

(Handwriting)

(Dr. Lewellys Barker)

Cairo

S.S. "Seti"

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Dear Barker

Mrs. Osler sent on yours of the 21st. I am so surprised to hear of Hurd's resignation of which I had no intimation. I do hope it is not from ill health or from any cause other than that which King Lear gave. I have written to him at once. He has nothing to regret in life - a good record - and splendid work for the profession.

So glad you liked Thursfield. I knew he would be delighted. I have had the trip of my life. A month in the Nile / "such weather! such monuments! such a revelation of the intellectual development of man 6000 years ago! I am a bit bewildered. I have just come from paying my respects to Dr. Imhotep whose step pyramid, built for Zoser 5000 years ago, is the first large stone structure known in history; and Imhotep himself is the first physician with a distinct personality to stand out in the mists of antiquity. It is a marvellous country. I am brown as an Arab... If you pick up Hichens Spell of Egypt look over one or two chapters & you will realize how enthusiastic I am. The country has one God - the sun, & two devils - dust & flies; the latter responsible I am sure for 2/3 of the disease. The Ophthalmia is awful and one sees a great deal of blindness... Everywhere too the hook-worm disease, face & belly, is in evidence. I had a good morning with Looss who is the strong man here - they have not done enough for him - The school is good - practical, but the hospital is impossible. They have had no successors to Griesinger or Bilharz...

I hope all goes well with you & yours. Do not work too hard. Love to Mrs. Barker & the bairns & to 'Hump' as we call her.

Ever yours
W^m Osler