

[?27 Jan 1917]

My Darling

We are very anxious about Father & worried. He has not had much a good night and he has been having pain in his stomach. He does not seem to want to get well at all. I know why. It is because he so dreads the thought of another illness like this that would have to come probably before he could die. The most worrying part is that he does not at all like Nurse Hester. He said to Nurse Munro that he was better during the night when she was with him but that he gets worse in the day with Nurse Hester. We shall tell Doctor Wyatt when he comes and perhaps he will send her away. Only another will be so difficult to get and he may not

think that we shall do.

If he keeps his strength up he will pull through better the doctor & nurses think so and he is very good about taking his food. But his temperature is up and down so much and we are afraid that his irritation with Nurse Hester sends it up.

I had another letter from you last night my dear. I am glad you had such a jolly visit to Cosmo Gordon. It will be nice to get to know them when the war is over.

I am most awfully glad you are having the opportunity to see friends of your own who you can really talk to in the way you like, it must I know make heaps of difference to you.

You don't know what an angel Nurse Munro is being we shall be eternally

grateful to her.

I know quite well who you mean by Beaty Gayham. Does Cosmo Gordon love Mary Anne & Owen.

I heard a lot about Owen & Baidget from Harold. Owen had just come back from his holiday, for which he is much better and as he had an afternoon to spare he thought he would call on Baidget. He says it was an awful failure. I think their chaffing ragging would not come off without an audience and a heart to heart talk was no good. I don't think Mary Anne or Owen understand Baidget. They think because she is very beautiful that she must have a mind to match. And she has not exactly got it. Her fun is very bright is it it. And it is the fun of a quiet sort of temperament. But I don't think that temperament goes to the bottom of her at all. I think then you come to a very fine woman who cares very much about her babies her home & her husband. If there is something

deep in her that overpowers her her quiet
sensitive temperament I think if it comes out
at all it will come out in music through
singing. She really has a very beautiful
voice. What a woman with a form & face like
that and a lovely voice! I think she takes
to live up to her romantic exterior.
A four mile walk round a good thing
on the whole in weather as cold as
this. I suppose your ground is frozen
hard as ours is. Personally I loathe this
weather.

I am awfully sorry your general is so
changeable & tiresome. What an ass he must
be not to let you do what you want.
It really must be sickening for you.

The doctor has been now. He says
Father is no worse which is a great
relief and the second Nurse, Nurse
Hester is going this afternoon. And
Mill & I are going to take the day
missing between us and we have
wished for Manjori to come home on

Monday and help.

I am now in the nursery with Clare
She had quite a good night last
night but she is just a bit fractious
today I think. I am in charge this
afternoon. So with Father & Clare &
Bibi coming to tea we shall have
a full afternoon.

There is no sofa in here to tie down
on so I shall lie on the floor &
let Clare crawl over me.

We had such a lovely affectionate time
together last night. It is nice now she
will be really fond of me.

I am so glad you feel you can really
picture Clare in your thoughts now.

I am looking forward to having the new
baby. I shall have it at night you
know. I shall have two. Violet could
not have two so young together then
would wake one another & there would
be a perfect pandemonium.

I am not going to take Clare out this

afternoon. Both Violet & Nona Munro think
it's too cold; a furious East wind is
blowing

My own dear I do hope you will go on
being happy and keeping well in spite
of the awful weather.

I send you dearest love all my love

Your very loving

Ruth.

