

[Mrs. Osborne to Lady Osler]

[London] Monday Evening [July 11, 1916]

Grace dear -

I caught the train, which feat I lay at your door, knowing my habit of resting tranquil when I am happy. I had a carriage with an obvious "professor" - and a girl an artist I should think as I saw Cheyne Court on her luggage. A beautiful creature like a Creole with short hair and a face like Byron. I was longing to make friends with her but felt too shy with the Prof- looking on!

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed my week end with you. I have inherited from some miserable Anglo Saxon ancestor the unfortunate quality of being too shy to express my appreciation - face to face - But from this distance I can tell you frankly what I feel - and that is - that you are simply wonderful. You keep open house - you are always "en evidence" as it were. You are always the same, welcoming them in and speeding the parting guest - whether they are maids matrons children - You do the right thing always - You must be tired, bored, at times sick to death of it but you never appear to be - You spend your life in looking after other people, looking after the sick and the afflicted helping the lame dogs over the stile. Your whole life is lived for others and the fact that you get a certain amount of unselfish pleasure out of being able to do it doesn't alter in the least the fact that you are "wonderful" - I tell you candidly there is no woman that I have as great an admiration for as I have for you. My Mother, Aunt Jeanette and you are the three that make my ideal. And none of you ask for praise or applause, or expect it - You probably think I am ridiculous to write like this - but I mean it - and I think we all make a mistake sometimes in not expressing appreciation. *

I love the artistic side of your house - the garden, the roses, the ease, the comfort, the blue carpet on the stairs, though it may be worn, the birds in the morning, the comfortable bed the towels worked in blue! the writing table with everything on it, the books, - all is perfect, - but behind it all I appreciate you - and the organizing power - other people - many of them appreciate this but they dont know why - I do - it is you -

I take off my hat - - with love -

Maysie -

Mea Culpa - I never mentioned the food!