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CUS417/118.160

( Dec.) 6th (14)

CHRIST CHURCH,  
OXFORD.

Dear Birkett,

I had an interview with Keogh, the Dir.Gen. A.M.D. yesterday and cabled his views. He had not heard of the offer! - These things come thro. very slowly- The position is this. There are five or six large English Base Hospitals, as many as can be dealt with from the front They are chiefly at Boulogne & neighborhood- but the tenure of the coast is just now so uncertain that the war office cannot undertake any new hospitals in this region. He says if you all came over just now there would be only delay & disappointment. As it is the Canadian nurses have been kicking their heels- & no doubt cussing! - in London for some weeks & are only now getting drafted into work Later he feels sure you will be needed, & he has promised to let me know The French are sadly in need & help & I have written to Chauffard asking if the French Govt. could utilize a Hospital unit realised in Canada of men speaking French - but not of course mentioning names. It will be some time, I hear, before the Canadian contingent will be fit to leave. K. insists that half trained men only embarrass the Generals. Things are going pretty well. The country is in fine spirit and 'tis sure a good omen that in the end of the 3rd month the Germans have not yet finished with Belgium. We are very busy. I am seeing a great deal of interest. Keogh was greatly touched with your offer & not a little surprised.

Yours sincerely,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler