April 21, 1911.

My dear Mr. Blodgett:

Your letter of April 15 is referred to me by the Governor with the request that I reply to the same.

The statement of fact which you make as to the situation is essentially correct; absolutely so, so far as the city is concerned. The law gives the regents such powers as are necessary or convenient to perform the duties assigned to them by law; but the secretary of state is auditor and as auditor he is in the same position as the comptroller of the treasury at Washington and may refuse to audit bills which he thinks exceeds authority. The case in point is one which is on the border line and is therefore embarrassing both to theregents and to the secretary of state.

However, in the first mentioned case we had here two detectives from Chicago for some time until they practically gave up the case. The present affair is being handled most vigorously and I believe intelligently by Dr. Bumpus with the assistance of private funds.

Knowing the facts as you do, you will appreciate how difficult it will be to fix the past offencesupon the individual concerned except by confession. Apparently the only good change is to catch the man in the act of attempting to break into one of the houses, and this is not easy to do considering the number. However, we shall do everything we can in reference to the matter, at the same time taking steps with reference to the sorority houses themselves to insure the protection of the young women. In this connection, while it seems an extraordinary thing to do, probably the best

plan is to have a gong in a steel grating at each of the houses, from which there goes wires to each of the beds of the young women. This is a matter on which we can only advise, but already some of the sororities are taking advantage of the recommendation.

Finally, the matter of a state fund, which may be used in cases like the present, has been taken up with the chairman of the finance committee of the legislature. He thinks we may be able to get an appropriation which will be under the control of the Governor, and which will be available in the future.

I trust the above will make you appreciate that we have not been negligent in this matter; indeed it is one to which Mr. Brittingham, Dr. Burgus, and I have given the most serious consideration and we shall take every possible step to secure the conviction of the past offender if such a thing be possible, but more important than this to, see that the young women are protected in the future.

All this is given you in the strictest confidence, since you will appreciate that the general talk and widespread publicity, as you suggest, would, not only make it certain that the offender would not be caught but far more serious than this it would still more arouse the young women, a good many of whom are already in a state of nervous tension in reference to the matter. It seems to me that from the point of view of catching the past offender, protection of the young women, and securing an appropriation which will be available in the future, publicity would be the worst possible remedy.

Relying upon your complete discretion in this matter, Iam,

Very sincerely yours

Frank M. Blodgett,