

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

April 4th 1930.

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

Dear Mother

Nothing very new in the way of news to relate this time. We are all very hard at work. The hospital parade has been a little amusing lately, since our wonderful cure with Mahomed we have had an epidemic of hands. We now have a man with a boil between two of his fingers, & another with a poisoned thumb. The latter is an awful old rascal. He's a bundle of rags, his wife is dead, so he just wears his clothes until they drop off him. Nannie goes out & puffs Flit all over him before we start operations. We call him Abu Dubban (Father of Flies) because he brings swarms with him. He is probably Father of a great many other things still more unpleasant. These two arrived together one evening just before our evening meal. So two large fruit tins were filled with hot lysol water & they were told to squat down outside & soak their hands while we had our meal. You can imagine how funny it was to see these two men sitting on the sand each with his hand in a tin. After dinner we went out & dealt with them in the usual way. nice hot bread poultice made with some salt in the

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water, Sheikh Abdu Wahid's youngest son was here this evening with a very puffy lip. he was sent off with a dose of Eppy & some Miltion to put in hot water to bathe it with. it is very difficult to know how to deal with some of these things. on the whole we make pretty good guesses. certainly one can not say life is dull out here.

I am glad to hear M^r Childs is better. I do hope this prospective job at Abbots Langley will not mean losing M^{rs} Childs.

The news of Pats Father is also cheery it must be a great relief to them all.

You will be glad to hear that Miss C's late suitor has retired gracefully. her aunt is very angry with her about it. but we are all delighted.

The weather is getting pretty hot now. we are getting up very early & having a rest midday.

April 5.

There was a death in Arabah Today. a boy who had been ailing for 4 years popped out. there was a great wailing in the village. Miss C inquired if it would be appreciated if we went to offer sympathy to the Lady of the House. Sandie said it would do them great honour. so we went along. it was a large house the courtyard was filled with the wailing women. there were the hired waiters & friends & relations of the family & they kept up a series of shrill yelps rather like a puppy when some one treads on its tail.

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The men were all collected on the other side of the house they just squatted on the ground, muttering occasional pious remarks. We saw the berieved lady & offered her condolence - "all things are in the hands of Allah the good the merciful etc" we gave a little money for the hired waiters & departed, glad to escape from the din, but glad to have seen still another glimpse of Arab life. Of course the corpse has to be buried within a certain number of hours, but the funeral observances go on for seven days.

We have been having lovely baby carrots from Father's seeds, & the lettuces have been going strong, we have had them every day for about 2 months marigolds have done well also & some other flowers that I do not know the names of.

Lots of love to you both also to Pat
Your affectionate
daughter

Myrtle.
The Observers come very regularly. The old ones serve many purposes. Nannie bags some for shelves etc. & we keep a supply handy for hospital parade. all soiled dressings are dropped onto a sheet of Observer & afterwards the patient has to take it out to

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the fire & burn it up. quite a lot gets used up this way.
 I am sending the snaps from The Bruntons camp this time -
 You must be getting quite a pile. I shall have to put them
 all in an album on my return

[The remainder of the page contains faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]

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