

(Handwriting)

(To Dr. William S. Thayer)

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD.

23. xii. 17.

Dearest W. S. T.

Your letter of Oct. 18th has just come. We have been wondering & worrying and sorrowing not a little about you. Poor dear Sister Susie! For one thing you must feel thankful - that she had from you all the affection and care that any woman could desire. That must be a comfort - none of those terrible regrets that add so much to the bitterness of death. We have that comfort too about dear Isaac. He & I never had a disagreement & I never had to say a harsh word to him. Poor laddie! the war was an awful trial. He had not the heart to shoot a partridge, and the terrible scenes of the year at the front must have been a perpetual agony. He kept it all from us, but I knew how he felt. The men & horses were his only solace, trying to make their condition less hard. I wish you could have seen him of late years as his mental development was remarkable, & in directions which were a delight to me. Such a love for all that was best in literature & in art, and he had developed a singularly sound judgement for a lad of his years. It is a hard blow for us. Grace is splendid & we both keep up, as he would have wished, ~~own~~ old life. There is so much to be done that we cannot brood over our sorrow.

What a wonderful experience you must have had! Poor Russia! Fortunately America takes her place & is really now the hope of humanity - but a heavy task is ahead. Courage & patience will be needed.

Yours affectionately

W. O.