

WS47/56.38 G.R.O.
[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford] Aug 7th early [1916]

Dearest Sister

I have just sent Phoebe off - she has been here a week - and now joins the others in Malvern for the remainder of her holiday. It is wonderful to see what a year in the Hospital has done for her - She wants to go now to France or Lapanne. Mrs W has given her consent and I think she will go. Her stories of the Tommies in the Wards are most amusing and she has stood the contact with suffering wonderfully. Jean is getting the fidgets now to do something more than Kitchen Maid work in a Hospital. Marion & Nora are content with their work and will probably apply for places in the Autumn. I never saw Mrs Wright look more lovely. I think it is a marvel how she bears the burden of the sons all three going. I never seem able to bear it with the same patience and courage.

Revere spent Saturday night here and got up at 4 a m & fished up the Thames until 8- bringing home a good basket of Chubb and a broad grin - back again to Shoeburyness where he is very busy - He will be there another two weeks - then a week on Dartmoor shooting - firing - & back to Newcastle - After than his name goes any time to the War Office for Duty abroad and then _____ ?

We had a week of boiling weather but it is deliciously cool again. The garden is lovely and the second crop of roses better than the first. The Mexican excitement seems to have calmed down - & I pray may not crop up again at present. Every one is satisfied with progress in France. Mr MaxMuller brought word yesterday that all was going well. The M-Ms are staying on in No 7 - for the present, probably doing it up hoping to let - as this is no time to sell the house. Yesterday I gave Johnnie a sweet out of your box and said "Who did you see at Swindon on the platform" and he immediately said "Sister Susie sewing shirts" - He is the quickest mite I ever saw but so full of deviltry he cant be left a moment. Bob Emmons is expected on leave & we have promised to go to Hamble for a few days. I want to get Willie away - but hardly know where we can go - He is so busy all the time and begins to look weary I think. The Officers Hospital in London (Canadian) has sons of two Montreal friends very-very bad and he goes to them almost every day. Arthur Howard has a shrapnel wound in the hip but no fracture & no infection thus far - he is in London. Yesterday we had a Toronto day here - a mother Mrs Ellis with two sons - one with both hands shot - and another Toronto man with one leg - who is in our Hospital. May Osborne came for luncheon - She is in London - Her son Charlie Bath is flying in France - & her daughter Marion V.A.Ding at Beachborough. May is helping designing at Miss Greys dressmaking place where our friend Miss Morrell is - as her designer has gone to the War - Harry Osborne is kept in Toronto training troops - he is a splendid soldier. I think I have told you that E B B's Hugh has gone back to Winnipeg to command a new Battalion of Canadian Scottish - that only leaves Jack for E.B to worry about - as his own - He grieves terribly about Ralph who was a great pet with him. Mrs Wright says your work room is a marvel - I am so thankful Marjorie & Otilie are hitting it off better, they are both so bossy - [that] is the real trouble - but each one promised me to hold her tongue and try hard. Phoebe is a dream of beauty just now - in a black & yellow hat & yellow jersey with white skirts - She had two officers up yesterday from Canadian Camp to see her - It seems strange to think the summer is nearly over. Phoebe & I went to a service on the 4th in the Tom Quad at Christ Church - at 8 P.M - It was all ghosts to me and very sad. Shall you ever forget St Pauls? -

Much-much love

Grace.