

CUS417/56.7

G.R.O

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin, Feb. 23, 1916 - 2)  
[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

motored us to Orpington to the opening of [Oxford] Feb. 23rd [1916] the Government of Ontario - 1040 beds. Orpington being the place the chickens come from - By June there will be 200,000 beds in England. Sallie might have this. France yesterday - Hugh Osler has gone - also Jack - and their wives gone home - It seems so pathetic. Willie writes us that Billy Bullittables his engagement  
Dearest Sister

Your nice letter writ ten at the French Wounded place was such a pleasure this morning - and the wonderful list of things sent - How extraordinary it is! I am sure you are happier working as you are than the people who are doing social things although I really do not believe people realize unless they have been and seen. I saw an American lady yesterday who has just come over and she said she thought she knew before she came - but did not until she went into the Base Hospital - and then watched the men, soldiers, passing her windows opposite Magdalen. I feel that my letters have been most stupid and uninteresting lately. Really there is little I can write of the War - I know so little and then I hear of letters being sent back - censored - & this puts a strained feeling on one almost at once. I wrote Pauline some weeks ago and told her the chocolate she wrote about had never turned up - & asked her to let me know how it was sent - Please tell her it never has come and I have no idea where to search for it. If she has the bill of lading perhaps she will send it me. I have written Kate, and Marion Shepherd about the socks & chocolate. Our life here goes on as usual - I wrote that Revere has applied to be transferred to the Field Artillery which will mean a course somewhere. It is a business to get the transfer - but we hope it goes through and that he may have a few days before starting in. He has chosen that and one can say no more. The mechanical part appeals to him - I hope when he is well at it we may forget the trials of the past year - My work at the Supply Room goes on well - The Hospitals are almost empty - but we are working for the future which will be strenuous undoubtedly. All my committee have been ill with colds etc - this aged lady holds out well. When spring comes really we must go away and have two weeks at the sea - Cornwall perhaps. It will do us good and the house must be cleaned. The dining room furniture is back and we have one picture but still using the Consulting Room. I have ordered a red carpet rug - with border for the dining room as I cannot get a rug - Either they have too much pink or are not the correct size. No new rugs have come into London since the war began. I do hope Ned is better - I cant understand why he is never willing to have a change - perhaps for the same reason I dont. Doesn't want to. Joan MacKenzies 'fiancé' arrived last Thursday - They have had a wonderful week I think - He is very nice and we like him - goes back Friday and she will be very lonely and sad. Allan Meredith has had leave and is in London with his mother. Joan came over with Isabel Meredith. We have "Nursing Sister Gallop" - a little Canadian nurse staying here and taking two weeks rest cure. Willie found her rather played out at Folkestone. Mabel Brewster's sister, Emily Tremaine is going to the Beachborough Hos where Phoebe is, to V.A.D. She has been three months in a London Hospital. I hear that Mrs Rice is still doing wonderful work at Torquay - in the Wards now - doing some nursing. Isnt she wonderful? Adèle has got a dreadful mess - Her two doctors - men at Hampstead who do the daily visits, sympathize with the matron and leave with her. The Consulting Staff -consisting of Osler, Armour and Parkinson have consulted and advised but she always does her own way & it is difficult - Willie is now greatly interested in a Hospital for heart cases that he and four others have started - also in Hampstead - I don't know he'll ever stand all this strain - Last Saturday we lunched at the Armours and they



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motored us to Orpington to the opening of a new Hospital - done by the Government of Ontario - 1040 beds. Orpington being the place the chickens come from - By June there will be 200,000 beds in England. Campbell Gwyn went back to France yesterday - Hugh Osler has gone - also Jack - and their wives gone home - It seems so pathetic. Hallie writes me that Billy Bullitt cables his engagement to Miss Drinker. She is a charming girl I believe - a great friend of Norman Gwyn - I believe Loulie likes her very much. Nice letters from Otilie now. The children keep well - Muriel is just full of deviltry. I wonder if I wrote you I went up to lunch with Collis one day last week? He was as dear as ever and not so pathetic - looks fat & well. Our motor is away and will be a long time. Peazley has nearly ruined it and I have dismissed him. I believe Benning will be discharged - he has been months in Hospital. Soon I must get you to order me two pairs of shoes - I can't get them here at all - I have had to order two dresses - one a black crêpe de chine - quite a pretty model - & the other for dinner, black glacé with velvet ribbon - I am nearly in rags. Jean & Marion are busy every moment. Fruit & flowers - canteen - and two afternoons a week at Didcot - packing and unpacking Hospital & Camp supplies. We are having most vicious & unpleasant weather - Snow now trying to hide the crocuses & spring flowers. I have had to do lots of Belgian work lately. Some people have to be moved and others are fussing or having babies, - & every window in each house had to have a dark blind. There is not a ray of light in Oxford at night - I asked Alice Bowditch and the others to come here - but they couldn't. All their time was taken in getting their papers for crossing. John McLennan writes that Katherine will join Helen Homans when she comes over, which is a relief to me as I thought we would have to get her into a Hospital here. This rambling letter must now stop or you'll be dead - Very bestest best love little Sister.

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I have entered a red carpet rug - with border for the dining room as I cannot get a rug - Either they have too much stock or are not the correct size. No new rugs have come into London since the last batch. I do hope God is better - I can't understand why he is never willing to make a change - perhaps for the same reason I don't. Doesn't want to. John & Katherine "flunked" arrived last Thursday - They have had a wonderful week & which - He is very nice and we like him - goes back Friday and she will be very lonely and sad. Allan Meredith has had leave and is in London with his mother. John came over with Isabel Meredith. We have "Nursing Sister College" - a little Canadian nurse staying here and taking two weeks rest here. Willie found her rather played out at Folkestone. Isabel Brawster's sister, Betty Tremaine is going to the Scarborough Hos where Phoebe is, to V.A.H. She has been three months in a London Hospital. I hear that Mrs Rice is well doing wonderful work at Margate - in the Wards now - doing some nursing. Is she wonderful? Willie has got a dreadful mess - Her two doctors - men at Hoptonhead who in the daily visits, sympathize with the matron and leave with her. The Consulting Staff - consisting of Osler, Armour and Parkinson have consulted and advised but she always does her own way & it is difficult - Willie is now greatly interested in a Hospital for heart cases that he and four others have started - also in Hoptonhead - I don't know he'll ever stand all this strain - Last Saturday we lunched at the Armours and they