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

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1931

Cairo

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

Dear Mother.

D<sup>r</sup> Brown says it is <sup>sic</sup> *ezema* I've got but *empi-tigo* - one of these foul plagues of Egypt. it's a beastly little germ that gets into the skin & spreads like wildfire unless drastically treated, it's nothing serious, but means probably 10 days to a fortnight's treatment, so here I am in a private room in the Anglo American Hospital being made no end of a fuss of with my nose & mouth completely obliterated with a thick grey paste - like a dirty suet pudding. The first time D<sup>r</sup> Brown saw me with his beauty cream on the tactless man went into fits of laughter - which was hardly fair as my face was too stiff to even smile.

When my face began to get really bad & our camp remedies only seemed to make matters worse Amice & I agreed there was nothing for it but for me to come to Cairo as quickly as possible; we had got a special ointment that we give the natives for *empi-tigo* but didn't dare use it, as the rash on my white skin didn't look a bit like it does on their brown skins, & we thought it was *ezema* that was spreading on account of the heat, & that the *empi-tigo* ointment might have had awful results, so Tuesday morning when it had spread all over my upper lip, Amice rushed Joey to Baliana, wired D<sup>r</sup> Brown to ask if it was possible for me to have a room here (I wouldn't go to an hotel with my face in such a state) also wired to Rex asking

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him to meet me at Cairo station as I was coming on the night train if there was a room vacant here. both answers came in time for me to get packed & catch the express that evening. Amice drove me in & Sardic came as far as the next station to get me comfortably settled, my rugs & pillow & slippers unstrapped etc, & arrange with the attendant for me to have the compartment to myself - with the promise of a p tip when we arrived at Cairo if no one else came in. It was a wretched night, & I was thankful when we arrived at Cairo station 7.30. Rex was waiting in a great state of concern. he saw to all my luggage had it put on his car & drove me straight here. I just tumbled into bed after a good wash & then Dr Brown came & had a good look at me. & under his directions the nurse plastered me up until I looked like a Polypinisian Fetish or totem pole. I have this done twice a day. This is a most beautiful place on the big island near the Sporting Club & away from the dust & dirt of Cairo. I spend most of my time sitting out in the gardens reading & watching the birds or chatting with a fellow sufferer who is suffering from a poisoned sting on her face. her room is next to mine & we usually come out into the garden about the same time. Of course this is an awfully expensive place, but Amice had foreseen the possibility of our needing medical attention at some time & had made the Society stump up a yearly subscription for both of us. so being members we can come here any time at reduced rates. as it is, I dont suppose I shall have much of my last months salary left when I leave. rotten way of spending ones money isn't it. but I suppose I must be thankful to have a place like this to come to & the money to pay for it - Of course there's no doubt I caught the infection from some of the people who come for doctoring; when Amice knows what it is I am afraid she will be very concerned it's quite amusing the way she considers herself responsible for me

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After this experience I must say I agree with her that Joey really is a necessity - he saved me 24 hours of misery any way & it might have been something far more serious. If we had had to send the telegrams in by donkey or camel there would not have been time for all arrangements to be made & a reply received in time for me to be off the same evening. & if I had had to wait until the next night I should probably have had half my face covered with these torturing blisters. She really is wonderful the way she foresees & prepares for emergencies - & its mostly for other people, she does not bother about herself at all -

Rex has been such a brick. he comes in to see me every day. The first time he was armed with a huge bunch of flowers & a Flit spray. (Many of course has left for England) Yesterday Dr Derry came. he heard from Dr Brown that I was here & came to see me the very first opportunity - was it nice of him - rather hard luck having to receive all my nicest men friends when my face is like this.

I hear Mr Lucas is trying to pluck up courage to come & see me. One of the men from Chicago House is here, he has been laid up with para typhoid, he talked to me out of his bedroom window this morning - so you see I'm not feeling exactly lonely -

I am hoping I shall have left here before an answer to this letter could reach me. I shall write to Cooks to forward any letters. Amice is sending them on from Baliana at present  
 Thanks for the cuttings, the Brunton is the one I know - I read a description of the treck across the deserts

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I think this is all my news for the present.

Lots of love to you both

Your affectionate daughter

Myrtle -

Please thank Pat for the letter & give her my love -

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