

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford]

Sunday 27th [Aug., 1916]

Dearest Sister

Thanks for the cutting about the "Licks" - amusing wasn't it? I shall rejoice to have the "licks" when they come - We had such a nice time at Hamble - I am getting quite used to staying there. Willie had never been there before. H.E. gave me a surprise I think - he and Babs had such a happy time - went on the river and played about. The Emmons are very cut down in petrol - and Bill, their chauffeur has gone and there is only Henrietta to drive. Cousin Etta was most amusing and although shaky in the knees seemed very well & interested in everything. She discreetly reads very little about the war and says she only wants to know how things are going - If she knows more she cannot sleep. It is a great worry - Bob not being able to get over - I think I told you the U S will not renew his passport unless he says when he means to return to live in America. Pa Emmons is trying his best to make them all go home to live. You will be glad to hear that Bob Chapin is much better and going to Minehead tomorrow. They have had a poor time but it was finally decided that the trouble was gout. His toe suddenly swelled up and then his temp went down. Adèle has been dreadfully depressed. Babs is with the Turners. Revere is here for the night and going back to Newcastle - he looks very well & seems cheery - he is ordering his things - to be ready to go at a few days notice.

We have Dr Welch from Balt- staying here and M^r Hale - the astronomer from California - and they are delightful, both over on scientific preparedness work, at least Hale is and Dr Welch on Hopkins work and going to France to see some Hospitals. The Max Mullers are still here - children so well and Wanda enjoying the quiet so much - that they stay on. In fact there is not much use going away as it is cool - rather too much rain just now. Our garden is quite lovely - I have two temporary maids and our servants are getting holidays - I really cant go away to a Hotel or rooms or people - it makes me miserable. Willie looks so much better for the few days at Hamble - It is the continual War talk and diversity of opinion expressed that exhausts one - added to the enormous variety of personal interests one is called upon to help with, advise about & sympathize with - I really cant see how Willie stands it - Another Harvard Unit coming - 12 doctors & 12 nurses. It was nice of you to have Campbell & Otilie - I am very discreet. I always write Marjorie & Otilie by the same post and entirely different items - I am endeavoring to add to their summers pleasure. Mrs Wright and the girls are happy at W. Malvern, although happy is a word one can't really use. Billy is coming over early in September and will have his training in England - possibly Oxford which would mean their return here. We hope through Dr Welch to get more Rockefeller money for the Belgians as the funds are running low and there are some who cannot go to the War or work at anything remunerative. This is a queer letter. I often think how different my letters are to what they should be - but I know so little and one can't write freely and the home things aren't worth repeating.

Much love to you & yours

Fondly

Grace.

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Ask Margaret please to send me the Hambro pickle receipt.