

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

Feb. 3, 1916 - 2)

School of Forestry (Building, Oxford)

Feb. 3rd [1916]

Tea Room - Harry Wright & his wife came for tea. He is going over soon - does not know when. Nora is a charming girl - so sensible & nice - Her mother Mrs. Mary Blake, taken a house at Folkestone as 2 sons are there - Nora will

Your last was written from your work room dear Sister & this I am starting here, for I have not much to do at the moment. The room is full. If the War ever ends I shall have 11 Singer Machines on my hands, the men paying such a price that I bought them all. Our mending work has grown so that we have a large room upstairs and old ladies love it. I am afraid that last Saturdays letters were held up as the Philadelphia was nearly wrecked in a collision and put back to Liverpool - My letters contained nothing of any importance. The complications seem to be greater every day & now this business with the Appam adds another bolt. The Zepps passed not far from Oxford on Monday night which is rather disconcerting. They travel at 12,000 feet and it is impossible to get at them. I have had various rushing times lately. Saturday I went off to lunch at Aldershot with Haller & Ronnie Brooke and had an enchanting time with them. He has 6 regiments always training under him - They live in a funny old ramshackle house in the Barracks. Soldier servants - and simplicity in everything. Ronnie keeping moderately well - by having his joints watched & cared for. Hallie lovely but very thin - just the same dear as a child. Moyra at Boarding School. Harold back in his regiment with a glass eye and bad scar. Hallie works hard all the time among the wounded & the soldiers wives. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing them. It was a superb day & Spring flowers coming out everywhere. I wanted to go to Bournemouth for Cousin Etta's birthday on Tuesday but could not. Saturday Hilda Wright went to town to meet Palmer who was coming on leave from the Front. She took a room at the Carlton - Palmer was delayed and did not reach London until Sunday p.m. - In the mean time she did not feel very well. At 8.45 Monday Palmer telephoned me to send his mother. I went with her and we found Hilda had just lost her baby - dead - All is going well and Palmer has his leave extended for another week. I came down and Mrs Wright stayed the night. Poor young idiots they are now held up at the Carlton with a trained nurse and expensive rooms. This of course changes plans for April when we hoped to have Palmer & Muriel here during the fray at the Wrights. They are such angelic children that it would have been only a pleasure. W.O. is wild about Muriel - who calls him Doccie O - & loves him. They have such a splendid nurse. Adèle has been on the rampage for three days - wanting W.O.'s advice - I have rooms ready two nights and she hasn't come - He is to see her in town tomorrow. She is really amusing because she never thinks anyone has anything to do but herself. And I can't make her understand about the extent of Willies work and why he can't see her on her call - fortunately she doesn't annoy him at all. You will have heard from Ethel MacKenzie. Weeks ago she asked me if we would have Joan for a time as she was wild to come over & see her lover when he had leave - she is engaged to a man named Fiskin of Toronto. I cabled yes and wrote that we would love having her if she would promise not to rush off and get married. Then her father said NO. Yesterday I had word that he had consented & Joan was sailing with her Aunt Isabel Meredith & Dinah, so she will be here next week - It will be such a pleasure to Willie and she may be useful as she is a stenographer etc. Jean & Marion have a job for Joan - a canteen is being opened just above the Wrights for Tea - We have hundreds of 30th Fusiliers just arrived & billeted in North Oxford. Headquarters in the Divinity School at our corner. They have a superb band that plays every morning for an hour. The girls will all help with this

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Tea Room - Harry Wright & his wife came for last night - he is going over soon - does not know when. Nora is a charming girl - so sensible & nice - Her mother Mrs Hume Blake, taken a house at Folkestone as 2 sons are there, so Nora will stay with her and come in the spring to stay with Mrs W. Our Belgians have had to be fussed over lately and the family moved out of my nice little house as I must give it up soon - I have moved everything into another & settled them. Oh - such queer people as they are!!! I simply loathe the sight of a Belgian. I wonder if I told you that Ramsay W. has got a Munition job in Newcastle and they have gone there. Perhaps the house will let later Our car has gone to be painted - and will be away 2 months I am sure - As we cant get another we must walk. The dining room is nearly ready - bookcase going up tomorrow and I am going to town about the rug. It seems so awful to put money into it but the Insurance covers everything. Let me know if some nets I sent went through. Very much love - & excuse this volume -

Yesterday I went off to lunch at Aldershot with Hallie & Bonnie Brooks and had a fascinating time with them. He affly regiments always training under him - they live in a funny old ramshackle house in the barracks. Soldier servants - all simplicity in everything. Bonnie Grace, moderately well - by having his private watched & cared for. Hallie lovely but very thin - just the same dear as a child. Moyra at Boarding School. Harold back in his regiment with a shoulder wound and bad scar. Hallie works hard all the time among the wounded & the soldiers wives. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing them. It was a superb day & the flowers coming out everywhere. I wanted to go to Bournemouth for Emma's birthday on Tuesday but could not. Saturday Hilda Wright went to town to meet Palmer who was coming on leave from the front. She took a room at the Carlton - Palmer was delayed and did not reach London until Sunday p.m. - in the mean time she did not feel very well. At 8.45 Monday Palmer telephoned to tell his mother. I went with her and we found Hilda had just lost her baby - dead - All is going well and Palmer has his leave extended for another week. I came down and Mrs Wright stayed the night. Poor young idiots they are now held up at the Carlton with a trained nurse and expensive rooms. This of course changes plans for April when we hoped to have Palmer & Mariel here during the stay at the Wrights. They are such angelic children that it would have been only a pleasure. W.C. is wild about Mariel - she calls him Dood O - & loves him. They were such a splendid couple. Addie has been on the rampage for three days - ignoring M.C.'s advice - I have room ready two nights and she hasn't come - He is to see her in town tomorrow. She is really wailing because she never knows what to do but herself. And I cant make her understand about the extent of Willie's work and why he cant see her on her call - fortunately she doesn't know him at all. You will have heard from Ethel MacKenzie. Weeks ago she asked us if we would have Joan for a time as she was wild to come over & see her lover when he had leave - she is engaged to a man named Fiskin of Toronto. I wailed yes and wrote that we would love having her if she would promise not to rush off and get married. Then her father said NO. Yesterday I had word that he had consented & Joan was sailing with her Aunt Isabel Meredith & Dinah, so she will be here next week - It will be such a pleasure to Willie and she may be useful as she is a stenographer etc. Joan & Marion have a job for Joan - a canton is being opened just above the Wrights for Tea - We have hundreds of M.C. soldiers just arrived & billeted in North Oxford. Headquarters in the Divinity School at our corner. They have a superb band that plays every morning for an hour. The girls will all help with this