

The
Visitors' Book
or
the Diary of the two most important
Visitors who ever set foot in the quiet home
of
E.H. & F.H.

Dorothy was born at 10 George Street, Hanover Sq, London on Sunday February 25th 1894 at 5.25pm.

The first thing worthy of note about her is that when only a day or two old, all kinds of light, whether natural or artificial, seemed to greatly attract her. From the first, too, she displayed, if one may use such an expression in the case of so young a person, very free and graceful movements of her fingers and hands, suggestive of subsequent manipulative ability. Her eyes were remarkably bright and of a dark blue, her cheeks rosy, her skin very fair and her hair dark. Later on, her hair became lighter. She was remarkably healthy and had good lung action.

She was christened at the church opposite – St George's Hanover Square, by the Revd. David Anderson, vicar, when 3 weeks and 4 days old (March 22nd). Her godfather was Mr Arthur Marmaduke Sheild, FRCS, of Cavendish Place, and her godmothers were her Aunt Emma Georgina Hewitt and Mrs W H A Jacobson of St Cumberland Place. Mrs Wilkes (her nurse) took her to church. She cried a little on entering but directly she heard the organ, which was playing at the end of a service, she immediately became quiet and listened to the new sound. She seemed to take a great interest in the proceedings, looking about her at everyone, and only cried a little when the water was sprinkled on her.

Her first railway journey was to Henley (5 weeks old). She was an excellent passenger and looked at everyone in the compartment. She was kept out of doors for about 5 hours every day, and when she returned to George St she was quite tanned from the sun. When 8 weeks old she was put in short frocks. At this age she was very successfully vaccinated by W E Climson Greenwood.

The photograph on the opposite page was taken at the Army & Navy stores when Dorothy was 3 months old. Her next railway journey was to Ramsgate (5 hours' travelling). She was out by the sea most of the day and returned to town with a brown face as before.



Her first tooth was cut when 14 weeks old and she had 7 teeth by the time she was 11 months. We spent the summer of 1894 at Henley, Dorothy being there for 7 weeks, during which time she took a great interest in animals, especially in cows and dogs. There was a donkey who daily grazed opposite our lodgings, and Dorothy was greatly interested in his movements, and looked out at him each time we mentioned the word "donkey" to her. She also like seeing the swans fed. She was fond of all sorts of music. We took her out in the punt occasionally, but she spent most of the time in the mail cart.

Mrs Dobson succeeded Mrs Wilkes and was with Dorothy us till Dorothy was 11 months old. The adjacent photo of Dorothy and Mrs Dobson was taken when the former was 9 months old, and the other photo is of the same date.



Dorothy was nearly 8 months old when she first uttered the word "*dada*", and much to her mother's chagrin refused to own another parent than her father, at all events in words, till she was 11 months old.

She was bathed regularly by her mother from the age of one month, and it was one of the funniest sights to see her in her little tub, in front of the bedroom fire, splashing with both hands so forcibly as to send the water on to the floor. She had many admirers amongst foot, omnibus and railway passengers, on account of her bright dark blue eyes and rosy cheeks. She was never shy and rarely cried when introduced to strangers. When 11 months old, Laura Searle came as nurse. Dorothy was by this time fat, healthy looking baby. Everyone thought she had been brought up in the country.

The present book was purchased at about this time, and it will perhaps be as well to chronicle events as they occur and to write in the present rather than in the past tense.

Feb 19 1895

Nearly a year old. She had added "*mama*" to her vocabulary. She is quick-sighted, sensitive and intelligent.

April 16 1895

At Henley with her mother. Looks the picture of health. Has renounced the "bottle" which she has had since she was 7 months old. Usually sleeps from 7pm to 6am without waking. She stands alone, crawls and clambers up, but cannot yet walk. She

can call very loudly, as we had occasion to notice one day. We were at Hobb's boathouse, and she was on the opposite bank. She saw us, waved her hands, and shouted "*mum*".

We took her in the punt with us and she was highly delighted. She continues to take the greatest interest in animals of all kinds, in flowers and in music. When she comes into bed with us in the morning she sits facing me, and when I take her hands and sing "*row, brothers, row*"¹ to her, she swings to and fro as if rowing. A boat passed us whilst we were in the punt, and on reminding her of "*row, brothers row*", she looked at the oarsmen and began moving backwards and forwards. I fancy they were amused at such a tiny person apparently practising the body movement. The accompanying cutting

is of interest in connection with the sudden overturning of the mail cart with its occupant at the corner of Hamilton Avenue from the force of the wind, the gale at Henley being one of exceptional violence. Fortunately, Dorothy escaped uninjured. She has now 11 or 12 teeth.

¹ [A Canadian Boat Song](#)

FAINTLY as tolls the evening chime
Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time.
Soon as the woods on shore look dim,
We'll sing at St. Ann's our parting hymn.
Row, brothers, row, the stream runs fast,
The rapids are near and the daylight's past.

Why should we yet our sail unfurl?
There is not a breath the blue wave to curl.
But when the wind blows off the shore,
Oh! sweetly we'll rest our weary oar.
Blow, breezes, blow, the stream runs fast,
The rapids are near and the daylight's past.

Utawas' tide! this trembling moon
Shall see us float over thy surges soon.
Saint of this green isle! hear our prayers,
Oh, grant us cool heavens and favouring airs.
Blow, breezes, blow, the stream runs fast,
The rapids are near and the daylight's past.

It has now been ascertained that the effects of the great gale of Sunday in the Metropolis are much more severe than were at first reported. Not only was incalculable damage done to the trees in the parks and open spaces, but the roofs of many public buildings, schools, &c., have been very badly injured. In the neighbourhood of the docks the full force of the storm was felt and shipping has suffered considerably. Yesterday no less than 10 lighters were reported lost, having been torn from their moorings and swept down the river.

In the neighbourhood of Huntingdon and Godmanchester the storm raged with great fury for two hours. At Huntingdon Police Station several boys were knocked down by a falling tree, and Ernest Wilson, 12 years of age, was killed instantly. Hundreds of pounds worth of damage has been done.

A Berkshire correspondent states that the gale, which raged with great fury throughout Saturday night and Sunday, caused much damage in different parts of that county. Ornamental stonework on churches and other public buildings, chimney pots, and house roofs were carried away by the force of the wind, as were also corn and hay ricks in many places. Trees were uprooted, and walls and fences blown down in all directions.

A new church in Poynton Fen, Lincolnshire, towards the erection of which the Queen, as patron, contributed £100, had its north roof blown away, and the service had to be abandoned. In the same village, while the Sunday School children were assembled in the National School, the massive stone turret and bell fell on to and smashed the roof, causing great consternation, but no personal injury.

A correspondent writes from Peterborough that in addition to the damage done to the Cathedral and parish church large numbers of houses have been rendered uninhabitable and dangerous. In the Fens no such storm has been experienced for many years. The dykes, rivers, and hedges are full of hay and straw from the stacks blown away, and the country roads are almost impassable owing to fallen trees. At Milton Park, Mr. Fitzwilliams's seat, between 300 and 400 trees were uprooted. At Ely three men repairing a railway-bridge were blown into the river.

In all parts of South Lincolnshire the gale caused more damage to house and farming property than any storm during recent years. At St. John's Church, Weston Hills, where service was proceeding one end was blown in and a portion of the roof removed. The service was abandoned.

June 19 1895

Walked a few steps for the first time.

During this month, Dorothy's miniature on ivory has been painted by Mr Alyn Williams², who has been engaged in painting the miniature of the infant son of the Duke and Duchess of York.

The photograph of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the infant prince – four generations in all – may one day be of interest to Dorothy.



² **Alyn Williams**, PRMS RBA ARCA, British 1865-1941. Welsh born Williams was one of the most successful miniature painters of his generation, famous for his portraits of King Edward VII and other members of the Royal family. He was the founding President of the Royal Miniature Society, a post he held for almost 50 years.

Aug 26 1895 At 19 Arduthie St Stonehaven. NB.

We all came here on Aug 9th, starting from Kings Cross by the 10pm train. Baby was put to bed as usual at 7 and taken up at 9. She awoke quite cheerfully, quickly pulled herself together, and was as bright as in the middle of the day, especially in the omnibus going to the station. We travelled in a sleeping carriage with her. She slept the whole night quite unconcerned at the frightful rate at which we were travelling northwards. For several weeks before starting she had heard us talk of Scotland and latterly, she had got to say "Scot" whenever we mentioned the name. Stonehaven certainly seems to agree with her. Her exuberance of spirits occasionally knows no bounds, for she sometimes bursts out into loud laughter, shouting, dancing, or imitating various animals without the slightest apparent cause. She is very brown and runs about our lodgings quite easily. She has the time-honoured spade and pail which she uses with great difficulty but equal delight, half smothering nurse and herself with sand.

We have just come back from Muchalls (a village north of Stonehaven). Nurse wheeled the mail cart there (5 miles) and we walked, all coming back by train. Baby much enjoyed the plentiful wild raspberries and wildflowers on the road to say nothing of the tea at the Muchalls Hotel. I have some qualms of conscience about the tea for we only paid for three, the landlord little dreaming that the sea air had had such an effect on the appetite of the fourth. Dorothy's imitation of animals along the road to Muchalls was very funny, especially her imitation of the hee-haw of a donkey. She has been twice dipped in the sea while there but doesn't much like it.

Aug 30 1895 – Edinburgh

We came here yesterday. Waterloo Place Hotel. Baby seems to like the hotel life. The photograph on the next page was taken by Moffat of Princes St and is excellent. The cutting from The Scotsman of today, also on the next page will explain the reason of our visit here and may be of interest to baby one day.



THE DANGER OF CHLOROFORM IN DENTAL SURGERY.
Dr. FREDERICK HEWITT, London, read a communication on "An inquiry into the safety and sphere of applicability of chloroform as an anæsthetic in dental surgery." He had, he said, endeavoured to obtain particulars of every fatality which had occurred in the British Isles during the past fifteen years (1880-1894 inclusive) in connection with the use of anæsthetics for dental operations. Although deaths from all general anæsthetics were included, a special analysis was made of the chloroform fatalities. These constituted a very large proportion of the total number, and were so numerous that he contended the time had come for the expression of some authoritative statement, such as that which he hoped would be expressed by the British Dental Association, as to the proper sphere of applicability of chloroform in dental surgery. It was freely admitted that chloroform was a valuable and indispensable anæsthetic in general surgery, and one which he preferred to ether in a considerable proportion of cases. But dental operations differed very widely from major surgical operations, in that the general circumstances under which they took place were not nearly so favourable so far as the anæsthetic was concerned. It was, therefore, clear that there was special need in dental surgery for the employment of anæsthetics with a wide margin of safety—a quality with which chloroform was certainly not endowed. He contended that, with such an alarming death-rate from chloroform in this branch of practice, this anæsthetic should only be used under very exceptional circumstances, and that ether—an equally satisfactory agent when properly administered—should be chosen when the operation was such that nitrous oxide was inadmissible. It was maintained, in conclusion, that in the interests of the public and of the medical and dental professions it was the duty of every one who was called upon to administer an anæsthetic for a dental operation to employ that one which was least likely to destroy life. For short operations nitrous oxide should be selected; for longer ones ether, and chloroform should only be chosen for exceptional cases. In the course of his remarks Dr Hewitt mentioned that during the period under review the deaths, in connection with general anæsthetics administered for dental operations in Great Britain, numbered 57. Of these, 14 occurred in Scotland, 21 in England and Wales (excluding London), and 2 in London.
The paper was listened to with the most careful attention, and was frequently applauded.
On the motion of the PRESIDENT, who commented on the value of the communication, the discussion of the subject was adjourned till to-day.

Oct 6 1895 – George Street

We were so pleased with the Edinburgh photograph that we got Mr Maurice Bernstein, an extremely clever student of the Royal Academy and an artist who I am sure will one day be famous, to enlarge the picture in crayon. This he has done very successfully, drawing the head from life.

Dec 25 1895

A Xmas party at 9 Cannon Place, Brighton. Mother, Maud, Ena, Eve, baby and myself. The new nurse, Laurie Higham is with us. We thought Dorothy would feel the loss of her other nurse acutely but curiously enough she did not appear to mind at all. As I am writing, Dorothy is creating great amusement. She is standing in the window (our room is on the first floor) dressed ready to go out. She has a little white satin poke bonnet, made by Eve, a dark green dress trimmed with fawn coloured fur, and white gloves. She is holding a hand mirror at arm's length and looking at herself sideways. She has probably seen her mother in this particular attitude. There has been great excitement. All last evening was spent in decorating the Christmas tree. We all assembled at breakfast before Dorothy's arrival so as to watch her face when she saw the tree with all its ornaments. She was, of course, delighted. We were much amused by her detecting a little steam engine which I had bought her and which I had carefully hidden away behind the pot of the tree. We none of us had noticed it this morning but she spied it out, or rather a part of it, and cried "*puff puff*" much to our astonishment. She is very quick-sighted and imitative and amuses us all very much. She has numerous presents: a rag doll from her grandmother⁴, a dulcimer from Maud, a doll's deckchair from Ena, a little bangle and a pinafore from her mother, and a doll's mail-cart from me.

Mrs Buckston-Browne⁵ has kindly sent her a doll and Mrs Mendel bought and gave her a porcelain doll which I expect will survive for some years yet. The doll, christened

"Madeline" is jointed and opens and shuts its eyes. It is almost as large as its owner. Mrs Jones (Mrs Mendel's mother) also gave D a doll which 'speaks'. It was a funny sight, so she says, to watch the two babies (Mrs Mendel's and our own) making each other's acquaintance a short time before we left town. Mrs Mendel's little girl is about 10 months old – just a year younger than D.

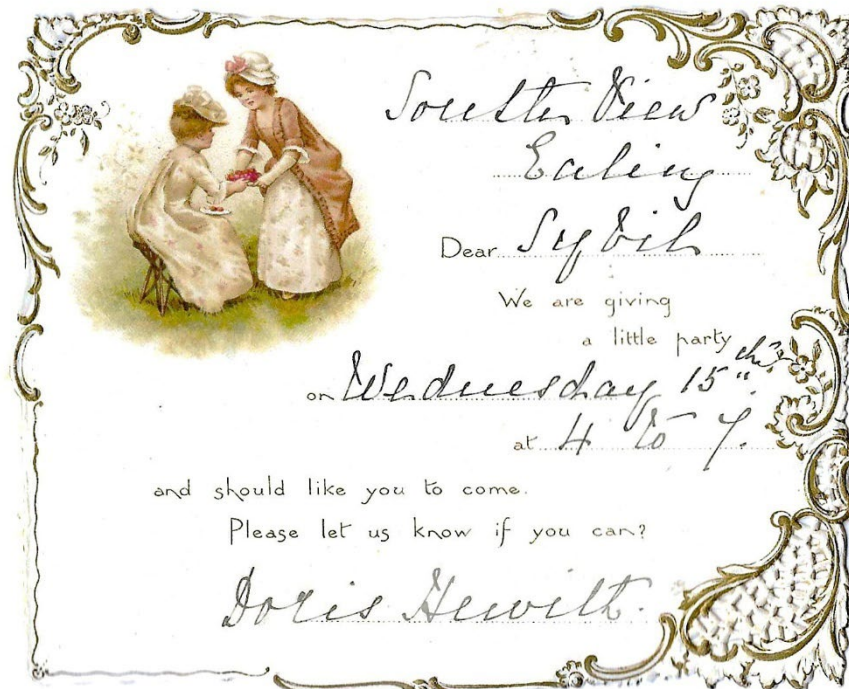
15 January 1896

The accompanying invitation was sent early in January and D has just returned from the party. Eve and the nurse accompanied her. She thoroughly enjoyed herself amongst the children of whom there were about 20 altogether. She was dressed in pale blue silk with a lace pinafore and pale blue kid shoes. She wanted to embrace most of the children

⁴ Elizabeth Day

⁵ Ann, wife of Sir George Buckston Browne – urological surgeon.

and would insist on kissing one little girl about her own age who shyly objected to the familiarity. Her Aunt Theo⁶ sent her back laden with bon-bons and a new doll, also a picture book. This is her first party.



On one or two occasions lately, she has come with her mother to meet me at Portland Road station on my way home from the London Hospital. We have a new Victoria, and she appears to like it better than the Brougham. She often says, in her own language "*in carriage*" and wants me to take her when I am going out. She is growing so fast that there is barely room for the three of us on the one seat when we are driving back from the station.

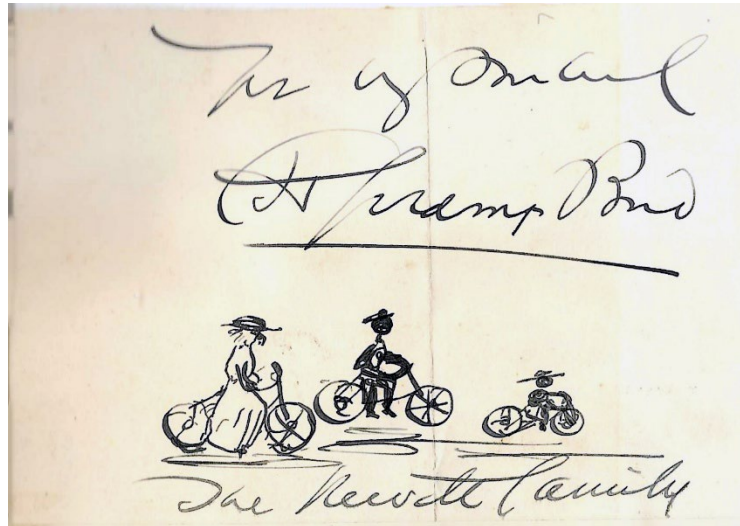
Jan 17 1896

We were all driving past the British Museum at 5.15, that is to say quite dark. The museum yard was lit up by museum lights. About three weeks ago Eve and Dorothy passed the same place on their way to Highbury and Eve pointed out the pigeons in the courtyard. As we neared the gates today, we could hardly understand what Dorothy meant by "coo coo" but it immediately flashed across Eve's mind that she had told Dorothy about the pigeons three weeks ago. She must therefore have recognised the building again or she must have heard us say 'British Museum' as we made the plan and have connected the pigeons with the building. Certainly, no pigeons were today visible. She had certainly been told about the British Museum when she first drove by it, but it is certainly curious that she should have remembered about the pigeons there.

⁶ Theodora, wife of Thomas Hewitt and mother of Doris Hewitt.

Jan 18 1896

Bicycling is very fashionable. I have just commenced going out in the mornings, though Eve has not yet begun. The sketch overleaf which was appended to a letter I received this morning from my great friend Friedring-Bird may therefore be of interest, more specifically as when it was submitted to baby for her criticism she pointed out, in reply to questions, which was mother, father and herself. This is indeed a compliment to the artist!



April 2 1896

Dorothy much interested in the arrival of a little sister. She is in no way jealous, but is most affectionate and devoted to the newcomer, kissing her repeatedly and calling her, her dear little sister.

April 30 1896

Nurse Higham left us. Maggie Bevis takes her place. Dorothy seems rather gratified at the exchange and likes her new nurse very much.



May 6 1896

We all went to Henley for three weeks and had a very good time. Dorothy is now old enough to thoroughly appreciate the punt. She lies back, with Eve, and seems quite at home on the water. She has a little holland pack and bonnet and looks very quaint, as the photograph shows. She is a big girl. Her weight, according to Henley scales is 2st 5lbs. Whilst waiting in the garden at the back of Parrott's house I made accompanying little sketch for Dorothy and put it in, not for it's merit but simply because she may one day like to see it.



June 21 1896

We are all down at Southend for a few days, at Mrs Green's, 'Bideford, Wilson Road, West Cliff'. Since we left Henley, we have had enough to do at George St to find room in our limited quarters for the expanding family. The only thing we could do, short of moving altogether, was to turn the room next to my study into a nursery. I had some curtains put up and these enclosed a bed for Dorothy. At night we throw the bedroom and nursery into one by opening the door between them. Dorothy has a little 'push' over her bed and rings a small electric bell (to her intense satisfaction) whenever she wishes to communicate with us. In this way she calls us every morning at about 6 or earlier. She is now able to talk fairly well for her age and has a good memory for nursery rhymes which she repeats ad lib. She is very proud of her last birthday present from her father and mother – a silver knife, fork and spoon in a case. It does one good to see her running about over the grass of the cliff here – as happy as the day is long.

Dec 25 1896

History has repeated itself and we are again spending our Xmas at Brighton, 9 Cannon Place – with the exception that we have one more in family and that we have another nurse we are pretty much the same party as last year. Maud has got married, however, so she is not with us. We have mother, Ena, Eve and myself, with two children and a nurse.

For several months we have been calling Dorothy by her other name – Sybil. Nearly everyone I met had a Dorothy. Children in railway carriages never seemed to have any other name. The fact really is that as in other things, fashion has an immense influence; and even those who, like ourselves, do not desire to follow her, may unconsciously be dragged along in the stream. So we have decided to use Sybil for the future.

Since the last note, a good many things have happened. We went to Lowestoft in the summer and Eve reminds me I must make a note or two of that visit. We had very good bathing and Sybil much enjoyed the water. The first time she went down in the tent it was a question whether or not she would allow her mother to dip her in the sea. Mother, Ena and I all thought she would not, but Eve was pretty positive in the other direction. There was therefore great excitement to see what would happen, more especially as the sea was none too warm. Eve turned out to be right and Sybil allowed herself to be dipped by her mother without a murmur.

Sybil has been very excited with all the preparation for this visit to Brighton. We all went to Liberty's to choose the material for her new frock – a dark red velvet material which Eve made up and trimmed with fur. We got down very comfortably, Sybil travelling with her mother, 'aunty Ena', and her 'little sister', and nurse (of whom she is very fond) in one compartment, and mother and I in Pullman. The Xmas tree was dressed last night and looks very pretty. Sybil looks the picture of health and is very happy here. She is as sharp as a child of her age can well be. Susan, the servant here, remarked to me this morning that the 'little missy' was a 'forward young lady' which was intended as a great compliment. We have to be very careful in training her. When corrected for any little fault she most adroitly turns the conversation. She has to be watched very carefully or would get into all sorts of mischief. She doesn't like too much attention bestowed on her little sister and doesn't mind frankly stating this. She will say: "Saaber (= father), I don't like you talking to little sister."

She is very fond of her 'Gran-gran' who is equally fond of her. She has, of course, had heaps of presents. Her grandmother gave her a doll. Aunty Ena a bicycling monkey – a most amusing toy. Eve, a Japanese doll which has lately formed the model for a picture which Eve has been painting. Nurse has given her a work box with which she is much delighted, enumerating its contents to everyone. Sybil's present to her mother deserves a note. It consists of a kettle holder, worked in wool, which under nurse's instructions, Sybil has worked. Nurse has inserted the needle, but Sybil has drawn through every stitch.

The weather here is lovely today after a very boisterous night of SW wind and rain. The winter will be memorable in Brighton for many years, and it was only a week or two ago that the old chain pier was broken up by a frightful gale. There is practically nothing left of it, and even the west pier has been greatly damaged, to say nothing of the new electric railway which was, I believe completely wrecked.

Dec 26 1896

Sybil's first pantomime. It was raining and we all started in a 'fly' at 1.20pm. We had a box from which we could see very well. Sybil was greatly interested and for the first three hours gazed intently at the performance. Even during the last she was very good.

On CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday Evening, Dec. 24th,
1896, and
EVERY EVENING
At 7.30, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
THE PANTOMIME OF
THE BABES IN THE WOOD
And **ROBIN HOOD.**
By Mr. H. NYE CHART and Mr. G. V. KEAST.
Produced by Mr. E. T. STEYNE.
The Incidental Dances arranged by Mr. R. M. CROMPTON.
The Flying Ballet arranged by Mr. W. NEALE. The Theatrograph
by Mr. R. W. PAOL.
Stage Manager—Mr. F. J. WATTS. Acting Manager—Mr. A. WHEELER.

Robin Hood	..	..	..	Miss VIOLET DURKIN
Marian (Robin's Sweetheart and the Sheriff's Daughter)	..	..	..	Miss MARIE DAINTON
King Richard I. (surnamed Richard Cœur de Lion)	..	..	..	Miss LILLIAN SPENSER
Allan-a-Dale (Robin's Pal)	..	..	..	Miss EDITH JOHNSTON
Jenny Hood (Robin's Sister)	..	..	..	Miss JENNIE HOLLAND
Rupert the Babes	..	..	..	Miss MAUDE SINCLAIR
Sybil	..	..	..	Miss MABEL SINCLAIR
Sir Howling Bounder, Bart. (Sheriff of Nottingham and Uncle of the Babes)	..	..	..	Mr. J. T. MACMILLAN
Dame Hood (Robin's Mother)	..	..	..	Mr. GEORGE BASTOW
Priar Tuck	..	..	..	Mr. RICHARD PURDON
Nab and Grab (the Two Robbers)	..	..	..	Messrs. YOUNG and MACK
Bard (King Richard's Minstrel)	..	..	..	Miss KATHLEEN ALLEYNE
Queen of Glow-worms	..	..	..	Miss KITTY MASON
Father Time	..	..	..	Mr. W. F. FULLER
Prim (Monitor in Dame Hood's School)	..	..	..	Miss FLORENCE HILL

ECCENTRIC COSMOPOLITAN DANCERS—MARIANI BROTHERS.
PAS DE QUATRE—Misses KITTY BELL, FRANCES LYTTON, MARGUERITE TREVOSPER, and JANETTE WOOD.
PARISIAN DUETTISTS—Misses DIA and NINA LOTI.
RUSTICS—Misses BLANCHE BLANCHARD, FRANCES LYTTON, KITTY BELL, EDITH ROBERT, RUBY SQUARE, KITTY MASON, MARGUERITE TREVOSPER, and HELEN HARRALD.
MERRIE MEN—Misses ETHEL HAWTHORN, VIOLET GABRIELLE, MAY VERDON, ADA SEYMOUR, MARIE MARTELL, OLGA DURHAM, MAUD LANGTON, EVA BEAUMONT, and LILY FLORENCE.
MARKET PEOPLE—Misses JANETTE WOOD, LILLIAN GREY, MARIE MASON, MURIEL CLAIRMONTE, NANCY GOODMAN, Cissy WRIGHT, NELLY LYONS, LILY CRAMP, and EMMA ALICE.
MALE CHORISTERS—Messrs. H. S. SCHOOLEY, JAMES PARISH, H. E. TAYLOR, F. E. DUBBIN, G. H. SINDER, J. NEAL, and F. NEAL.
Farm Servants, School Children, Robins, Frogs, and Glow-worms.

May 26 1897

I am all by myself at George St. Eve and the two children are at Lordine Court where they have been for about ten days on a visit to Mr and Mrs Jacobson⁷. They are thoroughly enjoying the change. A few days before Sybil left George St, she amused me very much, one morning. She usually comes down to us at about half past six. On this particular occasion, after she had come down, she noticed a hangnail on one of my fingers and asked me what it was. "*A hangnail, my dear*" I said. After a few moments' reflection she said: "*Father, ring the bell for Henry*" (our new servant I naturally wished to know why Henry was to summoned. "*Well*", she said with some hesitation, "*he can get the hammer and knock it in, father.*" On my questioning her further she reminded me that I had, as a matter of fact several weeks previously, knocked in a nail in one of my boots by means of the hammer. Last Sunday I went down to Lordine Court, or rather I went on the Saturday and spent Sunday with them all. It was a glorious day. Sybil was busy most of the time with the watering pot. She gave Mrs Jacobson a good deal of trouble, I fear, in filling up her pot and helping her generally. By the end of the day, she had become quite proficient with the greenhouse syringe, filling it easily from the bucket and squirting its contents, more or less, upon the flowers requiring water. She is very happy, very red-faced, and very exuberant, rushing about all over the delightful gardens and meadows.

⁷ Walter and Edith Jacobson owned Lordine Court, Ewhurst, Sussex. Walter (1847 - 1924) was a general surgeon.

Whitsuntide 1897

Spent at Henley (Stoneleigh House), and also this 'Jubilee' time (June 22nd). Everyone thought London would be intolerable on this latter occasion, in the absence of a comfortable seat and a safe way of getting to and from it so we went to Henley and watched the festivities there. We were all photographed in the punt which we had draped in white with red and blue trimmings; but the photo was not a success. The day was a particularly hot and bright one and the intensity of the sunshine possibly accounted for the distorted features of some of us, to say nothing of the total disappearance of Sybil from the group. Mother, Ena, Eve, the two children, nurse and myself were present in the punt. Sybil thoroughly enjoyed the procession through the town, especially the clowns and other grotesque individuals. Had she been a little older we should certainly have arranged for her to see the pageant of the century, but we felt she would not have remembered it had she seen it.

July 1897

Sybil went one Saturday with us to the Crystal Palace. This was her first visit there. We had tea just outside the building. We took her around the grounds and through most of the building. She saw the wonderful clock there, but I doubt if she will even remember it. As it struck six, a detachment of soldiers marched out of one gate of a castle above the clock works and marched in at another. Before they emerged from the gate, a bugler came out as if to announce the start. The marching was wonderfully realistic. We bought Sybil a wonderful production in sixpence. It was a little set of doll's toilet requisites in a box – a hand mirror, powder box, brushes for hair and teeth, comb, and a metal cup that might have been meant for tooth cleaning. I wonder whether she will remember these when she grows up.

In the same month we took her to the Victorian Era Exhibition at Earls Court – again on Saturday afternoon. We go there about 2.30 or 3, Chilton driving us in the Victoria. We went to the marionettes which were very clever. Sybil was very excited. She had never seen people clapping their hands before and couldn't quite make it out. I had to explain what it meant. A couple of skeletons appeared and danced, their arms and legs, to say nothing of their heads, parting company occasionally with the rest of their bodies. The heads went off with a 'pop'!

Aug 19th 1897

"Belle Vue", Beach Road, Felixstowe. We came here on 11th, mother as our guest. Sybil thoroughly enjoys herself. She sleeps in our room. She usually wakes us at about six or half past and comes into our bed for a little time. She then goes up to nurse and comes down again with her sun bonnet on, to go out with me before breakfast for a run upon the beach. The shore is quite close, and we have a 'tent' which is most useful. Sybil has bathed three mornings and is in no way alarmed by the water. She has a large wooden spade and a large red bucket with "A present from Felixstowe" outside it – both presents from her grandmother. She is a little difficult to manage at times and requires a very firm hand. She has lost none of her power of turning the conversation in the most adroit manner, when it suits her purpose. She seems slow at picking up tunes and in counting (one, two, three, four etc) but in all other things she is very sharp.

We all went up to Orwell a few days ago, driving in a little pony chaise to the pier at Landguard Fort⁸, and then going up the river by one of the steamers. When I say all, I am awry in that nurse and the baby remained at home. We had tea in Ipswich, saw the Ancient House and the interior of St Mary-le-Tower church, and returned by train. It is delightful to see Sybil and the baby (who is just able to walk a few steps) on the sands. They are both brown, the latter especially, and both the pictures of health.

The photo on the opposite page is of the Ancient House at Ipswich, now used as a bookseller's shop, in which we bought the photo.



Aug 20 1897

A cardboard box, containing a brace of grouse, came today for mother who unfortunately returned to London early this morning., before its arrival. Sybil went with me to re-post it. On the way she said: "*Father* (pronounced 'Saaver'), *are you going to post that?*" "Yes, my dear" I said. After a moment's reflection, during which I have no doubt she thought over the letters we had on several occasions allowed her to put into the letterbox, she said: "*Surely it won't go in, will it father?*" A week later. At the breakfast table. After a good breakfast cup of bread and milk, Sybil was given about a third of a poached egg. The other two thirds, which contained all the yolk, represented some one else's breakfast. Sybil could not quite understand the position of affairs. "*Mother,*" she said, with a half reproachful look, "*has this egg no yellow?*"

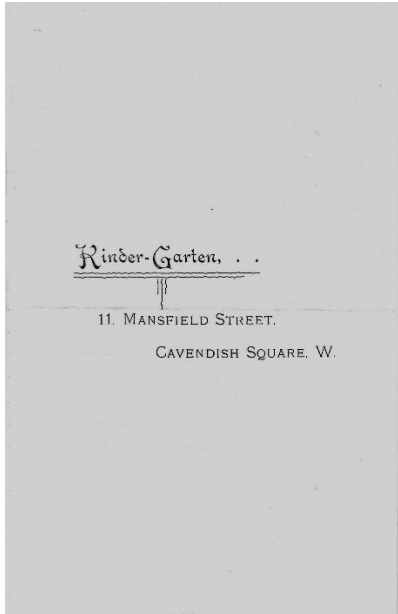
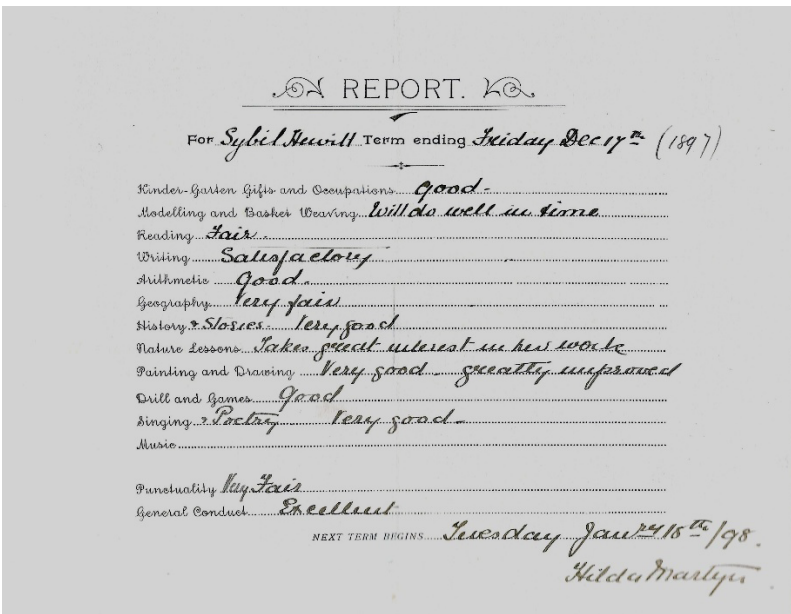
[An envelope with: 'A lock of Sybil's hair. This was the first time she had her hair cut. Francis' in Hanover St.']

⁸ <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/landguard-fort/>



June 19 1898

We have been very remiss in making entries. We spent Xmas at Brighton (Mrs Day's lodgings). We went to Lordine Court at Easter, to Henley just before Whitsuntide and to Brighton again in Whitsuntide itself. On the opposite page will be found Sybil's report from the kindergarten to which she went for the first time in Oct 1897. She also went for the terms after Xmas but she has suffered a good deal from colds during this last few months that I thought it best to keep her as much as possible in the country. Her tonsils have been slightly enlarged and have probably

 Kinder-Garten, . . 11, MANSFIELD STREET. CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.	 REPORT. For Sybil Hewitt Term ending Friday Dec 17th (1897) Kinder-Garten Gifts and Occupations... <i>Good</i> Modelling and Basket Weaving... <i>Will do well at home</i> Reading... <i>Fair</i> Writing... <i>Satisfactory</i> Arithmetic... <i>Good</i> Geography... <i>Fair</i> History & Stories... <i>Very good</i> Nature Lessons... <i>Taken great interest in her work</i> Painting and Drawing... <i>Very good</i> <i>Greatly improved</i> Drill and Games... <i>Good</i> Singing... <i>Very good</i> Music... Punctuality... <i>Fair</i> General Conduct... <i>Excellent</i> NEXT TERM BEGINS... <i>Tuesday Jan 24th 1898.</i> <i>Hilda Martyn</i>
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We are moving soon to our new house and Sybil begins to realise it. I often wonder whether she will remember our 'flat' here, and the small space at our disposal. We are like a furniture shop at present as we have been accumulating furniture of all sorts. We took Sybil out for a walk after tea and showed her the outside of 14 Queen Anne St. She knows that we give away old cloths and old toys to poor children and so on our way to see the house today, she asked "*Father, you will give away the old house, won't you, to some poor little girl, when you have the new one?*" This sort of charity would, I fear, be rather in excess of our means!

Dec 8 1898

Moved in from lodgings to 14 Queen Anne St. We had been here for about 4 months at 45 Weymouth St.



Summer 1898

The little photo was taken by my friend E J Lewis at Felixstowe. It represents his two children – May and Gladys – with Sybil and baby.



Aug 27 1899

We have all just come back from Felixstowe where we have been for a month. Sybil is now 5 ½ and baby 3 ½. They have enjoyed themselves immensely on the sands. They have found several friends in the last few months. We went to the Merrylands Hotel, Bookham in June and they met 'Carine' there. She came to Queen Anne St to see them after, and they were delighted. At Felixstowe they have made the acquaintance of

"Nanny" and "Queenie" and their brother Leslie (Lang). Baby is going to kindergarten with Sybil this coming term. She is a bright, unselfish and loving little thing, inclined to be very mischievous – rather a contrast to Sybil who is more reserved and autocratic, and seems to have something of the "commercial element" in her nature for she says her highest ambition is to "open a shop and sell things". Beatrice Farmer, their nurse, is just leaving and Emily Kisbee is coming back. The two nursery governesses we tried, Miss Ray and Miss Fitzgerald, were great failures.

Sybil and baby both go to church now – usually to All Saints, Margaret St. I ought to mention that they have both been bathing bravely at Felixstowe, even in roughish waves and both enjoy it. They looked very pretty in their red bathing dresses and straw hats, waiting for me to take them in.

We went to Brussels, Antwerp, Paris (Eve and I) for a week and left them at Felixstowe, bringing them back numerous toys. For Sybil, a writing desk and French doll in a glass box. For baby, a dachshund christened “Mossoo” and a toothbrush in a case.

Sept 26 1899

Baby went to kindergarten for first time today. Sybil very patronising and superior! Baby is really a dear little unselfish person. Soon after we came back from Felixstowe she got all her shells together and, of her own accord, spent a considerable time one morning in distributing them amongst us all. She made little heaps in her bedroom.

“This one for mother. This one for Daddy. This one for me.” And so on till all were used up. She gives the best to others and keeps the worst for herself. Sybil is getting on well with her practising. At the present time their gran-gran is staying here for a week.

Nov 20 1899

Both children went to stay with their grandmother about a month ago for a few days and were highly delighted with the change. They slept in the bedroom I used to occupy as a boy. Eve and I had the room next to mother's. Yesterday I was playing ‘Hark, the herald angels sing’ and Sybil was practising for Xmas. Her rendering of one line was distinctly comic: *“God and cinders reconciled!”* She is very good at reciting the first verse of ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’.

Jan 20 1900

Both children have just returned from Margate where they have been staying with Mrs Mann at 7 Endcliffe Gardens for three weeks. They both had influenza at Christmas time and baby had a rather sharp but short attack of bronchitis after. In fact, we had all arranged to go to Brighton for Xmas but poor baby was made to be in bed on Xmas day. She was very good and patient. They have had a very good time with Mrs Mann, and nurse has looked after them very well. The first thing Sybil said on coming home and rushing into my study was *“Daddy, I like Jackie and I can eat greens!”* Jackie was a small dog of Mrs Mann's whom Sybil at first distrusted and of whom she was terribly frightened. Greens have been for many years rejected at meals so she was delighted she had conquered her dislike of them.

Sybil and I have just been to the bank. On my way home, in Maddox St, we met Sir William Dalby who is very fond of little children, and kissed Sybil. Baby has much improved in talking whilst away. A couple of white pigeons have been given to the children by nurse, and they are now being put outside the nursery window. Great glee in the nursery!

Easter 1900

Spent at Lordine Court (middle of April). On May 5 we all went to the Hippodrome. Children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Lions, cats, midgets, monkeys, dogs etc.

June 10 1900

NB the photo on opposite page was taken about Jan 1899 but it exactly represents the children now.

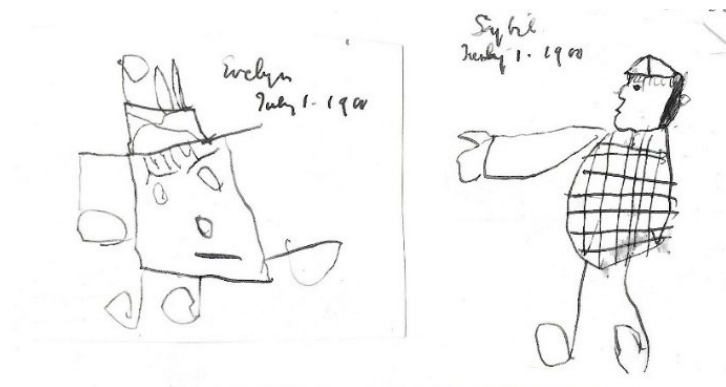


We have just returned from the Five Horseshoes Hotel, Remenham Hill, Henley where the children with nurse (Kisbee) have been for Whitsuntide. Eve and I were there five days. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We went out in the punt and we drove out in a little governess' cart – one day to Henley and one day to Remenham. We played bowls on the bowling green at the back of the hotel. Both children are still at kindergarten, but Sybil will probably go to Queen's College School in October. Just at present they are engrossed with musical instruments they have been purchasing. Sybil has a toy mandolin and baby a musical box. The latter is labelled to play 'The absent-minded beggar' – the great song of the present Transvaal war – but it might be almost anything else! Anyhow, Evelyn, who at present has no idea of tune, accompanies herself on this musical box, and as both she and the box are uncertain of the air, and the words are, to say the least, hardly intelligible the effect is grand!

Sybil stoutly maintains that the mandolin is very easy, but as the wires rapidly get loose and cross one another, the music supplied with the instrument has not received the attention it deserves! They both went to tea with Mrs Buckston Browne yesterday who has been giving them some delicious homemade marmalade.

July 1 1900

The artistic productions represent the *latest* talents of the two children – up to date.



Sept 5 1900

Both children have been at Felixstowe for about 2 months. Dr Brooks called today to see Sybil who has a few suspicious spots (chicken pox?) on her body. He asked us if Sybil had had chicken pox and Evelyn, who was standing by and who had vivid recollections of recent table delicacies, at once announced "*We had bacon*". It turned out to be a mild attack and both children returned home on Sept. 11th.

On the next page is a photo of us all at Felixstowe (Aug-Sept 1900) taken by White⁹, the photographer.



⁹ Most likely Clarence Hudson White (April 8, 1871 – July 8, 1925), an American photographer, teacher and a founding member of the Photo-Secession movement. He travelled and exhibited in London and Paris at this time.

Oct 6 1900

We all went to Maskelyne and Cooke¹⁰ today. The two children, Eve, Miss Woodcock (the new companion to the children) and myself. Great excitement and enjoyment. Animated photographs, conjuring; the children were delighted with the 'spiritualistic' movement of the furniture and the terror of the 'butler'.

Oct 29 1900

Eve, both the children, Miss Woodcock went today to see the procession of the CIVs¹¹ along Edgware Road, on their way from Paddington Station to the city, after their services in the Boer campaign. They had a very good view from over the portico of 1 Burwood Place and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Nov 11 1900

Miss Woodcock, the two children and I have just returned from a call on Miss Bristowe. We went to see her kittens. On the way, baby said to Sybil: "*Billy, do you see stars in the ceiling?*".

Dec 9 1900

We have had a good many changes with our servants of late. The other day, baby asked her mother at what registry office she got a certain servant and after she had been told, she said: "*Mother, what registry office did you come from?*" Not receiving a very satisfactory answer, she continued: "*Mother, I know what registry office you came from - Gods!*"

Xmas 1900

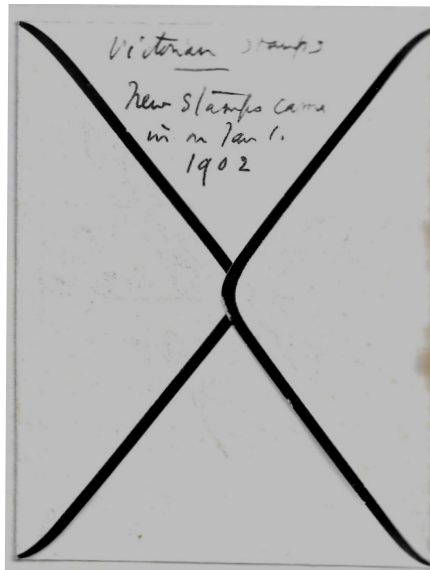
Spent at Brighton, 7 Oriental Place. A very enjoyable visit. Miss Woodcock and the children remained a fortnight after Eve and I left.

Jan 30 1901

The recent death of the Queen has made a profound impression on everyone, and the two children will, I expect, long remember these times. I have put away a copy of the Illustrated London News for them when they are grown up. Sybil is now at Queen's College School and is getting on well with her music. Miss Woodcock teaches baby at home, and she is learning to spell quite well. In the envelope opposite I have placed 5/- worth of penny stamps with the Queen's head.

¹⁰ **Maskelyne and Cooke** were English magicians John Nevil Maskelyne (1839–1917) a watchmaker, and George Alfred Cooke (1825-1905), a cabinet maker, who invented many illusions still performed today. Interesting cross over with Capt Frederick Page-Roberts who joined the inner circle of Maskeyne/Devant!

¹¹ City of London Imperial Volunteers (CIV), a volunteer corps raised and equipped by the City of London to participate in the Second Boer War (1899-1902).



DEAR DADDY
 WILL
 YOU BE ABLE TO
 COME AND
 SEE US DANCE
 THIS EVENING
 LOVE FROM
 BABY

Dec. 13. 1900

30/3/01
 THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Last night's "London Gazette" contained the King's appointments to the medical department of the Royal Household. For the most part the medical gentlemen and others who served the late Queen have been confirmed in their former positions, though there have been a few necessary rearrangements. Sir Felix Semon, the well-known throat specialist, who fought as a volunteer in the 2nd Uhlans in the Franco-German War, becomes one of the Physicians Extraordinary to his Majesty, as does Dr. John Lowe. New appointments are made in the selection for surgeon-oculist and surgeon-dentist of Mr. G. A. Crichtett and Mr. Henry B. Longhurst respectively. The former, the son of another famous eye specialist, is president of the Ophthalmic Society, and has been for twenty years senior ophthalmic surgeon and latterly lecturer on ophthalmic surgery to St. Mary's Hospital, London. Dr. Hewitt, who has been appointed honorary anaesthetist to his Majesty, became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1882, and four years later took his M.D. degree at Cambridge.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,
 March 29, 1901.

The King has been pleased to make the following appointments:

- To be Physicians in Ordinary to his Majesty: Sir William Henry Broadbent, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D.; Sir James Reid, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D.; Sir Francis Laking, K.C.V.O., M.D.
- To be Physicians Extraordinary to his Majesty: Surgeon-General Sir Joseph Fayrer, Bart., K.C.S.I., M.D.; Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D.; Sir Edward H. Sieveking, M.D.; Sir Felix Semon, M.D.; John Lowe, Esq., M.D.
- To be Physician to his Majesty's Household: Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D.
- To be Honorary Serjeant-Surgeon to his Majesty: Frederick Treves, Esq., M.V.O., F.R.C.S.Eng.
- To be Honorary Surgeons in Ordinary to his Majesty: Thomas Bryant, Esq., F.R.C.S.Eng.; Alfred Downing Fripp, Esq., M.V.O., M.S., F.R.C.S.Eng.; Rickman John Godlee, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.Eng.
- To be Surgeon to his Majesty's Household: Herbert William Allingham, Esq., F.R.C.S.Eng.
- To be Surgeon-Apothecary to his Majesty and Apothecary to his Majesty's Household: Sir Francis Laking, K.C.V.O., M.D.
- To be Honorary Surgeon-Oculist to his Majesty: George Anderson Crichtett, Esq., F.R.C.S.Eng.
- To be Honorary Surgeon-Dentist to his Majesty: Henry Bell Longhurst, Esq.
- To be Dentist to his Majesty's Household: Edwin Thomas Truman, Esq.
- To be Honorary Anaesthetist to his Majesty: Frederick William Hewitt, Esq., M.D.
- To be Chemist and Druggist to his Majesty: Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire.
- To be Surgeons-Apothecary to his Majesty's Household at Windsor: William Fairbank, Esq., M.D., William A. Ellison, Esq., M.D., jointly.
- To be Surgeon-Apothecary to his Majesty's Household at Sandringham: Alan Reeve Manby, Esq., M.V.O., M.D.
- To be Honorary Physicians in Ordinary to his Majesty in Scotland: Sir William Tennant Gairdner, K.C.B., M.D., George William Balfour, Esq., M.D.
- To be Honorary Surgeons to his Majesty in Scotland: Patrick Heron Watson, Esq., M.D., Alexander Ogston, Esq., M.D.
- To be Honorary Surgeon-Oculist to his Majesty in Scotland: Douglass Argyll Robertson, Esq., M.D.
- To be Honorary Physicians in Ordinary to his Majesty in Ireland: Sir John Thomas Banks, K.C.B., M.D., William Moore, Esq., M.D.
- To be Honorary Surgeons to his Majesty in Ireland: Sir Philip Crampton Smyly, M.D., Sir William Thomson, M.D.
- To be Honorary Surgeon-Oculist to his Majesty in Ireland: Charles Edward Fitzgerald, Esq., M.D.

June 23 1901

Miss Woodcock tells me a funny tale about Evelyn. A short time ago Evelyn was, with some difficulty, reading aloud a rather pathetic story of a little boy who got lost. In the middle of the story she paused, looked up at Miss Woodcock, and in a woe-begone way murmured: "*Nanny, I'm crying!*"

We have today had a river picnic at Henley (Sunday). The children were kept in ignorance of the impending treat till just before we started. They had an idea I was going to take them to Park Square gardens and Sybil came down about 9.30 (when they were told to be ready) with the key. They looked out of the front door, however, and to their intense joy saw the carriage with a big luncheon basket up with Chilton. Their faces were a study! Off to Paddington to catch the 10.15 for Henley. Station thronged! We hired a skiff from Parrott and had luncheon on the bank in the Wargrave backwater. I then rowed them up the Loddon where we all had tea (Eve, the children and Miss Woodcock). Train home, 6.30 from Henley. Supper at 8. A most enjoyable day for them.

THE THIRD VISITOR

Arrived at 7.45pm on Sunday September 8 1901 at 14 Queen Anne St under the able auspices of Dr Eden and our old and trusted friend Mrs Wilkes.

Sept 24 1901

A red-letter day for Sybil and Evelyn. I get up at 5.30 and caught the 6.30 from Paddington, arriving at Henley at 7.45. At 8.30 I was at Mrs Basset's, Kidmore Rise – a little farm at which the two children and Miss Woodcock had been staying for the past 8 weeks. It was a lovely crisp autumn morning, rather hazy, and Peppard looked beautiful. I went to fetch them back home to see their brother for the first time.

They looked very well after their holiday. Poor Eve had been very ill and was still in bed but much better fortunately. Sybil and Evelyn were to go for a few days to Mrs Buckston Browne who had kindly offered to take them as they could not be looked after at home. So we all started from Henley by the 9.37, the two children and Miss W coming in a fly and me on my cycle. Great was the joy at meeting. Eve was delighted to her two big and brown children and they in turn were delighted to make the acquaintance of their baby brother. He was very sleepy but looked the picture of health. The children then went off to 80 Wimpole St when I found them at 6.30pm playing 'Countries' with Mr & Mrs BB. They are to start school at Miss Dickinson's tomorrow.

FREDERIC WYNDHAM FREKE HEWITT was christened at All Saints, Margaret St by Rev. Prebendary Whitworth on Friday October 4th 1901. Godmother, his Aunt Theo¹², one godfather was my old friend George Heslop and the other his (the baby's) Uncle Harold

¹² Theodora, wife of Thomas Hewitt, mother of Doris, George and Cecil.

Adams¹³. The prebendary unfortunately forgot all about the christening and from Eve (who was not very strong after her recent illness), Mrs Wilkes and the baby, and Theo were kept waiting half an hour.

Oct 7 1901

Measurements of Sybil and Evelyn: Sybil is 4ft 3in. Evelyn 3ft 9in. Sybil has grown $3\frac{3}{4}$ in and Evelyn $4\frac{3}{8}$ in the last 21 months.

Nov 9 1901

Sybil, Evelyn and their cousins Neville and Esme¹⁴ (with Eve and Ray) went to the Lord Mayor's show and saw it very well from King St, Cheapside. A picture of the show appears in the 'Sphere' of this week (Nov 16) and is being kept. It will either be put in this book or in a scrapbook.

Nov 16 1901

At luncheon today Eve mentioned incidentally that she had seen Mr Braine walking with his new wife (he was married a second time about a couple of months ago). After a short pause, Sybil said: "*What has he done with his old one mother?*"

Nov 17 1901

Sunday. A foggy and bitterly cold morning. At 9am Sybil and I started from Paddington for Henley. She is an excellent little walker. The sun shone down in the country and we walked from Henley to Peppard. There had been a hoar frost and the trees looked lovely in the half-misty and half-sunny morning. We lunched at Butler's, looked over Vine Lodge with Butler, and walked back to Henley, having tea and toast (Sybil about six pieces!) in the bar parlour of the Wheatsheaf Inn at Henley. Our train was 40 mins late owing to fog.

Jan 2 1902

The natural bent of human beings is exemplified by an incident which occurred yesterday. For some days past, Sybil and Evelyn have been playing 'Punch and Judy' and other games behind a screen in the nursery and for some days past, Miss Woodcock has noticed a gradual disappearance of sugar from the nursery basins. Matters came to a crisis yesterday when the basin was found empty, and on being taxed, Sybil admitted she had, whilst engaged in her performances behind the screen, appropriated and eaten the contents of the basin. I had to give her a long, moral lecture this morning. We spent Xmas at Brighton (7 Oriental Place) and returned last week. Sea air and an ounce of cream a day have greatly improved "Wyndham" who is very well and happy.

¹³ Husband of Emma Georgina Hewitt (Ena), and Frederic's brother-in-law.

¹⁴ Nevill D Hewitt b.1897 and Esme Violet Hewitt b. 1898 were the children of Frederic's brother Harry Morse Hewitt and his wife Rachel (Ray).

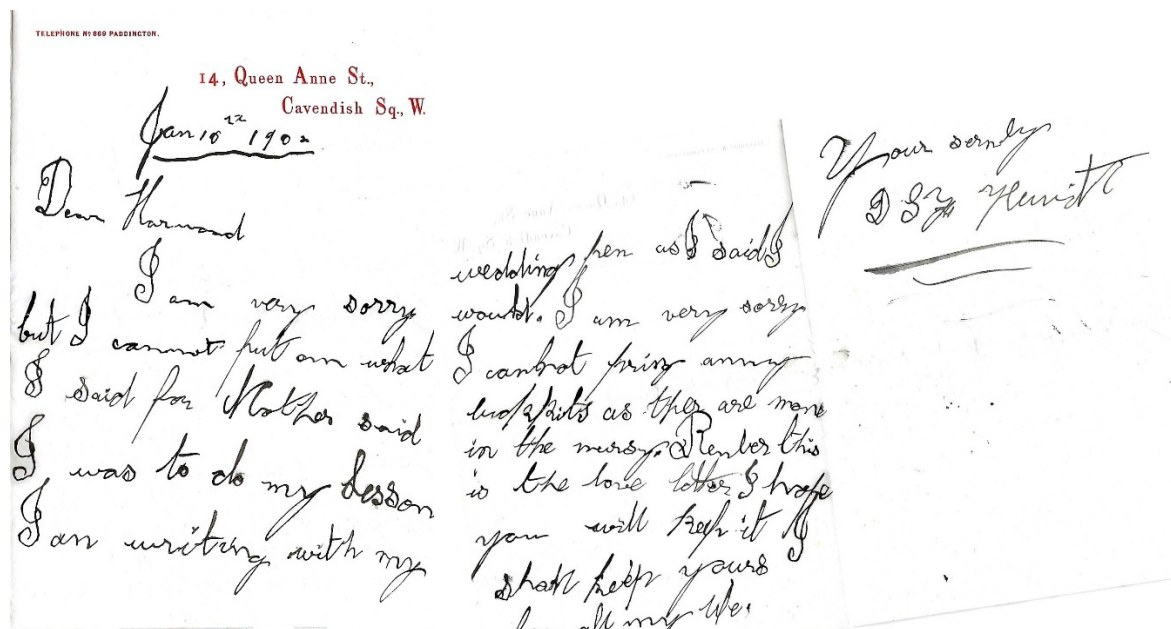
S & E are rosy and happy too and going back to school (Miss Dickinson's) on Jan 16th. S reads remarkably well – even the daily paper – and E writes as well as or better than S. They are both looking forward to the cottage (Vine Lodge) in the spring when we hope to get it in order.

Sybil's first dance at Mrs Cumberbatch's, 80 Portland Place, 4 to 7. She thoroughly enjoyed herself but gave offence to a gentleman by not fulfilling one of her engagements.



Jan 13 1902

On the next page will be found Sybil's first love letter, written in my study on Jan 10th. The writing on the envelope was so bad that I thought it advisable to look inside to see what the writing was like there, and I was much amused. The sequel is also amusing.



Miss Woodcock reports that this afternoon the lovers met in Regents Park at the fountain, and according to Sybil the ceremony took place by Harwood presenting her with a ring. This ring – brass with tin foil bound round it – was found by Eve in the nursery. Sybil informs Miss Woodcock she is now "Mrs Eve".

The two Eve children and our tow all walked home together today and on arriving at our house, parted, Harwood asking Miss Woodcock if he might meet Sybil at the fountain at 11 tomorrow!

Yesterday was Sunday and Sybil went with Dr Washbourne and his little girl to the zoo. Either Dr W walked too fast for them or they ran away from him – at all events they found themselves stranded in Regents Park and Sybil came in half an hour late for dinner in a state of great excitement.

Jan 28 1902

This is the PO receipt for 11/- given by Sybil and Evelyn to their little brother to start his banking account.

DEPOSITOR'S BOOK.

Langham Place

No. *51072*

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT, GENERAL POST OFFICE,
144a, Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.

The Postmaster having reported to the Postmaster General the receipt by him on the *28 Jan* 190*2* of the Deposit of *1* Pounds *1* Shillings that amount has been placed to the credit of the above-described Account in the Books of this Department.

Ent^d. & Ex^d. *2*

NOTICE.
This acknowledgment is of NO VALUE to any person but the Depositor to whom it is addressed.

Mrs E Beuret

CHARLES D. LANG
Controller.

N.B.—Should any alteration or erasure appear to have been made in this acknowledgment, or should it be inaccurate in any particular, it should be returned to the Controller, Savings Bank Department, General Post Office, London.

S.B.—No. 3.

March 2 1902

Poor Sybil has been very seedy lately. A fortnight ago today she refused her food at dinner time (midday Sunday) and we found her temperature high. It was exceedingly cold that day – 10 or 12 degrees of frost. She developed acute tonsilitis and has been in bed, with the exception of the last three days, ever since. About four days ago her temperature actually reached 104.8. Colman has been coming twice a day. She had two or three very restless nights with pain in her throat. We took her down to Miss Minnett's at Peppard yesterday (Saturday) and as a great treat I promised Evelyn she should go too, just for the night. Evelyn was so delighted that she spontaneously wrote me the subjoined letter. Eve, Evelyn and I returned this afternoon, leaving Sybil with Miss Minnett and Garth, with Dr Robinson to look in each day and report.

Easter 1902

Spent at Vine Lodge. Harrold and Ena came down to help us get into order. Eve and the children there for a month.

April 26 1902

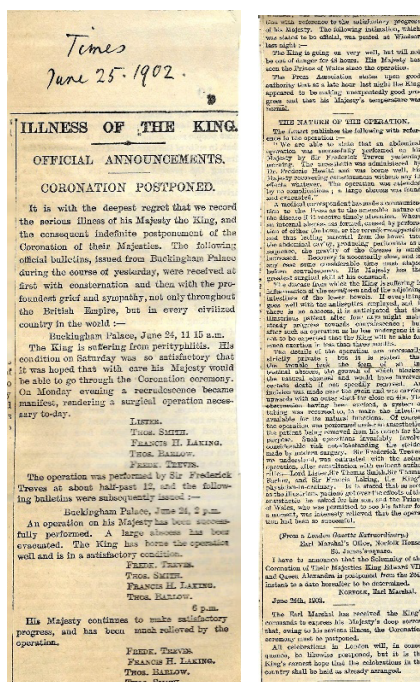
Eve, Sybil, Evelyn and I went to the Tower this afternoon. We did not tell the children where we were taking them and there was great excitement both at luncheon and when the carriage drove up. They guessed when we were nearly there. I got a warden to show us the reserved parts – the dungeons etc. We then had tea at an ABC shop and went to see Tower Bridge.

May 4 1902

Wyndham is now 8 months old. He has two teeth and an excellent appetite for the 'bottle'. He is beginning German rusks, orange juice and bananas. He is remarkably quick-sighted. He watches the rotating cowl from the nursery windows and also when in his mail cart and is greatly delighted with them. He 'talks' unintelligibly, is very muscular and active, and very good. Miss Woodcock, who has been his nurse since he was a month old is leaving soon. All the children look well after their holiday at Peppard.

May 31 1902

"Billy" had a large tonsil removed today by Mr Sheild. I gave her a little 'gas & oxygen'. When it was all over and I was packing up my bag in the bedroom, Evelyn, who was looking on said: "*Father, did you use all those odds and ends for Billy?*" Quite a large tonsil was taken away. Sybil was very good. Wyndham grows apace. He has got to the stage of abstracting my scarf pins and of going for all bright and attractive objects. He is very bright and well.



July 17 1902

Master Wyndham is now 10 months old. He is remarkably quick in all his movements, always on the move, good tempered (perhaps a foreshadowing for a rather hasty disposition), and perfectly well and healthy looking. He can't talk but occasionally utters odd sounds. He is worshipped by his sisters.

July 25 1902

A few days ago we were sitting at luncheon and Evelyn, who had been silent for a while suddenly asked: "*Mother, are you vertebrated or invertebrated?*" Her schoolwork had obviously made her thoughtful!

Sept 15 1902

I am just home, leaving Eve and children at Vine Lodge. All three children have had whooping cough and though Evelyn began, just she has not yet finished. Sybil and baby are quite fit. They have had a lovely time at Peppard – cricket, tennis, cycling, blackberrying etc. Sybil has twice ridden into Henley and back. Evelyn (with very thick soles specially designed by the cobbler and myself) can ride 20 or 30 yards. Wyndham crawls and can walk a few paces with Miss Woodcock's assistance. He puts my watch to his ear.

Just before I left yesterday we were talking at table of the cholera in Egypt and I was asked how it arose there. I explained the sanitation was far less perfect than here, that the rivers were often polluted, and that the natives did not understand water purification. I said that all sorts of things found their way into the rivers – dead animals, drainage and refuse of all sorts. Evelyn broke in at this point and said: "I suppose, father, they have no waste-paper baskets there?"

Nov 29 1902

Master Wyndham is growing apace. He began to walk alone about a week ago and now toddles into our room from the landing each morning. He is beginning to be mischievous. His principal delight being to attempt to pull out the electric plugs and to lift out the brass fire implements from inside the fender. Miss Woodcock is devoted to him.

March 4 1903

The boy is very funny. He causes shrieks of laughter most evenings when bedtime comes. Fine romps go on upstairs between them all. He has a small wheelbarrow, and it is great fun to see him endeavouring to wheel about a rabbit (who comes in too very easily). First, one part of 'bunny' falls overboard, then another, then both. Never daunted, he picks up the pieces and tries again. He is a very imperious and impetuous person. He is as quick as lightning in seizing things at table – knives, plates, other people's toast etc etc.

I take him down to breakfast on my back most mornings. I am glad I haven't to carry him up after! He says a few words and makes peculiar guttural sounds to indicate such commodities as butter, sugar etc.

They are all well but Evelyn is not as plump as she was before her whooping cough of last summer. Sybil is a very superior person now, especially as it is proposed to her to boarding school before the year is out. She was 9 years old a week ago. She had £3.3.0 sent her from her godmother and we bought two gold bracelets and charms with it, one of which she gave to Evelyn. Eve gave her a sewing machine, Evelyn a water stand, Miss Woodcock a serviette ring and I "Gods and Heroes". She is very fond of reading, as is Evelyn. I generally find them reading in bed when I am dressing for dinner.

On Sunday I took S and E to Farm St chapel, but we were too late for the service. At breakfast on Monday, Evelyn described her visit there to Eve. "*We went to Farm Yard chapel mother, and I heard the smell of the incense!*" "*Did you go to vespers dear?*" asked her mother. "*No mother*" said Evelyn, who had never heard of 'vespers'. "*We went to Piccadilly!*"

May 2 1903

Sybil went off to school at Worcester Park – her first experience of boarding school. We went carefully into all sorts of schools and eventually decided on Miss Walsh's. Evelyn and Wyn are still at Vine Lodge but return on Monday May 4th. Evelyn goes back to Miss Dickinson's on May 5, nearly a week later. All very well.

Sept 16 1903

Eve and Sybil returned from Happisburgh today, leaving Vivyn, the boy and 'Woody' for another week. They have all had a lovely time there and are brown and well. The boy has grown noticeably. The combination of sea air and farmhouse life seemed to suit them admirably. The army tent was a great success. The boy soon took to the sea and showed no fear. He refused to walk out, saying: "*More, more*" and had always to be lifted. Vivyn will soon swim.

The boy begins to put words together. Ray and her two children were with us, and just before I left, when we were all at breakfast, we were asking the boy whom he loved at table. He specified two or three people in their order, saying: "*Boo*" (Woody), *Nev-nev*

(Uncle Neville), "*Yay*" (for Aunt Rachel) – and then catching sight of the jar of jam between Ray and the next person, he said: "*Jam!*"

I did nothing at table as a rule but cut up bread. They all had such appetites.



Dec 20 1903

Sybil came home from Worcester Park School yesterday. She has not grown much – in fact Vivyn is nearly as tall as she is. The boy is delighted to see her. He keeps them in fits of laughter. He is very observant and full of wickedness. They are all as happy as possible and are on the tiptoe of expectation and excitement as they start for Brighton in a couple of days.

Eve and I went to Vine Lodge today to lunch with the Nicholls' – our tenants there till July 11 of the coming year.

As an instance of Wyn's sharpness, we were all at breakfast a few days ago. The conversation turned to the west coast (of Africa) and he joined in by repeating "*Waistcoat! Waistcoat!*" which word he thought he recognised. He is beginning to talk quite well. Vivyn is to get a prize at school this term (prize day tomorrow). Presents are coming in and going out and the house is very busy.

Feb 12 1904

Eve is away – at Beaulieu-sur-Mer¹⁵ – with Mrs Maul. Frightfully wet weather here. No sun: hard work. The boy keeps us alive. This morning at breakfast, Evelyn was talking a good deal and it was difficult for His Highness to get a word in. So he said loudly and as if commanding a regiment: “*No Vivyn speak. Baby speak first!*” Woody and I were much amused.

Sybil's letters amuse one. Her birthday is near – Feb 25. She is to have a cake. A few days ago she wrote me and said that *if* were going to send her a cake and *if* by chance it was to come from Harrods, would we be careful that it was directed plainly, otherwise, as Miss Walsh orders all her stores from Harrods, it might go to the larder with the ordinary stores and remain there for a week! She is about as thoughtful and full of anticipation as the boy is imperious and self-assertive.

Vivyn is a dear little person – thoughtful for others and unselfish. She has an ardent admirer in Nelly Buckston Browne who asks her to tea and gives her presents. She is careless, light-hearted, open and affectionate – quite wanting, I am glad to see, in what may be called the ‘Hewitt reserve’.

The boy is still devoted to his ‘Boo’ (Woody) and still fails to show any affection for his mother. Possibly he feels it, but he refuses to show it. He is always rushing about, climbing, jumping, falling, shouting, chattering, busy doing something or another. He delights in clocks, engines, soldiers and toy books. He has a good memory. His miniature has just been painted and is excellent.

Feb 14 1904

Eve being abroad – at Beaulieu with Mrs Maul – I have to be both father and mother. Accordingly, I took Vivyn, Wyn and Miss Woodcock to the zoo yesterday. It was great fun. The boy is just beginning to enjoy life. We were just in time to see the seals fed. He shouted with glee as he saw them in the water and attempted to get inside the barrier – in fact, he succeeded and had to be dragged back. In the elephant house the attendant let him go inside the railing in order to feed the elephant, and the huge beast, towering several yards above the boy, very gently lowered his trunk to receive some biscuits. Wyn has no fear, I am glad to see. He then fed the baby elephant and we went out to the bears. Here the attendant made a bear dance for us, much to the boy's delight. He was very interested in the kangaroos and pelicans, laughing heartily at their queer appearance. Vivyn had deserted us nearly all day (Sunday) going to church with Nelly BB and staying to luncheon and tea. She has at last returned and informed me with great excitement that she had asparagus for dinner! A delicacy that is unknown at No.14 in February.

I have just come down from the nursery having seen the boy half drown himself in the bath and having sung to Vi and him “The owl and the pussycat” whilst they both danced around, the boy in his pyjamas and Vivyn in her dressing gown.

¹⁵ Near Cap Ferrat, South of France

It was quite affecting when the boy, on Woody's knee, said from memory: "*God bless dear mother and bring her back safely.*" I suppose he had said on other nights.

May 12 19904

Eve and Billie have recently been to Cobham, just before B went back to school. This is B in the garden (taken by Eve).



July 10 1904

The accompanying piece of work is Vivyn's. Eve and I took her today to Peppard.



She cycled with us from Reading. Lunch at Weston's Farm, tea at Mrs Earle's. V cycled with me to Henley. We have just finished supper (10.15pm!). Eve remains at Weston's Farm till tomorrow when she meets Simmon's Clerk to go over inventory for Vine Lodge.

Oct 2 1904

Eve, Gerty Plater and I have been to Henley today, Sunday, and on our return Vivyn handed us the accompanying little painting, copied from an old Xmas card of Eve's. We think it promises well.



Billie went back to school ten days ago. They all had a glorious time at Cliff Farm, Kessingland¹⁶. Vivyn went to school (Miss Dickenson's) a few days ago. The boy is brimming over with life and movement. He is never still and never silent, except when asleep when he is both. His latest craze is a heavy iron chain with which he makes us prisoners and leads us off to dungeons. He wants to be a judge one day in order to send more offenders to the vaults. He has a gun we bought him in Brussels. His warlike qualities seem very pronounced. At Kessingland, he 'killed' his mother who rolled over on to the bed apparently lifeless. He tried to resuscitate her for some time but without effect. He then became most persuasive and patted her cheeks in a loving way saying: "*Don't be dead, mother.*"

I am told he can recognise an 'A' and a few more letters. Billie is starting wood carving at school, and also Mrs Camm's exercise. She is getting rather 'heavy' looking and we hope the exercises may make her carry herself better.

¹⁶ Just south of Lowestoft.



Oct 13 1904

Wyn's name entered for LORD'S by Cecil Leaf¹⁷ and his brother.

Oct 16 1904

Wyn three years and a month old. He is a great walker. He went with Woody today, first to Holland Park and then to Buckingham Palace and back. He has just had one of his curious crampy attacks. He gets a bitter headache, then becomes hoarse, has a few crampy seizures which make him look very ill, and then he rapidly recovers. In a day or two his quite alright.

Nov 9 1904

Vivyn and the boy went with Eve and Woody to see the Lord Mayor's Show from the offices of Scottish Widows Fund in Cornhill.

Dec 10 1904

The boy is often very amusing. The other morning at breakfast, he asked me how my headache was. I said: "*Thank you dear, it has gone.*" "*Where has it gone, father?*" he asked. A few days later, also at breakfast, I asked him what he would like for his Xmas present. "*A real coal cellar*" he replied!

Jan 1905

We all went to Brighton for Xmas and Gerty Plater joined us on Boxing Day. Wyn went to the pantomime – the "Babes in the Wood". When the two ruffians attacked one another in the wood he began to cry! He had several goat-chaise rides and generally enjoyed himself.

¹⁷ Cecil Huntingdon Leaf (1864 - 1910) – general surgeon affectionately known as 'Daddy Leaf'. A fine athlete and exceptional racquets player.

Jan 23 1905

Vivyn was asked by Mrs May Earle to go on a little visit, and she started three days ago – the same day that Billie went to school. It was her first invitation of the kind. Unfortunately, she had to return prematurely as the coachman developed influenza. Just before B went back to school, Eve and I took them both to the newly opened Coliseum and, as a great surprise and treat, to dinner after. They thoroughly enjoyed both events.

The boy is a great acrobat. He loves to stand upright on my shoulders, just holding my hand, and to then jump down. He has been playing today, Sunday, as a great treat with his railway given to him by Theo. Billie has moved up a form this term and is starting Latin and algebra.

May 28 1905

Sunday 7.30pm. The evening of a perfectly lovely day. I have just returned from Vine Lodge with flowers and a few eggs. The boy is shrieking with his accustomed exuberance in the top bathroom and as I am changing my things I can hear him scampering backward and forwards. Eve and May Earle (who is on a visit here) have gone to Mrs Davidson's and will soon be home to supper. Vivyn has been at school (Miss Walsh's) for about three or four weeks and loves her new life (see her letters). Billie, too, is happy. She has started her violin this term. But she hates her Latin! It is unfortunate that Eve does not care much for Peppard. She dislikes the small establishment. Davey and his wife have been there about a couple of months and seem to like their place. Sheild and I went down yesterday and drove off in our temporary pony cart. Daisy a dear little pony.

Today we lunched al fresco, near the big Elm and Enoch (Sheild's 'dandy' was with us) condescended to eat a bone or two. Three or four chickens were hatched this morning. The white rabbit grows apace. The climbing roses are coming on, the honeysuckle is lovely, and the clematis is growing in graceful white curves under the eaves. I do not remember a more perfect day, with blue sky, a few mackerel clouds, a soft westerly breeze sufficient to bring the Lilac and Hawthorn closer to us, and a dry lawn with the greenest of grass all combined to make the place more attractive than ever.

Our kitchen garden is still embryonic and wants water sadly. I wish I could afford to have it laid on across the sward.

Wyn will be going to his kindergarten in October, I hope. He is a handful – as merry as he can be, but I believe thankful and sincere. He told me the other day seen *"Aunty Ena and Mr Aunty Ena!"*

Nov 26 1905

We had a delightful summer holiday – a few weeks at Vine Lodge with the children and fortnight abroad (Eve and I). The children enjoyed the cottage immensely. They now prefer Peppard to the sea.

They rode and drove Daisy, they camped with Mike, they brought in pounds of blackberries, they played croquet, badminton, tennis, and all sorts of games. The boy was great fun. He dug in the garden daily and had no fear in riding. Once, when I was leading Daisy with Wyn on her back in the pleasure garden, he fell off suddenly. I looked round and saw him in the grass. *"Father,"* he said, *"I think I fell and I believe I fell on my head!"* He did not cry.

Wyn began his educational career this October by going to Miss Joffe's kindergarten. He is there each morning from 9.30-11 and likes it. He talks of nothing now but engines, motors, wheels, cranes, boats, tunnels etc. He is never still, never silent, and never without appetite either for fun or food. He sings "We plough the fields and scatter" and has a good idea of tune and time.

Billie and V are at school and doing well. We shall all be off to Brighton soon. B has started her violin. They seem very happy. It is a great comfort that they are all well.

Dec 15 1905

Almost immediately after the preceding note (i.e. on Monday Nov 27) poor Wyn was taken ill. He got a bad tonsillitis of a septic character on the right side. Then the left tonsil, then glands both sides enlarged. With this Colman found some cardiac dilatation (fluid lasted till yesterday). The poor little chap has been in bed ever since. He got up a little today. He never had a very high temperature, but he has been very 'throaty' with practically no nasal breathing. Glands very big. St.Clair Thomas has also seen him.

Feb 26 1906

Wyn has just returned from Peppard where he has been for a month. His glands have gone, he has little or no nasal obstruction, and St Clair Thomas who saw him this morning says there is no need for any operation for adenoids. There is slight adenoidal growth, but his drums are nearly normal and his chest a good one. The fluid has almost gone. We hope to let him start his school again at Miss Joffe's tomorrow (half term). We bought him a puppy today from Lester-Allingham's last coachman). A long-haired dachshund. He called it Delo.



Oct 1906

Holidays all over. Billie and Vivyn went back to Worcester Park in Sept. Billie is working for an exam in music and possibly for the junior Cambridge. Vivyn is a great favourite with Miss Walsh. The boy has gone back to Miss Joffe's. He had his first music lesson on Oct 9 (Miss Edroff). He is a good natured, energetic jolly little chap – polite and cheery. This morning (Oct 10) I went up to the top bathroom to see him have a 'water chute' from the head of the bath into the water.

We all had a good time at Vine Lodge. The riding lessons (by myself) were great fun and there was croquet, tennis, and occasional trips to the river. Ritson's boy came up once or twice. On the next page will be found an alphabet which gives Wyn's life at the present time:

A is the **apple** I eat when awake;
B is my **bench** and the **bangs** that I make.
C's the **canary** we carelessly lost;
D is for **Delo** – a sovereign he cost.
E is my **engine**, all dented from knocks;
F is its **funnel** – it's now in a box.
G is my **gun** – it goes off with a click;
H is the **hay** which we put in the rick.
I is the **ink** which I often upset;
J is for **jam** which never forget!
K is the **kite** which at Peppard I fly;
L is my **ladder**, right up to the sky.
M is for **monk**, with his shovel and rake;
N are the **nuts** which come down when we shake.
O is the **orchard** where blackberries grow;
P is the **pony** who's dreadfully slow.
Q is my **quilt** of a beautiful blue;
R is the **rabbit** – he's nice in a stew.
S is my **Sybil** who loves me so well;
T stands for '**to**' which I'm learning to spell.
U is for **Union Jack** – that's a flag;
V is for **Vivyn** – my dutiful fag.
W is **Woody** – my guardian dear;
X is for **Xmas** when presents appear.
Y for the **yews** by our own cottage door;
Z for the **zoo** – with its lions that roar.

Feb 17 1907

We have decided to make Peppard our primary home; to educate Wyn there by the kind help of Miss Hilliard and Mr Morgan-Brown; to enlarge Vine Lodge; and to reduce our establishment at Queen Anne St. Wyn is never really well in London and is always catching fresh colds at his kindergarten where he seems to learn little more than drilling. He is there today (Sunday) finishing a week of holiday after a cold and carting sawn wood blocks to the wood store. We get satisfactory letters from Billie and Vivyn at school. They delighted at the change proposed.

PARCELS READING.
TELEGRAMS - PEPPARD COWBOY.

Vine Lodge,
Peppard,
Henley-on-Thames.

Feb. 24. 1907

Yesterday Feb 23. Wyn came down as usual with woody. He had had a cold for ^{several} weeks & had been rather "stuffy". He ate his meals well yesterday & slept from 7.45 to 3.15 after lunch. He had a rather restless night. At breakfast this morning, at 8.45, after his porridge, & whilst eating

fish (cod) he said "I've such a headache" & he immediately shut his eyes & tumbled on to the floor. He was quite stiff & his mouth shut tight & he was pale. Woody snatched him up, opened his mouth (which was full of food) packed him on the back & separated his teeth with his finger. This made him spit food which he had had in his mouth when the attack came on. He was unconscious for quite a short time & was then sick. Some-
-times after this he said "about a week or two of tooth & pain etc". The same back to tooth & pain which his breakfast & his colour came back pretty he went out. He was quite well afterwards.

When Woody picked him up the noticed that his nose felt a head in his back & that his head was bent back.

Feb. 16
1907

to Miss Walsh
"Sarnsdowne"
Worcester Park
Surrey

Dearest Mum and Dadd,

I hope you are quite well. We are going for a nice long walk to Epsom Downs this afternoon, but I do not expect I shall go as I have not a piece of Blotting Paper and so was not able to take some to Dictation class. I told Miss Steane I had lent Enid some and I told Miss Walsh I had given Enid some Blotting,

Paper, and the rule of the School is that you may never lend or borrow, so I have been put on silence since Thursday. I lent Enid the blotting paper a long time ago and so the proverb for that is - "Be sure your sin will find you out." We are writing our letters this morning as we shall not have time this afternoon, the time is now is ten past ten. We shall soon begin woodcarving. It is Mary's birthday today. Thank

you Dadd for the nice long letter. Please will you thank them for the letter. It is lovely about going to live down at Peppard. I have no more news except I have lost O order marks this week and have had O returned work. I must now end so with much love from your
loving silenced
Wyn.

March 5 1907

Wyn went into 29 Wimpole St (Loveday and 'Lankey's') on Tuesday evening Feb 26th. At 8.30am on the following morning was operated upon by Dr St. Clair Thomson who removed a large mass of adenoid growth from the pharynx and two largish tonsils. He was very good, counting up to ten whilst Gardner gave him the anaesthetic. As a reward for his good behaviour, I bought him a small cake. We had workmen in the house when we left, and he had taken a great interest in the three electricians. With all of these he shook hands most affectionately before he left for No.29. Yesterday he went off to Peppard for good.

PROUDLY PRINTED.
TELEGRAMS: PEPPARD, HENLEY.
Mar 20. 1907

Vine Lodge,
Peppard,
Henley-on-Thames.

DEAR DADDY. I CAME INTO THE
THANK YOU HOUSE TONIGHT
VERY MUCH FOR AND WALKED.
YOUR LETTER ONE THROUGH THE
OF THE PIGEONS HALL: THEY DO.

NOT GO INTO
THE COTE AT
ALL. I SEND MY
LOVE TO MUM.
YOUR LOVING
SON NIE

April 30 1907

Evelyn and Wyn and Woody have just gone off from Victoria to Mrs Bishop's, Oriental Place, Brighton in the pouring rain. We have had a bad time lately. On April 12th Sybil and Evelyn returned from school (Miss Walsh's) the former with slightly large tonsils and a throaty voice, but otherwise well, and the latter with bronchial catarrh and cough.

As we have now no room for them here they went through to Peppard. St Clair Thomson examined Billie's throat. On April 17th they all came up for the day and went to the Hippodrome.

On Saturday April 20th I took S & E for a cycle ride to Sonning and we had tea at the White Hart. The following day, towards evening, S complained slightly of her throat. On the next day her breath was offensive, she had some shivering and was sent to bed. Eve very properly called in Robertson on the Monday who thought her throat suspicious and on Tuesday she came up with a 'swab' for examination. St Clair Thomson went down that afternoon and was so concerned as to the nature of the throat that he gave S 4,000 units of anti-diphtheritic serum. The effect was simply marvellous, the temperature and symptoms vanishing in 24-48 hours. A nurse was sent down on Wednesday morning, Sybil isolated, and the other children carefully watched. Up to the present E & W have escaped and we are getting them off to Brighton for a week or two.

How S got diphtheria it is impossible to say. Possibly the dog (Mike) carried the virus from farm children. He had been away several times and on the Sunday Billie fell ill he was himself ill (literally). He had been seedy for a day or two before this. There is diphtheria in Reading. Anyhow it has been a very anxious and expensive time. Both S and E will have to have their throats operated upon by Thomson later on. Wyn is very much improved in health.

August 19 1907

At Vine Lodge. On July 19 we went to Worcester Park where S and E took part in a couple of plays and in old English dances. It was fortunately a lovely day and the entertainment was a great success. Miss Walsh must have worked very hard at it. S was a domestic servant in 'Cranford' and E had a prominent part in a little French play. Evelyn is quite a little actress and was so good, as a crying boy that I did not recognise her on the stage!

Cranford at Home.			
Scene 1. Miss Barker's Tea Party			
Scene 2. Morning Callers at Miss Matty's			
Scene 3. The Same			
Characters Introduced.			
The Hon. Mrs. Jamieson	...	...	DOROTHY PERKINS
Mrs. Fortester	...	...	DOROTHY GODFRAY
Miss Matilda Jenkins (Miss Matty)	...	...	EVELYN GOULD
Miss Pole	...	...	VALÉRIE PHILLIPS
Miss Mary Smith	...	...	DOROTHY FOULDS
Miss Betsey Barker	...	...	ENID DOWNS
Martha (Miss Matty's Servant)	...	...	SYBIL HEWITT
Peggy (Miss Barker's Servant)	...	...	MOLLY HERRATT
Carlo (Mrs. Jamieson's Dog)	...	...	

Le Reine des Fées.			
En Trois Actes.			
1. Acte	...	La Chaumière de Jeannette Dubois	
2. Acte	...	Une Forêt	
3. Acte	...	Le Marché au Village de St. André.	
Personnages.			
Marie Antoinette, Reine de France	...	...	ENID HARRIS
La Comtesse de Solomons, Dame de la cour	...	...	JOAN TAYLOR
La Duchesse de Mitrecourt	...	...	CECILE THORN
Madame de la Rochefort	...	...	DORIS QUICK
Jeannette Dubois, Vieille paysanne	...	...	MARJORIE PERKINS
Constance, petit enfant de Jeannette Dubois	...	...	FLORENCE PERKINS
Victor, petit enfant de Jeannette Dubois	...	...	EVELYN HEWITT
Madelaine, petit enfant de Jeannette Dubois	...	...	EDYTHE FLACK
Danzes et Pantomimes.			
Old English Dances			
1. Chaucer's Dance	1002		
2. St. Anne's Dance			
3. Marguerite	1050		

S left school a day earlier than the rest of the girls and went to 29 Wimpole St to have her tonsils and adenoids removed by St Clair Thomson. They have now all passed through the mill. I started my holiday here on Aug 10. Before that I was up and down for a week or so. On one of these occasions, I was met by Woody and Wyn near the house. Wyn had been a bad boy, and I had said that if he told another fib he would have to be thrashed. This he had done and so we walked together to the house. I asked Woody if there was a cane. There was no cane, she said, but only a dog whip. I took Wyn's hand and walked upstairs with him. He knew where we were going and did not utter a murmur. On the way he said, quite cheerily as he looked at the dog whip in my hand: "Father, that's the *only* whip we have!" It needed a good deal of resolution to carry out the punishment. He took his thrashing like a man.

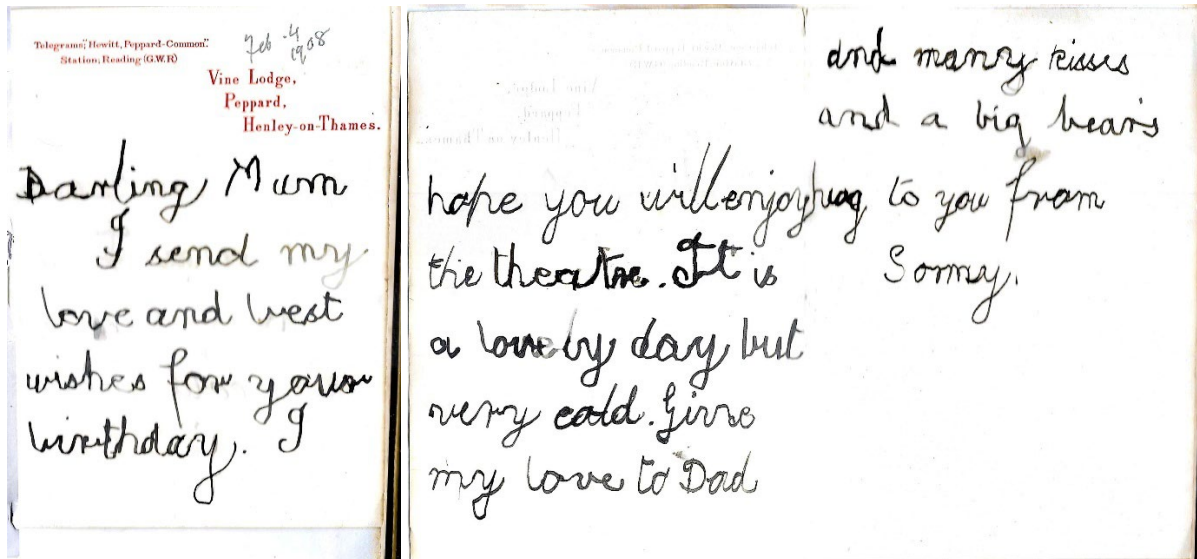
There has been no real summer. Rain and wind and absence of sun, day after day. I have been taking the girls to Henley each day for swimming and sculling lessons, and with their new Humber cycles they are very happy. On Aug 21st I start with them on a cycling trip to Cambridge, Ely, Norwich and Sheringham where they are to stay two or three days with their Aunt Theo.

Our new wing here is a great success. Mrs Jacobson comes on a visit tomorrow.

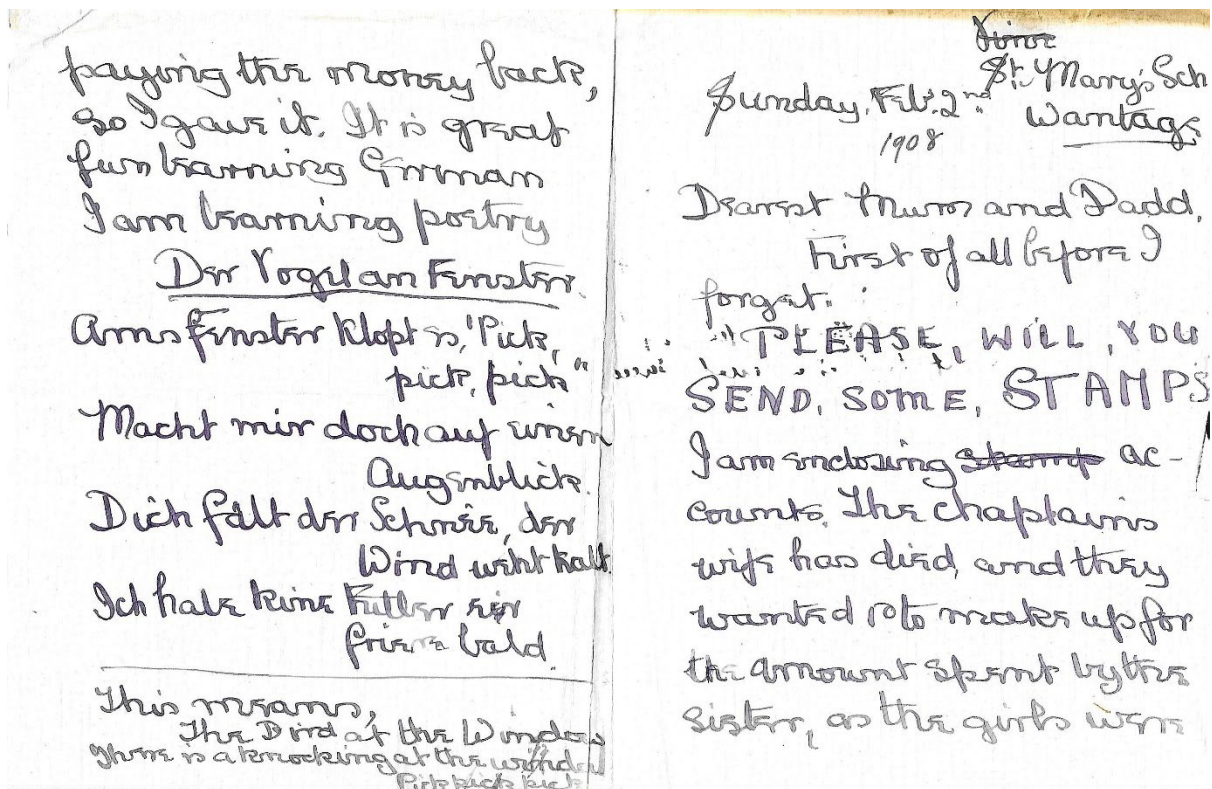


Feb 5 1908

The two accompanying letters are interesting. On Jan 24th Sybil and Evelyn went off to their new school St Mary's Wantage, and they seem to be very happy. We took them from Worcester Park chiefly because I felt that it was too low-lying to be good for them in the winter. Besides, like flowers, children require 're-potting' occasionally.



We all spent Xmas at Peppard this year – or rather last year 1907 - and the children enjoyed it much more than Brighton. They had riding lessons at Henley, and two days' excellent skating at Sonning. Sybil is as tall as or perhaps a trifle taller than her mother. Evelyn is a good child but (as her letter confesses) inclined to be a little sulky.



Open it for an eye blink (moment.)
 The snow is falling thick, the Wind is
 bitter.
 I have no food, I shall soon freeze to
 death.
 That is the first verse. I really have
 no news, one day last week we had
 the Magic Lantern in the Chapel
 as they were Holy Pictures. The
 name of my bedroom is Truth, and
 I hope I shall act up to it. Thank
 you Daddy very much for your
 letter, I read it every morning.
 I will try and not be so sulky,
 as it is such a nasty habit to
 get into and hard one to break.
 There is a girl here called Rachel
 Dyer, she has her hair like a
 boy, a scarlet face especially
 nose, and as fat as another fat
 boy of Peckham.
 Now with much love and
 many kisses, From your ever
 loving little daughter
 V. (Phyllis).

Sonnie is a dear good boy and is at work at Miss Hilliard's, 'Woody' (whose father is I
 fear dying) is still his devoted slave. The new wing at Vine Lodge is a great success.
 Eve and I go down every weekend.

Sept 22 1908

All have gone to school. S and E went off to St Mary's Wantage on Friday Sept 18th
 and W started life entering Woodcote House on Saturday Sept 19th. Eve and I cycled
 over, and Shade drove Wyn in the governess car with his playbox, trunk, suitcase
 and hat box – all marked with his name or initials. In addition to this 'outfit' he had a
 pig's skin purse, a bunch of keys, a bowler hat and a suit of clothes we bought at
 Evan's for him. He bore up very bravely and there were only a few tears when we
 left. It was a disappointment the Mrs Shade's cake was against orders, but it was
 allowed to be put on his table to be shared by his school fellows.
 We were greatly relieved this morning to get the accompanying note from Mrs (or
 Miss) Wilkinson.

Woodcote House
Sept 21
00

Dear Mr. Duwitt

I must just write
one line to tell you that
your little boy is very
well & happy, & has
made a good start.
He is a brave, manly
child & will do well,
we like him very much.

Yrs. sincerely
Agnes Wilkinson

We have had a quiet summer holiday at Peppard this year. The house is for sale, and it may be the last we shall spend there.

W has been a constant joy to us all with his bright ways. He has a sense of humour. One day he wanted his 'woody' to carry him from the bathroom to his room. When she refused, he said: "Woody, I'm going to be the courteous dog in the kitchen (an expression he had picked up from the rest of us). I do love you so... you are a dear, dear etc." Woody of course gave way and carried him to his room. He had no sooner got there than he said wickedly: "Woody, you're an old cat!"

Riding, croquet, cricket, tennis, swimming, boating, cycling – all were indulged in seriousness. How the children loved to beat me at croquet and how W (who was given an extra turn) got excited. He played very well. There was also archery for them.

Sybil passed her prelim Oxford exam. Both girls are doing well. Evelyn does not like Wantage as well as Worcester Park but Sybil much prefers it. S is a trifle taller than her mother.

August 1908

Billie passed her Prelim.
Oxford Exam ^{held} in July.

(from Gladys Murray
Aug 29. 1908)

Wantage:—B. L. Banks and A. G. Childs, Mr. Rathbone's School; Wantage: D. B. Price Hamill, J. Lockman, and E. Potts, Mr. May's School, Wantage.

It was a very sad day yesterday when we said goodbye to Woody (who has been with us seven years) and Mary the housemaid left, and the house was reduced in its proportions this Xmas. We only have Shade and his wife there now. Poor Mike is disconsolate and misses the children dreadfully. Taffy, who fell down on Caversham Hill, is nearly well again.

Summer 1908 at Vine Lodge



Sonny and Mike the dog



Woody, Sir F and the three children.

Wednesday 27 November 1912 (found in an envelope loose within The Visitor's Book) Sir Frederic's notes on Wyn's 'heart affliction' (he is 11 years old):

Took Wyn to Mitchell Bruce¹⁸ today.

Heart high. Some darkness in 3rd space. B thinks possibly old pericarditis. Heart sounds normal. Slight "hum" (syst) when lying down - not standing and not after running about. As heart not large, any kind of exercise allowed except perhaps long races. B says it is a heart about which different men would give different opinions. Agree with Colman to take no notice. He says he would leave 'this other man' to explain darkness in 3rd space.

Od reading 10013

Re Wyn 1913

Colman says he may go in for races up to 220 yds - not more. 1/4 mile "worst of lot".

¹⁸ **John Mitchell Bruce** CVO FRCP FRCPI (1846–1929) was a British physician, pathologist, and physiologist. He was dean of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School from 1883 to 1890. He was physician to Royal Brompton Hospital for twenty years. Died July 1929 aged 82.

u Wym
Jul 26. 1913

Colman says he may go
in for races up to 226
lbs. not more. $\frac{1}{4}$
mile "wrestle" lot"

Took Wym to Mitchell

Bruce today - 27 Wednesday (270-95)

Heart high. Some dulness in 3rd space. B thinks
possibly old pericarditis, but normal. Slight
"hum" (soft) when lying down. Not ~~soft~~ shining
& not ~~soft~~ after running about. As heart not
large any kind of exercise allowed, except
perhaps long races. B says it is a heart
about which different men w. give different
opinions. Agrees to Colman to take no
notice. He says he will label "this

other man" to explain dulness in 3rd space.
B thinks