

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TEMPLE OF SETI I. ABYDOS
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
AND
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

45


Dec 8th 1929.


EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP
ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
BALIANA, UPPER EGYPT.

Dear Father,

I think it is your turn for a letter, though Mother is such a splendid correspondent that I find I cannot keep pace with her.

We all enjoyed Mr Lucas' visit so much & were quite sad to say good-bye to him today. He seemed to enjoy himself trying all sorts of methods of getting the layer of dirt off the walls without removing the paint underneath. Some of my fine sand paper came in useful in parts.

We had the spinner round here the other day so I made a careful drawing of his whorl for you to see this is the top  the thread goes in one of the notches & through the hook when it is spinning.

This is the side view. The little piece of pulled wool  is twisted on to a cleft stick which is held in one hand while they play out the thread. This is done very quickly. The finest work is done by men. I am going to try to get the wool you sent me spun by one of the natives. I do not think they like our wool very much, they say it is too soft to wear well & would not keep out the wind or the sand.



The white wool for my scarf is all spun & I have paid 26 piastres for it (5/6)

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now it has to go to the weaver & I shall have to pay him for his share of the work separately.

Sardic's donkey caused a lot of fun this morning. he brought it round the house for its drink of water as usual. he just leads it by putting his arm round its neck, no halter or neck rope. but today the donk didn't want to return to his stable. he broke away from Sardic & galloped round & round kicking up his heels & braying at the top of his voice. Sardic tried to coax him with melon peel, but donk wasn't having any, he jumped about like a young goat. & finally all our domestic staff had to turn out to catch him. We have hospital parade most mornings. the people here get horrid boils, we usually give them a good dose of Epsom, lysol water to wash in, & hot boracic formentations, & trust in Allah. This morning a man brought a small boy with his poor little nose swollen twice its size & bright red. it was rather a problem, it might be a sting, but more probably a boil, so we gave the usual prescription with modifications & a little zinc ointment. We have had several old ladies come & ask us to make them young again. we are sorry to have to shake their faith in our skill. we can only recommend them to Allah. Two nights ago one of our men got bitten by a scorpion. of course he was terrified & thought he was going to die, but it was more shock than anything. he only stayed away from work half a day. Lots of love to you & Mother
your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

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Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.