

(Handwritten)

COS 417/111.2
(Dr. W. S. Thayer)

S. S. "Seti"
March 1st, 1911.

Dear Thayer:

I am off for a great holiday on the Nile. I could not resist a tempting offer to join my brother E. B. O., and some of his friends. We have been two weeks on this boat, which has accomodation for eight people, and has every possible comfort, including the most jovial dragoman in Egypt. We had a week in Cairo where I saw much of interest medically. Looss showed me all his ankylostoma specimens. They have not yet organized a crusade against the disease and it really seems hopeless as no one wears anything on the feet in the country, and the conditions about the villages could not be more favorable for its spread. At every landing stage one can pick out the victims. Bilharzia is even worse - very common and more hopeless. The Hospital has a score or more of bladder cases and as many of the intestinal form. The clinics are not properly organized, and men of the Griesinger stamp are needed. I was glad to see the old man's portrait in the Library. I am to meet the Board of Education on my return and hope to stir them to the point of spending more money. // The country is wonderful - sun, sand, rocks, and crops, a lovely green belt, between the river and the desert (Hichens's Spell of Egypt is worth reading, quite Gallic in his style). We had four days at Luxor, the ancient Thebes, the ruins of which are wonderfully impressive. Karnak is what Revere would call, the top-notch. No such monument of human effort exists. It is simply staggering. St. Peter's and the Colosseum are toys beside it. Notre Dame could go inside one of the courts. We had a glorious day at the Tombs of the Kings - only 47 of them! - cut in the solid limestone, long sloping corridors about the size of the covered one at the J. H. H., lateral chambers and then 300 - 500 feet in the heart of the mountain and 500 from the surface the mortuary chamber; and in one Seti I rests peacefully in his mummy case, with his hands folded and his features as clean cut as when he was embalmed 3500 years ago. Poor devil! Had he thought that troops of tourists would come to stare and that an electric light would flare in his face, he would have preferred a "burning burial", and he took such pains to hide his tomb, false passages, and an 80 ft. deep well to divert the robbers! Only about 10 years ago the opening was found. We make about 50 miles a day, stopping anywhere for the night, tying up to a mud bank. There is scarcely a mile of the river without some place of interest. Temples everywhere - and from all ages we have just seen Edfu, the most perfect of all ancient buildings, but very modern for Egypt - only finished (after 180 years) about 27 B. C. It is a beauty - Greek adaptation of local models. We shall not go beyond the Dam, at Assuan, and then come back slowly - due at Cairo on the 15th and sailing to Naples on the 22nd. I am only sorry that Mrs. Osler is not with me, but she would not leave the boy - so far away. Mrs. Wooley is with her. The heat too would upset her. It has been 86° and this is the cool season! I hope Sister Susan keeps well. I hear of her now and again from Marjorie to whom she has been a saint. Are you likely to be over this summer?

Ever yours,
Wm. Osler.

the Nile valley
 (4) This disease is so wide spread in ~~the Nile valley~~ ^{the Nile valley} that caused the military authorities chief apprehension when large bodies of troops had to be sent to Egypt. A special commission was appointed to investigate the ^{life cycle} ~~life cycle~~ ^{parasitic} ~~parasitic~~ ^{consists the} ~~consists the~~ ^{ultimately} ~~ultimately~~ ^{from the} ~~from the~~ ^{a variety of snail played the part of intermediary host.}

*of Dr. G. J. Leiper
of the Bureau of
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