

CUS417/56.17

G.R.O

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY &amp; RED CROSS HOSPITAL SUPPLY ROOMS.

Parks Road, Oxford.

Monday 3rd [April, 1916]

Dear Sister

I suppose one must become used to all these delays and fusses and be thankful if we are alive - but I do not like having so few letters from America and these long lapses between them - We have had good news of the Baldwins in France - at least Mr & Mrs B- are all right and they hope the girl will live - The blow on the head paralyzed one side - but at last report consciousness was returning. Norman saw them as he was on his way back. Our next excitement has been the Zep - Friday night I had just gone to bed - Revere was at home & talking with his father on his bed when the signal went - a hooter at the station. Of course I meant to go out - & much to Revere's disgust Joan said so too - We went out - and walked as far as Balliol when we were challenged and told to go home and to the cellar. The streets were absolutely silent except for soldiers at the corners & about the big buildings - Fire Engine at the Bodleian etc. Not a vestige of light anywhere - except sometimes a wee glimmer at the edge of a cellar window or dining room. We finally returned to bed and at 3 o'clock the electric light was turned on. - ~~Gas & electricity are turned off.~~ I believe the warning is given when the Zep is within 50 miles. Last night the same thing happened but I stayed calmly in bed and mean to do so in the future. It is wearisome to be up every night. W.O. of course remains peacefully in bed & reads. I refuse to take refuge in the cellar as we might be held down by the walls & yet alive. Adele telephoned Saturday night - to know how we were. She has a new Matron and says things are going better. Her voice sounded rather depressed. Willie finds it hard to see her for it takes so much time.

We have jumped into glorious warm weather - from snow storms and ice. A new interest W.O. has is a Heart Hospital at Hampstead 250 beds and just research workers for the bad heart cases. It is a marvel how everything is being looked after. Did you get Babs poems - and are they not wonderful? Did I tell you Archie is to have charge of a Hospital for officers in London - run by the Canadian Red +? 25 officers - a house looking on Hyde Park - near the Marble Arch. Isabel Meredith Dinah & her friend Wanda are spending tomorrow - they have a flat in London, the girls working at a Club where Canadian Tommies are housed when they are on sick furlough. I have not heard if Katherine McLennan has gone over, She is with Lady Drummond at Browns.

Revere has gone back to Shorncliffe & hopes all will be settled today - & he off to Exeter. He is very well again.

Everyone cheerful now. Joan is useful to W.O.

Aff<sup>ly</sup>.