

Arabah. 118
Feb 27th 1930.

Dear Mother.

Your letter with the dogs & the one containing the last of the expanding flowers arrived together, I think we have enough of the flowers now thank you,

I gave one of the packets to the Coptic priest to take to his daughter, he was delighted with them, I also showed some to Sheikh-Abdu-Wahid & Fathma, they were thrilled, I told them they were flowers from the garden of the afreet.

We have had two very nice friends of Amices staying here for a day on their way to Cairo, they were two sisters so jolly & full of fun. They saw the usual sights in the morning, & in the afternoon we had a car (as Joey is still confined to his garage) & went to Berdice where there is one of the ancient incubators still in use, the industry is carried on by Copts, & the same family has

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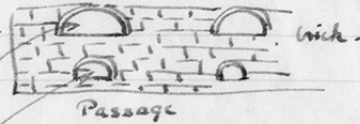
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been doing it for generations, they get to know by instinct exactly the correct heat.

The incubator is a mud house, there is a long passage down the centre there are little rooms on each side. like this.

the top part is the window
the lower is where the fire



is, there is a brick floor dividing them, the eggs are placed in the lower part where the fire is. for so many days, & then transferred to the upper where they are turned so often, the hatched chicks run about in the passage between.

There were hundreds of baby chicks running about when we went in, the men were very pleased to show us every thing. & we bought 17 chicks for 2/- & took them home in a basket. some are for Nanny to raise, & the others for Sordie's two little girls, they seem very strong & healthy.

Amice is off to Alex tonight. she is

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spending half a day in Cairo on the way, in the hopes of arranging with the Jowetts agents there about poor Joey.

I have just been called away from my letter to see to a man with a bad foot, he'd dropped a heavy piece of timber on his instep & it had made a horrid graze. Fortunately he had covered it up & got on a donkey & came straight here so it was a simple job to attend to. I gave him a good dose of iodine which pleased him very much. They think that is very potent medicine because it burns & stings; & put a basic dressing on & he went off with many "May Allah bless you"s

Lots of love
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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