

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin, July 23, 1916 - 21)
[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

Dearest Sister, petrol is becoming serious - We are to be allowed 300 gallons for the whole week - if W.O. has to scrounge over the country as he has Sunday Eve, 23rd [July, 1916]

We have had a strange Sunday - but the whole week has been strange for that matter and filled with various emotions. I gave Joan a letter to post and sent one by the N.Y. which you will have as soon I fancy. The most worrying thing is still the thought of the worry I may have caused you with my request I shall await your letter impatiently & hope for forgiveness - Joan got off all right - I intended going to Liverpool with her but Fiskin appeared and they went from here - and I knew would loathe having me. I have very much disapproved of the modern engaged girl methods as illustrated in Joan and I felt I couldn't scold - I do not think she has the slightest idea that I disapproved. I went to town Thursday as I had arranged to do - Adele lunched with me and I afterwards went to her hospital which is really splendid. The grounds are simply lovely, trees superb. She has been asked by the War Office to take 35 more men so is having a big tent on the lawn with a covered passage to a huge conservatory and into the house. That will make 92 beds I think - Adele is nearly worn out - looks very badly and is as nervous as possible - I am more than ever impressed dear Sister that I am a fool - all the way through. I might have much more time on my hands and be a real lady - if I didn't run holes in my shoes - trying to do something for someone else. I have seen so many people lately with axes to grind and saying I - I - I - that [I] am just out done with them. With Adele I get furious because I think she treats that saint Bob like the scum of the earth - just like an errand boy - but perhaps its none of my business. Adele fully means, I think, to go to America for six weeks - Babs came with us to the Hospital and is thrilled because she is to go to Queens College in London and then come up here - perhaps to Lady Margarets.

Dear Mrs. M. M was buried on Friday afternoon - very quietly - Wanda and Mr M. M were so peaceful & sensible about everything - Goodness how blood shows up at such a time! The little boys have been here a week and as good as gold - Charlie very sensitive & weepy about his Granny - "Who popped up to Heaven to tak Granny's photo - for the Oxford paper" etc - They havent been a bit of trouble - I am more than ever impressed with the virtues of a good English nurse. I believe the calm stolidity of the English race is 1/4 owing to them, 1/4 to Public Schools - 1/4 to plain food for children - & the other 1/4 - What?

Wanda has taken a house at Headington until Sept 20th for the children and as she will be busy at the house she can go up & down with Gamage. They mean to tidy up No 7 in the hope of letting.

Revere came Saturday at 10 a.m and had to go Sunday at 10 a.m which was a great disappointment. He seems well and much happier. He and I fished at Cornbury Park all Saturday afternoon - a Lake on the Watneys Place but hadn't any luck. We motored him to Maidenhead where he caught a train for London & on from there to Shoburyness - where he had to report at 4 o'clock. Willie made his weekly visit at Cliveden and I lunched with the Matron & made afternoon rounds with her. They are full there, some terrible wounds - I never could have imagined that place so nice - almost the best Wards I have seen. Miss Campbell is a perfect marvel. Nancy was dashing about looking about 15 - and distributing what she called "an all day lick" A circle of lime candy on a stick - If you ever see any do send some - I think men in the trenches would adore them. We had tea at Ewelme and hoped for a quiet evening which we didn't

C05417/5076 G.R.O.

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have, as Canadian Red + officers arrived for help from the ever ready William. The question of petrol is becoming serious - We are to be allowed 300 gals for 6 months which isn't much - if W.O has to career over the country as he has been doing lately. Adele was not very enthusiastic about Mary Chamberlain's engagement. The Canon has 5 daughters & a sister who live with him - but she knows her job having tried that before - I can't write of the news. Everyone is hopeful but the tragedies are so awful one can't rejoice.

I received your letter impatiently & hope for forgiveness - Jean got off - I intended going to Liverpool with her but Fiskin appeared and I was sent from here - and Much-much-much love having me. I have very much disapproved of the modern engaged girl methods as illustrated in Jean and I felt I should - I do not think Grace, the slightest idea that I disapproved.

I was to town Thursday as I had arranged to do - Adele lunched with me and I afterwards went to her hospital which is really splendid. The grounds are simply lovely. Mrs. Max Muller always knew Waldorf Burnett up here. He came for the funeral - & back here for tea - Really he is a horror - coming up in the car with the family & me he jabbered about his sister's "lost jewels only worth £2000" - He told me he felt obliged to write Mary Chamberlain on her engagement as he was the only real connection she had in England - his brother in law being her first cousin - !!

I have seen so many people lately with axes to grind and saying I - I - I - that I am just out done with them. With Adele I got furious because I think she treats that saint Bob like the scum of the earth - just like an animal boy - but perhaps its none of my business. Adele fully means, I think, to go to America for six weeks - Hans came with us to the Hospital and is thrilled because she is to go to Queens College in London and then come up here - perhaps to Lady Margarets.

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