

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1908

1908

Jan. The Hon. Kinnaird a dreary bigot of a liberal.

It is not clear who is meant. The family of Lord Kinnaird were Liberals. Neither of the two sons of the then Lord Kinnaird (11th Lord Kinnaird), Hon. Douglas Arthur and Hon. Kenneth Fitzgerald were politicians, and in any case were possibly more likely to have followed their father's Unionist politics. However, the 10th Earl had been a staunch Liberal, and it seems possible that the Kinnaird referred to was his younger son, who had absorbed his father's politics.

Jan. 3 All these days Rud is at work from 4 to 6 hours daily on his Canadian Letters. The Captain has given Rud a cabin on the main deck to work in. It is large and comfy and a great relief from the smoke room which is noisy.

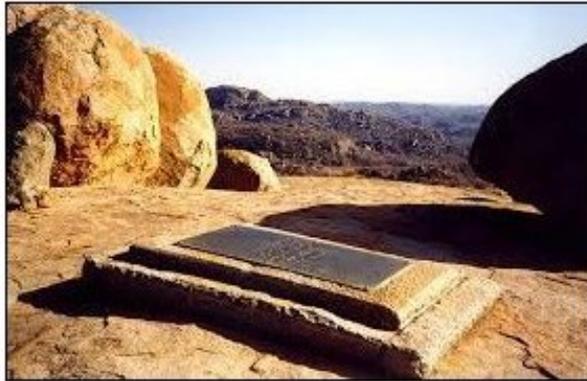
How he had managed to do any work in the 'smoke-room' passes comprehension. The smoking room was mostly used by men, where they could smoke and chat to their hearts' content. The smoke would not have troubled Kipling, but the talk must have been a distraction. (but see Oct 8 and Dec 14 below).

Jan. 14 We reach Cape Town early and leave the ship at 9.30 in the Groote Schuur carriage.

Feb. 4 Rud writes out the inscription for the Rhodes Memorial and sends it to Dr. Jameson who comes over to say his approval and delight.

This consisted of the last four lines of “The Burial” of 1902, see the notes by Mary Hamer.

***The immense and brooding spirit still
Shall quicken and control.
Living he was the land, and dead,
His soul shall be her soul!***



The grave of Cecil Rhodes, in the Matopos Hills

14 Feb. We heard of Alfred Baldwin’s death – [always so nice to us.](#)

Alfred Baldwin (1841-1908) was the ironmaster husband of Louisa Macdonald, Kipling’s aunt, and the father of Kipling’s cousin, Stanley Baldwin. He had died the previous day.

Working at the Quebec memorial.

Feb. 22 To Government House to dinner. No one there and the worst lunch I ever sat down to.

March [Left eyelid drooped, left side stiff, cramp on left side of face, the same that he had when we were engaged.](#)

A Shakespeare parody. Otherwise he is [dull.](#)

Kipling was evidently under stress – 1907 had been a busy year, if not for his work, then in his public appearances. (We remarked on his comments on his Canadian trip in our note on 2 November 1907.) Carrie’s description of him as ‘dull’ must mean ‘listless’, rather than ‘uninteresting’. Kipling was undoubtedly depressed by the turn of political events in South Africa which must have seemed negative in contrast to what he had seen in Canada three months earlier.

Rhodes and Jameson, with Kipling as their enthusiastic advocate, had hoped to see South Africa 'developed' by 'white men'. Instead, in Kipling's view, development was being held back by 'the Dutch'; in contrast to a booming Canada where the prairie provinces were fast becoming the breadbasket of the western world.

The "Shakespeare parody" was almost certainly "The Murrèd Drives of Windsor", one of the later pieces included among "The Muse among the Motors". See our NRG notes by John McGivering and John Radcliffe.

Mar. 3. Rud wakes to find his left eye-lid dropped and not under control. He decides to try a course of rubbing to stiffen up his left side which has troubled him for several years whenever he feels tired.

*This sounds rather like Bell's Palsy, which Carrie herself had suffered from two years earlier – see **Jan. 12 1906.***

Apr. 3 The children and Miss Blaikie climb Table Mountain with Mr. De Beer. A wonderful climb – very well done.

15 Apr. Left The Woolsack.

Apr. 15 We leave the Woolsack after lunch for our ship the *Kenilworth Castle*.

No comment about "the 'dear Woolsack", as in the early days. In the event, this was the last time they visited South Africa and stayed at The Woolsack. At the time of leaving, however, unless Kipling was dissembling, they had not decided not to come back.



The Woolsack

In his letter to Lord Selborne Kipling wrote of coming up to visit him at Johannesburg 'next year'. The Extracts give no reason for their ceasing to winter in South Africa, as they had done since 1900, but see our notes on 29 Dec. below.

(Nothing about English or African politics in this season's diary. And no mention of Isabel [Mrs. Lee Booker]. Much playing golf with Jameson.)

Although there may have been little of politics in Carrie's diaries, Kipling let himself go in his correspondence. PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 299-316, contains two long, outspoken, letters to Lord Milner and a shorter one to Gwynne, as well as one to Alfred Deakin, the Australian prime minister, who had written to congratulate him on his Nobel prize, and one to Colonel Feilden at home: these latter two letters commented briefly on the unhappy state of South African affairs, as Kipling saw it, but were far more circumspect than his letters to Milner and Gwynne. Equally circumspect was a letter to Lord Selborne, the Liberal High Commissioner, in which Kipling set out a Tory vision for South Africa.

Thanks to her grandson, Ed Crutchley, we have determined that Isabel (Mrs. Lee Booker) was in fact Beryl (not Isabel) Cumming who later wrote, under her married name of Lee Booker, an autobiography, 'Yesterday's Child' (John Long, 1937), in which she describes a 1907-1908 trip with cousins to South Africa, meeting the Kipling family there near Muizenberg (p. 218), and enjoying stories told to the children by Rudyard.

2 May Home on a fine summer day.

May 2 An early landing. In London by 10 a.m.
Home by 2.29. The garden quite bright with flowers.

Kipling missed the Royal Academy dinner this year – it had been held on 30 April.

4 May Miss Matters the secretary leaves and I decide to take over the secretaryship.

May 4 I decide to take over the secretaryship (of the Nursing Association) as the secretary is leaving and it seems the only way to save matters.

The Nursing Association refers to the local association, the organisation which provided and looked after the District Nurse(s).

11 May Called on the Conan Doyles at Crowborough.

Until earlier in 1907, Conan Doyle had lived with his wife and family at Hindhead, whither he had moved in 1897 because his wife had contracted tuberculosis, and the area was reputed to be healthy. However, she had died in 1906, and after remarrying in September 1907, he moved to Crowborough in Sussex, where he lived until his death in 1930.



Arthur Conan Doyle

14 May George Allen comes, advises as usual about investments.

See our notes 21 Nov. '04 and 13 July '07. George Allen was not a professional financial adviser, but presumably Kipling consulted him because he was involved in business, having interests in the City, as well as in India.

21 May Rud's speech to Royal Literary Fund.

May 21 The Royal Literary Fund dinner at night. Rud's speech well received.

*Kipling was in the chair for this fund-raising dinner. The speech was published in A Book of Words as The Handicap of Letters (see our NRG notes by Professor Leonee Ormond.) PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, pp 320-1, quotes a letter from Kipling to the Secretary of the Fund. In it he apologises for not doing more to attract diners, but explains that the Secretary's letter had been out to South Africa and back again, and he was unaware of this aspect of the chairman's 'duties'. Kipling asks if he may invite a lady as his guest. (The Extracts make no mention of Carrie attending the dinner, nor of any other lady as Kipling's guest.)*

(Visits to Rottingdean to see John who is homesick.)

Although John had gone to boarding school in the previous autumn, there is no mention in the Extracts that he did NOT accompany them to South Africa,

Indeed, one of the reasons suggested for their not returning to South Africa in 1908-9 was the need to ensure John's continuity of schooling. It would seem that he had been rather unsettled by not going to school for the spring term, and now, about two weeks into the summer term, he was suffering pangs of homesickness. At that time there were no half-term holidays, and 'excats' (days when one's parents could come and take one out) were few and far between. In the 1940s, at this editor's prep. school, we just had one or two 'long Sundays', when one's parents could take one out for the day, each term.

May 28 We spend the day in town taking Elsie to have her back examined by Bernard Roth who says there is a slight lateral curvature of the spine and she must come to town for treatment.

We have not identified Bernard Roth, who was, we assume, an orthopaedic surgeon or paediatrician, practising in London.

May 29 We go in the wet in the evening to the consecration of the new bit of the churchyard.



St. Bartholomew's Church, Burwash

This is one of the few recorded occasions of the Kiplings participating in a village event.

June Rud at work on a Puck story.

June 1 Elsie and Miss Blaikie go up to town to stop in lodgings to start treatment.

June 5 Pater arrives in the evening.

- June 10** Mrs. Kipling and Mrs. Baldwin come by motor on a visit.
- June 13** All plans upset by news of death of chauffeur's mother.
- June 15** Rud's people leave.
- 16 June Cambridge, stayed with Donaldson, Master of Magdalene, met Monty James [Provost of Kings],
- June 16** Rud writes his speech for Cambridge. We leave at 5 for Cambridge.

*Not to be outdone by Oxford, Cambridge University decided to honour Kipling (and others) with an Hon. D. Litt. on the occasion of the installation of Lord Rayleigh as Chancellor. Kipling and Carrie were the guests of Rev. Stuart Donaldson for the two nights either side of the ceremonies. In his note to Kipling's letter of thanks to the Master (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p 324), Professor Pinney gives greater details of the event, noting that, at the dinner after the ceremonies, Kipling made a speech in reply to the toast to the recipients of honorary degrees. That speech was never printed nor published until Professor Pinney included it in his own collection of Kipling's otherwise unpublished speeches, A Second Book of Words (University of North Carolina, 2008).*

Monty (Montague) James (1862-1936) was Provost of King's College, mediaeval scholar, and author. He is best known (as M R James) for his ghost stories (he had already published Ghost Stories of an Antiquary) but he was also a noted bibliographer, and his output of publications was prodigious. From 1918 to 1936 he was Provost (Headmaster) of Eton.



M.R. 'Monty' James

- 17 June Hon. Degree.

June 17 We go to the big lunch in Caius College then to the Senate House for the degree-giving. Rud goes to dine in Trinity Hall and responds to the toast to the recipients of Hon. Degrees.

See our note above for the source of details about the degree ceremonies.

June 18 Leave Cambridge at 11.40. I do an afternoon's work in town. We return by the 4.50.

They certainly travelled home by train, but may have gone to Cambridge in their new Daimler, whose family name was 'Gunhilda'.

21 June John and I start a stamp collection.

These are Carrie's diaries, and so we assume that it was she and John who started to collect stamps: but from some of Kipling's own letters to John, it is evident that he participated, writing to many of his friends, asking for stamps from them.

Henry James
The Bland-Suttons, etc.

*The previous entry for Henry James was 21 May 1906
For the Bland-Suttons, see our note, 2 September 1906.*

June 30 Leave for Brown's. Go to the church for Violet's wedding. I help her dress.

This was a great Society occasion. The church was St. Peter's Eaton Square. And the bride was Violet Leonard, daughter of their South African friends, the Leonards (see Index). The groom was Hon. John Lyttelton, son of Viscount and Viscountess Cobham. His uncle was Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, the former Colonial Secretary, who was known to Kipling, and who later became their near(-ish) neighbour (see Index).

Since Carrie appears to have been in a privileged position, and since the Kiplings knew both sides of the marriage, we may wonder if Carrie hadn't been doing some match-making.

The wedding was extensively reported in the Court Circular of The Times of 3 June, with the Kiplings appearing in the list of the guests at the head of those who had no title – an indication of their status in Society. See our notes on the entry for 18-19 Aug. below.

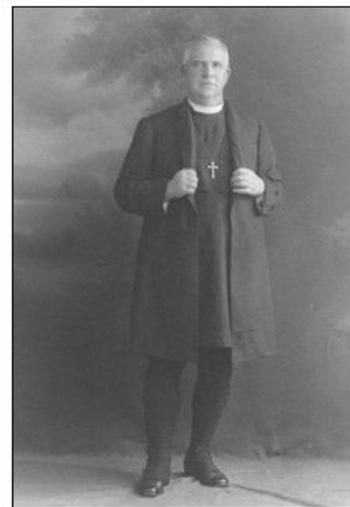
July A Play from the Pyecroft Stories, *Harbour Watch*.

This was not strictly a play from the Pyecroft stories, but a play involving some of the characters from the Pyecroft stories. It was produced as a one-act play in a double bill at the Royalty Theatre in London in April 1913.

22 July Archdeacon Gwynne from the Soudan

Llewellyn Henry Gwynne (1863-1957) was the elder brother of Kipling's friend, Howell Gwynne.

He served most of his ministry in the Sudan, being successively Bishop of Khartoum, 1908-1920; Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, 1920-1945, and Bishop in Egypt, 1945-46.



Llewellyn Henry Gwynne

23 July 17 lbs of honey

For the benefit of the youthful, that's 7.7 Kg. CARRINGTON remarks (p. 407) that Kipling "had become an enthusiastic bee-keeper while at Bateman's".

Aug. 3 I settle with Baldwin (the departing chauffeur) and arrange with the new man, Moore.

It would seem that the death of his mother had caused Baldwin to give notice. The new chauffeur, Moore, stayed with the Kiplings until 1913 (see Index.)

4 Aug. Family tour to the North.

York-Kendal-Skipton-Carlisle.

Along the Wall to Rothbury. [R.K.'s first visit. Met B-P at Chillingford .

Biddlestone Hall. The Leonards.

Rud doing imitation border ballads.

Aug. 4

Leave Bateman's at 11, the four of us, arriving at London at 2. Leave for York at 3.35 – spend the night there.

That's 190 miles up the Great North Road in an evening – luckily, it would all have just about been in daylight. The new chauffeur was 'dropped into' it with a bang.



Hadrian's Wall

Aug. 5

(Kendal via Skipton)

They probably stopped briefly in Skipton so that Elsie and John could be introduced to 'Kipling country'.

Aug. 6

(Carlisle, via Shap.)

Kendal to Carlisle via Shap: this would have been up what later (1919) became the A6, which is now little more than a country lane, having been replaced by the M6 motorway.

Given the state of the roads, this was a real achievement. In fact, it suggests that the main roads, formerly used by mail and stage coaches, must have been rather better than currently reputed. Surfaces of main roads were mostly of 'macadamised' construction - with careful use of small stones rather than massive foundation - but still unbound with tar, and very dusty in dry weather.

The route they chose, as recorded by Carrington, is slightly peculiar, in that the sequence York – Kendal – Skipton – Carlisle involves doubling back, since Skipton lies not too far off, and about half-way along, the bee-line from York to Kendal. Clearly Rees's version of the itinerary is more accurate.

However, there was a strong Kipling connection with the town of Skipton, since his paternal grandparents had lived there and are buried there, as are an uncle and a cousin. LYCETT, p. 11, mentions that Kipling "sometimes stayed with his grandmother and his Yorkshire aunts", and CARRINGTON, p. 42, records that Kipling spent part of his last summer holidays in England, before sailing to India in September 1882 with his father's relations at Skipton.

The family visit to the Wall would have enabled Kipling to verify his description of life on the Wall as featured in the Parnesius stories in Puck of Pook's Hill. The meeting with Baden-Powell at 'Challingford' was at Chollerford, north of Hexham (LYCETT, p. 396), where he commanded the Northumberland Division of the Territorial Army.

Aug 7

(Rothbury along the Roman wall.) We arrive at Biddlestone Hall.



Biddlestone Hall

Biddlestone Hall was a large rather grim mansion (now demolished), not far from Chillingham, then being rented for the summer by Charles Leonard, Kipling's South African friend, whom they had previously visited in Wales (see August 1905). The Kiplings stayed with them for a week or more

Rudyard wrote an 'imitation border ballad' called "The Baths of Biddlestone", unpublished, but now collected in PINNEY, Poems, Vol. III, p 2083. It begins thus:

It fell about the eventide: When a' the Selbys dine
That a Scots reiver came o'er the Moors: And stole the
Selby's kine.

The Selbys mounted - the Selbys ran: They never
slackened rein
Till they over-took that robber man: And got their beasts
again.

They tied his arms behind his back: Wi' stones they
weighed him down
And cast him into a wayside pool: and sat to watch him
drown.

But before he died, the reiver cursed the Selbys, so that they were unable to bathe themselves until the lady of the house built a massive iron bath, as deep as the reiver's pool. This was difficult for Kipling, a man of small stature:

I canna climb wi'out ma trews, an' I daurna' plunge an'
dive,
An' three foot four is an awfu' stretch for a man o' five
foot five.

"The Selbys" were the owners of the house.

13 Aug. To Alnwick.
(Bateman's is in *Country Life*)



Alnwick Castle, the seat of the Duke of Northumberland; would have been their goal. Presumably the Duke opened the castle's doors to well-connected tourists, as had been the custom in many great houses for a century and more (cf Jane Austen, and Miss Elizabeth Bennett's visit to Pemberley in "Pride and Prejudice").

Country Life was, and is, an up-market weekly magazine for the better-off country dweller. It still regularly features descriptions of notable country houses. This was the issue of August 15th 1908. Despite his desire for privacy, Kipling had allowed the article, with photographs of the interior of Bateman's. There is no mention in the Extracts of any visit to Bateman's by the writer of the article and the photographer.

Aug. 14 The illustrations of Bateman's appear in *Country Life*.

Aug. 18 We leave Biddlestone for Newcastle.

*Kipling wrote to his hostess at Biddlestone, Mrs. Leonard, to thank her (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, pp 332-3), and included a poem (otherwise unpublished until its recent inclusion in PINNEY, **Poems**, Vol. III, p 2086) about their misfortunes in the town of Morpeth where they suffered a tyre blow-out, and, seemingly, the whole town turned out to watch their chauffeur changing the wheel. He also remarked that the road from Morpeth to Newcastle was "lovely but heavily trapped" (many speed traps) Under the Motor Car Act of 1903 the speed limit had been raised to 20 mph (from 14).*

Nor did Rud and Carrie think much of the Central Station Hotel in Newcastle. (This editor stayed in the same hotel seventy years later, and found it little changed.)

18-19 Aug. Newcastle-Birmingham, the Baldwins.

Called on the Cobhams at Hagley.

The Cobhams were Viscount and Viscountess Cobham. Hagley Hall, was their home near Birmingham. Politically they were far apart from Rudyard, but since the Viscount's main interests were cricket, railways, and agriculture, perhaps there was not too much to disagree about.

Aug. 19 (Birmingham and Astley Hall.)

Presumably they stayed with the Baldwins at Astley Hall.

Aug. 21 Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon. Woodstock and back to Oxford

21 Aug. Stratford, a dirty hotel – Oxford



Stratford upon Avon

Stratford was, of course, Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace. The fact that they stopped there suggests that they went there to see the sights, for the children's benefit – Stratford was little more than an hour's drive from Astley. And they seem to have gone to Oxford, and back out to Woodstock – presumably to see Blenheim Palace, the Duke of Marlborough's home, before returning to Oxford for the night.

22 Aug Horsham and home.

Horsham is perhaps mentioned because they stopped there for lunch.

Aug. 22 Reading, Horsham and home.

25 Aug. [Rud starts his Arthurian Puck stories.](#)

See entry for 9 Sep. below.

27 Aug. To Brookland in Romney Marsh to see the church.
A perfect day after showers in the night.



Brookland church is unusual in that the spire is built separately from the church. Kipling was fascinated by the strange landscape of the Marsh. In “Dymchurch Flit” in Puck of Pook’s Hill he had written (p. 265):

“Back behind of her there’s steeples settin’ beside churches, an’ wise women settin’ beside their doors, an’ the sea settin’ above the land, an’ ducks herdin’ wild in the diks’ (he meant ditches). ‘The Marsh is justabout riddled with diks an’ sluices, an’ tidegates an’ water-lets. You can hear ’em bubblin’ an’ grummelin’ when the tide works in ’em... “

9 Sep. He abandons his Arthur story.
Jameson leaves for Africa for Union Congress.
Kingsley Fairbridge

*Jameson had lost power in the Cape government earlier in this year, but he was still a powerful player in South African politics. The Union Congress (National Convention) which met on 12 October set out the framework on which the South Africa Act of 1909 was based, The Act created a Union of the individual states, rather than a federation. Kipling seems not to have written much in advance of the convention and the Act, though no doubt he expressed his views privately, but PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p 346-8 quotes Kipling’s letter to Andrew Macphail, written after the convention had concluded, in which he expressed his misgivings about the outcome, and his belief that the Dutch (the Afrikaners) would hinder the immigration of settlers of British stock.*

Kingsley Fairbridge (1885-1924) was South African born. He founded the "Society for the Furtherance of Child Emigration to the Colonies", an aim which echoed Kipling's view of the need to populate South Africa with British settlers.

Fairbridge had grown up in the wide spaces of Southern Africa. He had been shocked to see the condition of children in the poorer areas of English cities, and believed that emigration to the colonies offered them a better future.



Kingsley Fairbridge

25 Sep. To the R(oyal) N(aval) C(ollege) Greenwich, greatly enjoy the drama .of the river.
Sir John Durnford.
Working at airship story.

Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford (see our notes of 18 Feb. and 12 June 1907) was now the Admiral-President of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich - something like being the Chancellor of a small university. The Kiplings had been invited by the Admiral to stay in the Admiral-President's apartment at the river end of the King Charles block (the north-western of the four blocks which make up Wren's college, on the right in the picture below.), so-called, because it was built in King Charles II's reign.



The Royal Naval College, at Greenwich

*The Kiplings evidently spent two nights there, 24 and 25 Rudyard wrote a brief description of his visit to Andrew Macphail and a longer and more detailed one to John (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p 336-9), in which he described the pageant of the continuously passing shipping on the river (today, so sadly reduced today to garbage barges and infrequent waterbuses). Most cargo ships now dock at container ports further down the river.*

The airship story (“As Easy as A.B.C.”) had been started fourteen months earlier – see our note of 3 July 1907.

1 Oct. Speech at the Middlesex Hospital.
The Bland-Suttons
Rider Haggard. Fabian Ware
Scheme for the book *Red Eve*.

Oct. 1 We leave for town. Meet Elsie and see her examined by Mr. Roth who finds her most satisfactory and feels he has done all he can for her. After lunch we go to the Middlesex Hospital where Rud gives prizes and makes a small speech which seems to give pleasure.

Elsie had evidently gone back to staying in London with Miss Blaikie for further treatment.

Kipling was asked by Bland-Sutton, his doctor and close friend, to present prizes and to make a speech. It was published in The Times and The Standard the next day, and also in magazines in the USA. It was collected in A Book of Words in 1928 (see our NRG notes by Professor Leonee Ormond, together with the text).



*Fabian Ware
as a Major-General*

Fabian Ware (later Major-General Sir Fabian) (1869-1949) was, at this time Editor of the Morning Post, having previously been a Director of Education in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony under Milner. He later became the founder of the Imperial War Graves Commission, and as such had much to do with Kipling.

In his “Rudyard Kipling to Rider Haggard” (Hutchinson 1965) Morton Cohen describes (p. 64) Kipling and Haggard retreating to the study at Bateman’s and planning a tale that Haggard later wrote. “Red Eye”, about the Black Death in the 14th Century, was published in 1911.

Oct. 3 Elsie and Miss Blaikie home for good and all, we hope.

8 Oct. Bland-Sutton diagnoses Rud’s trouble as over-smoking.. Not smoking means not working.

Oct. 8 We go to town. Rud sees Bland-Sutton professionally and he tells him he is poisoned by his smoking and he must give it up. I go to have my inside photographed and we return home. Mr. Bland-Sutton feels that the trouble of February last and all the other troubles on the left side come from over-smoking. A great relief to know this.

*This was but one of many attempts to diagnose Kipling’s medical problems, which seemed to be largely intestinal. In the light of today’s medical knowledge, it is clear that Kipling **did** smoke too much - see LYCETT, p. 400 – and after making an attempt to give up, he reverted to his old habits.*

Oct. 9 Rud not able to settle to his work because he feels the strain of not smoking.

(No entry Oct. 10th –Dec.8th. I suspect Carrie is ill.)

*She was. LYCETT, p. 401 describes her problems, and PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p 348-9 quotes a letter from Kipling to Carrie’s mother describing Carrie’s convalescence after having three cysts cut out of her head by Bland-Sutton.*

Oct. 11 (An entry was made on this date but the page was torn out of the diary. No further entries were made in the diary until Dec. 9.)

Dec. 9 Resume this diary as I find it causes confusion to have no reference of dates.

14 Dec. Saw George Allen about investments

See our note of 14 May above.

- Dec. 14 We leave by early train for town. Bland-Sutton finds a great improvement in Rud since smoking stopped.
- Dec. 17 Rud does a little work. The first time in ages with any ease.
- 21 Dec. Heath Robinson for lunch. Illustrations for “*Song of the English*”
- Dec. 21. Mr. Heath Robinson for lunch to discuss the illustrations of ‘The Song of the English’ for a New Year Christmas book.

Heath Robinson was a very competent and original artist, witness the splendid illustrations that he made for “The Song of the English”. published the following year.

See our NRG notes on the poem by Alastair Wilson.



*Follow after—we are waiting,
by the trails that we lost,
For the sound of many footsteps
for the tread of a host.*



W. Heath-Robinson

Heath Robinson was also a highly original cartoonist whose name has passed into the English language to describe complicated contraptions, usually worked by string, which featured many knots.

Boys of a certain age, whose youth was informed by the many Wonder Books. will remember his end papers full of comic disasters

Christmas at home.

29 Dec. Left for Switzerland.

Dec. 29 Left for London and Switzerland.

Dec. 30 Crossing the Channel. Reach Lucerne at 9 p.m.

As late as October, Kipling wrote to his American friend of Allahabad days, Mrs Edmonia Hill, (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p 340-1) "I don't know exactly when we shall go to S. Africa, but certainly not for another three months – perhaps not till later than that." Pinney remarks: "This is the only evidence I know of that RK was still thinking of a return to South Africa."

In his letter to his mother-in-law, cited above in our note on 8 Oct. Kipling wrote, "You know, of course, that we expect to go to Switzerland this winter – on account of Elsie". But he also added "I hope that the dry cold and crisp air will cheer and strengthen C (Carrie).

30 Dec. Lucerne 9 p.m.

31 Dec. Engelberg.

Dec. 31 Arrive Engelberg at noon.



In his letter to Mrs. Balestier, cited above, Kipling had indicated that they intended to move from one resort to another while they were in Switzerland. In the event, they stayed at Engelberg throughout their time in Switzerland, and enjoyed it very much. John stayed with them until it was time to return to school, but Elsie stayed with her parents and went with them to Rome at the end of February.

[C.K./C.C./D.R./A.J.W./J.R.]