

Brockenhurst

5. 1. 17.

My dear Hazel,

I have just heard, on doubtful authority, that there is a mail closing tonight, so I am writing in haste in case it may be so; but I am in bed, which makes it slow work, and there is not much time. I have no need to be in bed, but my foot is rather painful the last two days, and I think complete rest is the best treatment.

I think it was last Wednesday I wrote to you, when I was staying with Aunt Lucy. I went next day to Aunt Etta. She lives all alone, so of course I had a quiet time, but it was very enjoyable, in spite of wretched weather. We had two very enjoyable drives, one through the most interesting parts of the town,

stopping at the Cathedral and St Mary Redcliffe church, and one country drive. We also paid another visit to Cousin Betty and one to a branch of the Fry family. The last evening we went to a "Cinderella" pantomime, played very well by a local company, mostly amateurs. I am sending some post-cards of Bristol, mostly views that I have seen.

Cousin Sylvia Hanbury kindly wrote and offered to meet the train at Romsey, near Salisbury, on Tuesday, and I thankfully accepted, as I am rather helpless on crutches, and travelling by train, with luggage is an awful bore. So I had a very easy and pleasant journey, stayed at Castle Malwood till about seven o'clock, and finished up with a lovely moonlight ride
(books)

through the Forest to the hospital. I found practically all my friends departed, and the ward half empty, and today yesterday we all moved across and filled up another half-empty ward. Stan has gone to Sborn-church - much to my surprise - he must have got on very well.

I forgot to mention the sorrowful side of my holiday, namely my falling into the hands of a horrid quack, who insisted on my going every morning to the hospital for hot fomentations and all sorts of nonsense, and I believe he only made my foot very sensitive, as it is at present.

I have just realised that I am probably too late to buy a present to send for your birthday, but perhaps it will not matter so much, because

I have reason to believe that I will see you very soon after you get this letter. Oh! isn't it glorious? It seems too good to be true. The "Marama" sails today week, and though I will not know for certain till about the day before, I think my place is booked. But you will see the cabled list of passengers long before you get this.

I hope ~~the~~ you got the cable I sent on Saturday.

Must close now. This may be the last letter I shall be writing, and I shall be nearly home when you get it. I fear I shall be still a cripple when I reach home, but you won't mind that, will you dearest?

With lots of love, my own Hazel
from
Becil.