

(Lady Osler to [Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin] - 3)

The Copse, Hamble, Southampton.
Sunday 20th [August, 1916]

Dear Sister

W.O and I came here yesterday - it required an enormous effort on my part. I so dislike leaving home but felt I really must, & thought it would do Willie good - We have had such a busy week. I wrote you about Miss Maxwell and the other Matrons coming - then came Dr (and) Mrs Hertz - he is a young neurologist of London in whom Willie is interested & has a nice New Zealand wife, he has just been appointed to our Hospital and came to look for a house - They found a very nice one at Headington but we have left them at No 13 - as they cant get in until Wednesday. Then Dr Welch has turned up - having come over about a New Department of Public Health and Hygiene at the Hopkins - that means much talkie-talk - Revere went to Oakhampton yesterday and will be there a week and then at home over Sunday & back to Newcastle. One day we had Frederic Eckstein (Therese' nephew) and young Chatfield - just from Belgium - & full of wonderful tales - going home for a change and back in October - These dear people are very upset about B- he had 2 weeks leave - after a week trying to get away from Paris - he went to Chamonix - his passport has expired and Washington refuses another because he was born out of U.S - etc - etc I knew these complications would arise some day. Unless he gets it he cant come across until the War is over. W.O is writing Headquarters in W- Some important matter seems to turn up every day. Cousin Etta is very well - but seems much older - and smaller - Marion splendid at present and full of business. Boats passing every moment & aeroplanes buzzing all the time overhead. A steady stream of Transports and Hospital Ships. The garden here - nearly dried up and no fruit - Like most people, luxuries very much cut down. I see today that Ralph Sherman's brother is killed. Really it is too, too awful - just as one tries to cheer up - another blow comes - Mr Parkin came in yesterday just before we left to say that Col Grant his son in law in France had been thrown & his horse rolled on him & very badly hurt. He wanted W.O to arrange to have him brought to a good officers Hospital in London or England - The poor Parkins have 3 sons in law & their own boy serving - I dont know why they are alive -

We both had your letters on Thursday. Fancy May Osborn's letter going to you! It was shocking of Willie for it is a pack of exaggerations - I am quite the biggest coward and useless person in England and so utterly disgusted with myself that I can hardly endure thinking or looking at myself. Its awful - May Osborne is very anxious about her boy - he is flying in France - & his chum was shot & killed by the fall last week.

Sister dear - about your coming - it is simply wonderful the very thought of it but I do not think you ought to come. Something might happen to the ship - you must not think of it for a moment without Johns consent. Then too, I am afraid you will miss your work and it will get behind hand. France needs everything you can send. I dont feel that we should ask for anything except money for Belgians still with us and I am hoping the Rockefellers will help again. You can imagine that to have a visit from you will be wonderful but you must not think of it unless you feel perfectly satisfied that it quite all right. I am writing Susan - as I have never mentioned her coming to her -

CUS 417/56.39 G.R.O.
(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin, Aug. 20, 1916 - 2)

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I thought perhaps you hadn't - but I hate mysteries - There goes a huge ship with horses - and another with munitions? How excited Will Revere would be - couldn't he or Ned come too, I cannot believe it is right to make Paul struggle for College. He might make a good business man. There is an enormous Hospital Ship coming up! - Poor-poor souls. D--- this War. I hope the censors like my letters. He is interested & has a nice New Zealand wife, who has been appointed to our Hospital and came to look for a house - They have a very nice one at Headington. Your we have left them at No 15 - as they are not in until Wednesday. Then Dr Welch has turned up - having come over from a New Department of Public Health. Grace. Hygiene at the Hopkins - that means much talk - Revere went to Calcutta yesterday and will be there a week and then at home over Sunday & back to Newcastle. One day we had Frederic Robinson (Therese's nephew) and young Chatfield - just from Belgium - a full of wonderful tales - going home for a change and back in October - These dear people are very upset about B- he had 2 weeks leave - after a week trying to get away from Paris - he went to Chamonix - his passport has expired and nothing but refuses another because he was born out of U.S. - etc - etc I knew these complications would arise some day. Unless he gets it he can't come across until the War is over. W.O. is writing Headquarters in F- Some important matter seems to turn up every day. Cousin John is very well - but seems much older - and smaller - Marion splendid at present and full of business, posts passing every moment & aeroplanes buzzing all the time overhead. A steady stream of Transport and Hospital Ships. The garden here - nearly dried up and no fruit - like most people, luxuries very much cut down. I see today that Ralph Sherman's brother is killed. Really it is too, too awful - just as one tries to cheer up - another blow comes - Mr Parkin came in yesterday just before we left to say that Col Grant his son in law in France had been thrown & his horse rolled on him & very badly hurt. He wanted W.O. to arrange to have him brought to a good officers Hospital in London or England - The poor Parkins have 3 sons in law & their own boy serving - I don't know why they are alive -

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