

Paris

My dear Anna,

Very many thanks  
for your very welcome and cheering  
letter, which reached me safely a few  
days ago - I have written a bit of a  
note to Conrad which I enclose -

Sorry to hear of Ruth's illness although I  
hope it may have proved temporary & un-  
important. Cod liver oil should be your  
sheet anchor, especially for her and for  
little Lois. Indeed you would be well  
advised to make it a regular article of diet  
in increasing doses, with both, during the  
winter. May save them from many small  
temporary troubles, as well as possibly from  
more serious attacks.

I have been having as you know  
I pretty blue times here, but am I am  
thankful to say temporarily better. There is  
of course nothing in the nature of things to  
cause or account for this, the trouble being  
purely subjective, and dating as you  
know from my break down at College -  
Intrinsicly it is of course an hereditary  
taint, but might like other such things,  
never have manifested itself in an active  
form had circumstances been a little less  
unfavourable, or had there been anyone



2, with time and sense enough to have done a little "winking" for me when I was too much run down to be capable of doing this for myself. Of course this is meant for private consumption, not for the information of the public. This past year, which thank God, is nearly over, has been a terrible mistake throughout. In future I must, if possible, get something to do, I must be less alone. I have no prospect of either at present, but if nothing turns up, pretty soon, I can at least go back to sea. But for badgering pessimistic letters from home by every mail, my former experience of sea life was a success. Montreal would be all very well, if I could count on getting work there at once, but two years or so of idleness and worry I know I can't stand. If Raddick gets me a position on the Victoria Hoop<sup>e</sup> as he promised, I shall take it, and risk the rest, but I have heard nothing from him since autumn, & fancy he was, like other people who are free with verbal promises, forgotten all about it. Do you know, by the way, what is to be done with Ross' house? Didn't his sister or somebody belonging to him live with him, & if so is it to be kept on, or sold, or rented or what? Should be glad to learn, if you can manage to ascertain quietly. If they are keeping it on & want a tenant for the ground floor, might possibly be an applicant.



3, Glad to hear that Bernard is having or is to have a bit of a run south. I hope it may prove a holiday & change, and that the business part may be more remunerative than it promises. Remember me kindly as always -

Thank the children for their presents which I shall receive no doubt later on. I am a delinquent this year, but must try to make up on some future occasion.

George is, as you will have heard, spending Christmas with Hope & Eva. He kindly invited me to accompany him, but I decided against going. Packing up & changing always upsets me horribly, & I should have found it doubly difficult to return to this friendless & inhospitable region.

Leslie is off in Egypt, having got the position of resident medical man at Gazy Hotel in Luxor for the winter. He gets nothing but keep & quarters and what fees he may be able to make, but the climate will suit him & he will I hope have a good time generally. I have advised him, if possible, to make an annual thing of it, as Luxor is I think a place with a future & if he becomes known as the man there, which he would soon do, he might make a very good thing of it eventually. I haven't heard from him



yet however. If you see his sister  
Mrs Tom Bell, remember me very kindly  
to her.

I have heard from Father & Mother,  
direct, but was glad to learn what you  
had to say about his work being to a large  
extent otherwise provided for. As you know  
I have always held, & still hold, that it  
would now be a great mistake for him to  
attempt to sever all connection with the  
College. They seem to be comfortable at  
the De Soto, but I am much mistaken  
if, within a month or two, he is not worrying  
to be back again. Mother tells me he is  
busy with another book, which I am sorry  
to hear. The only other book which, in my  
humble opinion, he ought to attempt is an  
autobiography, to which he might well devote  
all leisure time for many months or  
years to come.

Accept my most cordial good  
wishes for the New Year, for self & for  
all.

With all loving regards,

Affectionately,

J. Parkins

