

(Handwriting)

(To Dr. A.D. Blackader)

(Aug.) 10th. 1916

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford

Dear Blackader

What a tragedy to part with that splendid son! We are all heartbroken about it. He stood the illness so bravely; not a word of complaint. The complication began with a septic pleurisy & pericarditis - then there were signs of involvement of the lung, foetid sputa &, so Armour opened the pleura which was adherent & opened a big sloughing and gangrenous abscess in the lung. He seemed doing well & last week I was very encouraged. I saw him every day, till the 6th. Then Monday & Tuesday they phoned that he seemed doing well. Yesterday I went up to find that at 1. he had had a profuse haemorrhage from the wound, & at the dressing a big bit of gangrenous lung came away. Last night at 11³⁰ he seemed better - quite clear in his mind & pulse stronger. This morning at 9²⁰ he was taking a few spoonfuls of porridge from his wife when he suddenly began to breathe quickly. (I came in at that moment.) ~~turned a livid grey, pulse uncountable & then quickly~~ became unconscious and he died in about twenty minutes. So fortunate that his wife had come. Poor dear! she has been so brave, thro it all. It is a terrible calamity for you all & you & Mrs Blackader have our heart-felt sympathy.

Your affec old friend

W^m Osler*Solace in our love*