coming, often demanding cash, it is simply impossible for them to think of employing a physician. They bow their heads to the inevitable and say: "The Lord's will be done." So the child, or grown person, as the case may be, when ill goes without medical attention until almost dead before the doctor is summoned, and too often when he comes the ride is simply to inform them of a well-recognized fact, that the patient's days are numbered. Sometimes, when able to go to the doctor, this is done; even then the price is considerable and the skill questionable. Others drag out a miserable existence from day to day until relieved by death.

With such ignorance as here exists, and with knowledge effectually barred by gold, you can readily see why the death rate is so high in this section. If you could see how often, in spite of adverse circumstances, they pull through and get well, it would put in doubt the much-advanced theory that colored persons are readier to succumb to disease than whites. With all that they have to contend with, I wonder that any of them live. The climate is fairly equable. The colored people, already inured to hardships, could, with proper care, possess sound bodies.

The idea of establishing a dispensary at Tuskegee, is one which has been growing for a year or more, but circumstances have prevented its development. At last a friend in the North kindly donated a sum sufficient to put our ideas into definite shape. And so we have begun with scarcely anything to back us, but faith that such a project will succeed because of its great need and noble aim—the saving of lives. We are, however, in need of further assistance to render the undertaking in any degree successful. Our plans are to have an office accessible to the country people all through Macon County. At this office they can receive medical attention at a nominal price.

Indeed, I feel that Tuskegee ought to be the place where the vital statistics of the colored people can and will be studied with intelligence. Already we have had sufficient encouragement to warrant us in the assertion that with proper encouragement, the Lafayette Dispensary will soon be a fountain of health to the weary and sick of Macon County.

The meeting was then opened for the discussion of post-graduate opportunities in Europe. A few introductory words from Dr. Good-