

CUS417/56.28 G.R.O

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

In the Workroom [Oxford]
June 19th, [1916]
aged 62.

Dear Sister

The enclosed was begun and never finished. These have been strenuous days and the beginning of Osler sorrows - Ralph Osler - Frank & Belle's only child was killed last week - wounded on Tuesday night at Ypres - taken to the Clearing Station where he was operated on - a stomach wound - died Thursday of peritonitis. Belle & Frank are living in the country near Brighton. A wire from them asking Willie to help with information came Thursday & a wire from the surgeon (a friend of W.O's) at the same time - of course there was the usual rush of wires & telephones & Friday at 2.30 PM news that he had died - I went off to Brighton & spent a little time with the poor people - quite stunned, back to town for the night & home by a very early train - Ralph was a dear fellow - a favorite at school & Edmund particularly devoted to him - he did everything for him - & treated him like his own son - of course this is the beginning and we shall all have our turn. You know how Willie is when worried & unhappy. The motor is back and we had arranged to go to West Malvern on Sat to see the Wrights - returning Sunday for a consultation near Broadway - so I rushed back as I did because I wanted to get Willie away - We had a glorious drive, Joan with us - and she [was] very enthusiastic - I longed for you it was so lovely, cold but clear - West Malvern is simply exquisite. I saw the windows of the rooms where you, the dear mother and I slept & waved my hand - The Wrights are at a real farm - & begin work at the gardening school across the road today, Marion - Mrs Harry - & a Miss Brough of Toronto. I want to pack W.O over there to spend a week - for he loves cows and pigs.

Hugh Osler did not let his little wife return to Canada - made her wait until it is quieter at Ypres - I must send this off in a hurry to catch Wednesday's post - Let me know the size of your glove - if it is 6 3/4. Joan has written asking if she can be married - I disapprove entirely - but if her people say yes I suppose they will do [so] - Stupid children - not a penny but pay - I am sorry for Ethel MacKenzie.

You shall have a better letter by Saturday's post

Grace

Send this to Joe please I am so disappointed about Mr Roosevelt.