

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1915

1915

Jan.

At Bateman's.



Jan. 11

We go to London to Bland-Sutton who examines me and says I must go for a cure to Bath.

*Carrie seems to have used Bland-Sutton as her General Practitioner, rather than the local doctor, who was, however, good enough for 'normal' ailments – see **Mar. 16 below.***

14 Jan.

Maj. Macphail of Canadian contingent who has not been in a house for five months.

*In a letter to his Canadian correspondent, Professor Andrew Macphail (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.276-8, notes 3, 4 and 5), Kipling says that he has seen MacPhail's son and brother when he visited the Canadian contingent. This visit was one result of those meetings. The Canadians had been under canvas on Salisbury Plain since their arrival in mid-October – see entry for 23 Nov. '14.*

23 Jan. Money for (*illegible*). Rud to Brighton to see Indian wounded.
A great (*illegible*).



Kipling's accounts of Indian soldiers in France, The Eyes of Asia (published 1917/18 – see our NRG notes by Sharad Kesar), did not arise directly from this visit, but must have drawn on it, in some measure.

26 Jan. [The most beautiful day in my memory.](#)

Jan. 27 We leave for London by motor. Rud to the Mansion House where he lunches with the Lord Mayor and makes a speech to help get bands for the London Regiments.

The Times of 27 January reported that the purpose of the bands was “as aids to recruiting and marching”. Among those present were four noted composers, Sir Charles Stanford, Sir Edward Elgar, Mr. (later Sir) Edward German and Sir Hubert Parry. For Kipling's text see “The Soul of a Battalion” among “Uncollected Stories” on the main NRG page.

29 Jan. Max Aitken made Canadian Eye-Witness. Rud helps him. Securities sent to America.
(They see much of the Aitkens.)

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 4, p.282-3, note explains Kipling's letter to Aitken. Aitken had been appointed as “the voice of Canada in Great Britain” and invited to set his own terms of reference. He made himself ‘Canadian Eye Witness’ attached to the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and wrote a weekly newsletter.

See below, *May 15*.

“Securities sent to America” may have something to do with the setting up of a Trust Fund for Elsie and John (see LYCETT, p.452). But see also Feb. 2 below.

Feb. Rud to Newcastle.

In a letter to his South African correspondent, Sir Charles Crewe (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 4, p.291) Kipling remarks that “we are getting more level on equipment. I’ve been up among the big factories (ships, guns and plate) in the North and have seen the new buildings literally quadrupling the old ones.”

Britain had not been prepared for a long war of attrition, with its attendant logistics problems, and the munitions crisis which developed in the next two months caused a political upheaval, as well as a deficiency of shells on the western front.

Feb. 2 Write Mr. Averill instructing him to send all my stocks and other securities to Guarantee Trust Co.

Mr. Averill was, we assume, their stockbroker, while the Guarantee Trust Company was an American Investment Bank. This, too, may be concerned with the setting up of the children’s Trust Fund, but it is not impossible that the Kiplings were moving the documents of title to their wealth to a more secure location.

Feb. 23 A Captain of the Loyal N. Lancashire Regiment comes to arrange with us to have Officers billeted on us on Friday night. We agree to take six.

A soldier’s ‘Billet’ referred to his quarters, where he slept. During the war many soldiers were ‘billeted out’ to stay with civilian families.

26 Feb. Some officers of the Loyals billeted.

There are no further references to officers being billeted.

March Rud working on ‘Sea Constables’.

'Sea Constables' was aimed at the American public. Its theme was the baleful actions of a so-called 'neutral' ship which was acting in an un-neutral manner by carrying oil to Germany. Her nationality is not specified but by implication is American. The tale was first published in the USA in September 1915 (the liner 'Lusitania' had been sunk by a German submarine in May). It was not published in Britain until it was collected in Debits and Credits in 1927.

8 Mar. Rud works on a new story, *'Mary Postgate'*.

This tale is about a German air-raid on Britain, though when Kipling started to write it, there had only been one, a raid by a Zeppelin airship on the North Norfolk coast in January 1915 in which four people were killed. In the story a German airman who has dropped a bomb, killing a child, has fallen from an aircraft, and dies slowly. Mary Postgate – who has seen the dead child - watches with satisfaction.

After the passing of a century, and the awareness of so many greater horrors from bombing, it is perhaps hard to imagine the abhorrence with which people at home saw such inhumanity from the sky above. Yet again, Kipling was uncannily prescient in foreseeing the greater possibilities of attacks from the air. See our NRG notes by John Radcliffe.

Mar. 16 The doctor for Elsie who has chicken pox.

The local doctor was good enough for Elsie's chicken pox.

18 Mar. John writes from Dublin, unable to gather in his recruits because of St. Patrick's Day.

John had been sent with a recruiting party, but with many (most) Irishmen celebrating St. Patrick's Day (17 March), few could be found who were interested in joining the colours (or at least, not until the effects of Guinness and Bushmills whisky had worn off).



John Kipling

CARRINGTON, p.432
comments that "it was said that his
handling of a new draft of very drunken
recruits from Dublin was masterly."

29 Mar, Rud refuses to write the history of the Battle
of Ypres.

Mar. 29 Rud is offered and declines to go to GHQ [*General Head Quarters*]
in France to write history of Ypres Battle from the statements of
various Generals. We leave by train for Bath Spa Hotel.

*Neither the **Letters** nor any of the biographers explain from
whom the request came nor why Kipling turned it down. It is
possible that it came from Wellington House, the offices of the
War Propaganda Bureau, run by the Liberal MP Charles
Masterman, for whom Kipling was to work later (see LYCETT,
p.455 and our entry for 2 Sep. 1914). We can imagine that,
had he undertaken such a history, he would have been
bedevilled by complaints of misrepresentation from the
Generals who were to supply the raw material, much as the
writers of the official history of the Battle of Jutland later had.*

*Kipling described their visit to Bath in a letter to John
(PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.292-3). Elsie accompanied them.*

Apr. 10 Rud and Elsie leave for London (*the family were still in Bath*)

Apr. 17 (*Carrie*) to London for Sunday with John.

*They evidently spent as much time as they could with John in
London when he had leave from his barracks at Warley, which
was within easy reach of London*

Apr. 19 Back to Bath to continue treatment.

22 Apr. Rud starts a story about Army (*illegible*) (*the Old Reader's Guide
says that the word was "food"*)

*This was almost certainly 'The Tie', which was not published
until it was collected in Limits and Renewals in 1932.*

Visiting hospitals



*Presumably in the Bath area. With many of the wounded being treated in hospitals far from their homes, most of the patients had no visitors, and it became a form of 'war work' for ladies to visit hospitals to help to cheer up the wounded, and, where possible to help them with such matters as writing home. Kipling himself also visited hospitals, as he had done during the South African War. See his long letter to CRL Fletcher (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.298-300).*

24 Apr. With John to the Alhambra.

The Alhambra was a popular music hall in London, on the east side of Leicester Square, so named because its architecture

Apr. 24 Leave.

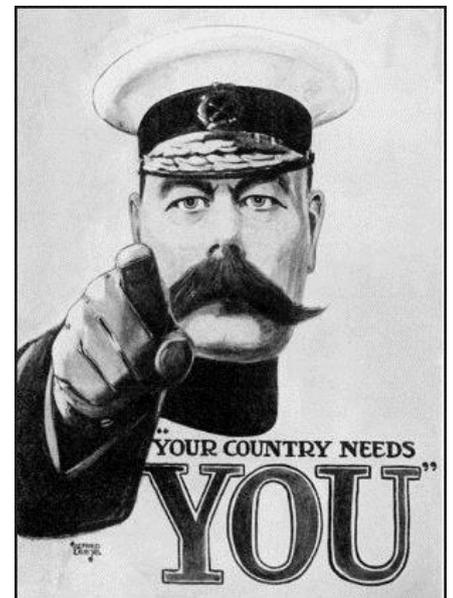
They returned to London, to stay at Brown's Hotel.

26 Apr. To Aldershot to see K's Army.

Apr. 26 Rud goes to Aldershot to see some of K's army finished.

Kitchener was frequently referred to as just 'K' and various sections of the new armies were referred to as K1 (the 'First Hundred Thousand'), K2, etc.

Ian Hay (John Hay Beith) wrote a fictionalised account of the training and tribulations of his own battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



Called The First Hundred Thousand, it was immensely popular. He himself, won an MC at the battle of Loos.

1 May. To a play – ‘*Rosy Rapture*’.
A long stay in London together.



Gaby Deslys

Their aim was to see as much of John as possible. The play was by J M Barrie, and was a light-hearted satire of the different kinds of play to be found in the West End at this time.

Its star was Gaby Deslys (1881-1920) a French danseuse and singer of enormous popularity.

12 May To London. R. helping Max Aitken with Eyewitness for Canadians.

May 12 Rud re-writes Canadian eye-witness letter to fit in with more sombre state of affairs. Go by rail to Bateman's.

There is no indication of any particular event causing Kipling to take a more sombre outlook, but in March the offensive at Neuve Chapelle had been at best a partial tactical success, while on 7 May, the liner Lusitania had been sunk, with substantial loss of life (there were over three hundred Canadians on board, double the number of Americans).

From the next entry it is evident that they were without a chauffeur (possibly he had enlisted).

May 14 A new chauffeur, Vincent, arrives with his family.

At this stage of the war, they were still running their car(s)- see entry for Dec. 11 1915.

May 18 A wire from John to say he is ill.

- 19 May R. goes to Warley to fetch home John who is ill.
- May 19** Rud leaves at 9 a.m. for Warley. John has been quite ill since Sunday (16th). Rud has lunch with the mess and brings John back with him. John up for dinner, but looking very ill.
- May 23** John improving.
- May 25** Elsie and I busy cutting out garments for the wounded. Arrange about taking in D. Holmes as a housemaid and to investigate what help I can get to run a hospital.
- 27 May John returns to duty.
- May 27** John returns to duty.
- The precise nature of John's illness is not revealed, but Kipling wrote to John (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p.307-8) talking about "the good time that we had. It was good!"*
- 31 May John warned for next draft.
- May 31** A letter from John to say he has been warned for France – to take out the next draft possibly.
- In the event, John and his battalion did not leave until August.*
- 7 Jun. They go to the W.O. to offer Bateman's as a hospital – **declined**.
- Jun. 7** Rud and I go to the War Office to offer house as a hospital. Declined.
- Bateman's might have been made into a convalescent hospital, but would have been wildly unsuitable as a primary care hospital*
- Jun. 9** Busy all morning doing hospital work.
- 12 Jun. In London. We all go to the 'Palace' [Theatre]. Rud writing a recruiting speech for Southport.

The speech was delivered on June 21st (see below)

Jun. 15 Rud starts a recruiting speech he has promised to make at Liverpool.

These two entries refer to the same speech, although the dates are different.

21 Jun. To L'pool and Southport for the speech.
Much of visiting hospitals, sometimes with the Aitkens.

Jun. 21 Rud and I to Liverpool. To the Adelphi Hotel and to Southport where at 8 p.m. Rud makes his speech.



The Adelphi Hotel was Liverpool's best hotel.

The text of Kipling's Southport speech is to be found in NRG as one of the Uncollected Speeches.

It expressed his deep-seated feelings about German aggressiveness and wickedness, and the urgent need for men to come forward to fight in the life and death battle that Britain faced.

July Rud makes his will.

He was about to go to France to report on the French armies

Jul. 6 Letter from John to say his C.O. has told him he is to go to France in August, directly he is 18.

Jul. 8 Rud goes to his tailor about his khaki.

See our note above for July (undated). Kipling would have status as a war correspondent, and would wear a form of army uniform

17 Jul. [John arrives for tea with Grayson, a brother officer.](#)

(John and sometimes Elsie to many music-halls.)
Much business with committee of Maple Leaf Club [Canadian Soldiers]

Grayson survived the war, though twice wounded.

5 Aug. Getting a commission for Teddy Price. Dorothy Price to a boarding school.

Aug. 5 Teddy price comes up and Rud spends from 11.30 to 5 p.m. getting him into the Inns of Court Training Corps.

For Teddy and Dorothy Price, see Index. Strictly, this was not “getting him a commission”, but getting him a place in one of the Officers’ Training Corps (OTC). The expansion of the army had been, numerically, easy; but the provision of suitably-trained officers was less so. The OTC were set up to produce the young subalterns to lead the new armies.

Kipling was ‘Uncle Rud’ to Teddy Price, who was now 16 years old. Dorothy was 13.

11 Aug. Rud and John at the Bath Club. John swims.

The Bath Club was a London gentleman’s club, in Dover Street – its swimming pool was well-known: indeed, P G Wodehouse is said to have used it as a model for the pool in the Drones. John must have been a member.

12 Aug. Rud to France to visit French front.

[Note Between now and October 15, the Rees Extracts were arranged by subject rather than chronological sequence. Thus the first subject covered Kipling in France; the second, John’s departure to the front; the third, John’s death. Within each subject each entry occurs in chronological sequence, but we have put all the entries in over-all chronological order, because that is how they occurred to the Kiplings. A.W.]

Aug. 12 Rud and Landon leave at 8.30 for Paris. Rud to start on Sunday (15th) with the French authorities to visit the French Lines.

This visit, which lasted for two weeks, resulted in a series of articles, published in the Daily Telegraph between Sept 6th and 17th, and later collected and published as France at War.

15 Aug. John off to the front. Looks very smart and straight and brave and young as he turns at the top of the stairs to say goodbye.

Aug. 15 Rud writes from Jonchery.

Jonchéry lies ESE of Paris, rather less than half way between Paris and Belfort, just south of the area of the Marne battlefields of the previous autumn.

John leaves at noon for Warley. He looks very straight and smart and brave and young as he turned at the top of the stairs to say “Send my love to Dad-o”. In the evening the car returned bringing his kit.

Aug. 16 I awake with a bang at 3.30, the hour John was to parade his platoon. A telegram from John asking me to send the car for more kit.

Aug. 17 Rud sees a big review, Joffre and Kitchener. Sleeps at Nancy.

Joffre was Commander in Chief of the French forces on the Western Front. Kitchener was Secretary of State for War in the British Cabinet.



General Joffre



Field-Marshal Kitchener

Aug. 20 Rud reaches Troyes from Belfort.

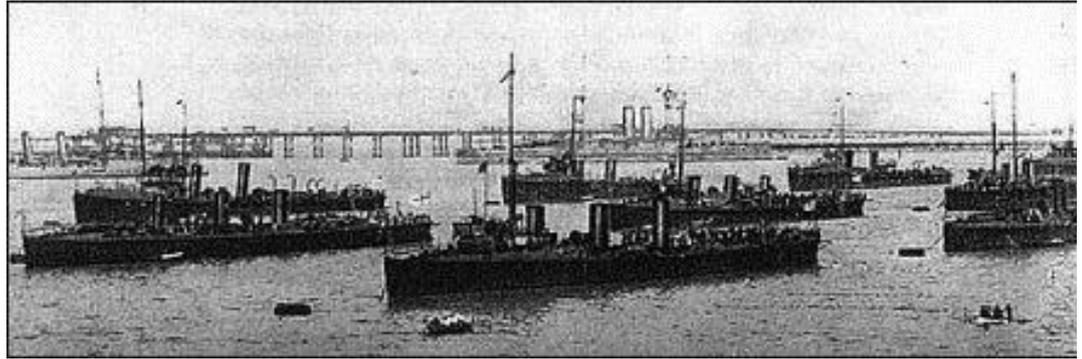
Aug. 22 Rud in Paris.

26 Aug. She meets Rud and Landon at Folkestone.

Aug. 26 To Folkestone by car, to meet Rud's boat. (Full details of the trip in RK's letter.)

*Kipling wrote a series of letters to Carrie and Elsie which describe this trip in some detail (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, pp.312-315, 316-319, 320-323, 324-329 and 333-335) and to Carrie alone (pp. 329-331 and 331-333).*

Sept. Rud visiting the Dover Patrol.



The Dover Patrol was a command of the Royal Navy, based on Dover and Dunquerque. Its main task was to prevent German warships—chiefly submarines—from entering the English Channel to attack the supply lines from the English south coast ports, which kept the army in France supplied, and from reaching the Atlantic.

Sept. 12 Trevinian promises us for John a blessed talisman for him to wear - she being an R.C. (Roman Catholic)

Trevinian was probably one of Carrie's maids.

Sept. 14 I go to town to my Maple Leaf Club and to engage a parlour maid.

*Carrie had made the Maple Leaf Clubs for Canadian soldiers one of her special concerns during the war. Kipling had spoken at the opening of the club in Charles Street, Berkeley Square, on August 3rd, as a contribution to her work. See *Uncollected Speeches in NRG*. Carrie probably used an agency to find her parlour maid.*

Sept. 18 Rud leaves at 9 a.m. for Dover – the first inspection for his Navy Articles.

Sept. 19 Rud returns, reporting an interesting time.

Sept. 22 Rud leaves by 9.34 for the East Coast to go on with the work he started at Dover.

He went to Immingham, on the East coast at the mouth of the Humber to visit the Patrol Service there

24 Sept. Rud with the *Maidstone* at Harwich.

Maidstone was the submarine depot ship for the 8 Submarine Flotilla at Harwich.

The result of this week's work was a series of six articles, which appeared in the Daily Telegraph between 20 November and 2 December. There were two articles from Dover, 'The Auxiliaries, I & II'; from Harwich came 'Submarines, I & II'; and Immingham produced 'Patrols, I & II'.



See our NRG notes under Sea Warfare. These six articles were first published as a paperback booklet, The Fringes of the Fleet, which was later incorporated in Sea Warfare .

Sept. 25 Rud arrives home about ten, tired.

27 Sept. [John's day. CEC]

Sept. 27 John's Day.

Sept. 27 Rud to town to see Admiral [] about his trip with the Grand Fleet. He comes home feeling very ill.

*The Admiral was probably Vice-Admiral Sir Edmund Slade, to whom Kipling later wrote (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, p. 350) turning down the offer of a visit to the Grand Fleet and the 10th Cruiser Squadron who were implementing the blockade. Kipling's feelings about 'neutrals' and blockade runners were*

strong, and he felt that the Navy wasn't doing enough to tighten the screw on the Germans.

29 Sept. Rud has gastritis.

John was wounded and left in a building surrounded a few minutes later by Germans on the Monday – late afternoon.

Sept. 29 John was wounded and left in a building surrounded a few minutes later by Germans on the late afternoon of Monday (27th.)

Sept. 29 The Doctor says Rud has gastritis and puts him on a strict diet.

30 Sept. Rud ill with gastritis – miserable.

2 Oct. A telegram from the War Office to say John is “missing”. Isabel Law with Elsie. We wait for Isabel to leave before telling Elsie.

Isabel Law was the daughter of Andrew Bonar Law, and one of Elsie's friends.

Oct. 2 A telegram from the War Office to say John is “missing”. (Footnotes have been subsequently written on days as follows: 27 Sept and 29 Sept.)

(There is a large block of text of extracts up to 15 November, recounting their efforts to find positive news of John.)

3 Oct. Carrie calls on Lady E. Cecil. Sir M. Aitken comes over from France to bring us what news he could collect about John, which is very little.

5 Oct. To town. Elsie and Carrie see Lord de Vesci at the Guards HQ. He has less news than they have. Col. Buller, John's Colonel, says he was wounded fighting in the open with his men. Only one of nine returned.

Lord de Vesci (see 9 Nov) was the regimental adjutant for the Irish Guards, with a London office in Buckingham Gate

Oct. 5 A letter from Col. Buller, John's Col. to tell us John was wounded

fighting in the open with his men, Captain Cuthbert leading but (*only*) one man out of the lot returned alive as far as is known.

John's Colonel was, in fact, Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. L J P Butler, later Brigadier-General, and DSO (1876-1955).

6 Oct. Mr. Gwynne opens enquiries through the RC by Sir Edmond Talbot. Young Harmsworth, John's fellow-officer for tea.

"Young Harmsworth" was one of the three sons of Lord Rothermere, the newspaper magnate, owner of the Daily Mirror among others. This would have been one of the two elder boys. – the third later served in the Royal Marines. Their home was then at Salehurst, about five miles east of Batemans, and both the two elder boys were later killed in France.

Sir Edmund Talbot was, in fact, Lord Edmund Talbot (1855-1947) (Carrie, like many Americans, did not always understand the British system of honours and the peerage). Talbot was a younger son of the Duke of Norfolk (a pre-eminent British Roman Catholic family), who had assumed the name of Talbot, rather than the family name of Fitzalan-Howard. He was also a prominent Unionist politician and had many international Catholic contacts. For Gwynne see the Index.

Oct. 6 Mr. Gwynne promises to try for news through the Roman Catholics in Germany by way of Sir Edmund Talbot. Rud much better and begins to eat proper food.

11 Oct. They find a wounded L/Cpl Rafter in hospital near Hythe. [Very sorrowful to hear the new about Mr. K. He was good to us men and never downhearted.](#)

Oct. 11 We went to a hospital near Hythe to see a L/Cpl called Rafler in John's platoon.

The apparent difference in the rendering of the soldier's name is probably accounted for by a typing error in the transcription at some stage. (See also Buller/Butler on [Oct. 5](#) above.)

12 Oct. To London. All the staff at Brown's [desolated](#).

16 Oct. Oliver Baldwin to tea.

He and Elsie go about together.

*Oliver Baldwin was the eldest son of Stanley and Cissie Baldwin. He was 19 months younger than John and had just left school at the age of 16½. He wished to follow John into the Irish Guards and Kipling had correspondence with both Stanley and Oliver on the subject (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 4, pp.341/2 and 348 to Stanley: and p. 347 to Oliver.)*

Oct. 17 Busy at my desk with correspondence about John's men and the hope of finding something from wounded men. To Sandgate and Shorncliffe on this quest.

Sandgate and Shorncliffe are near Folkestone, where boats with casualties from France would berth. Shorncliffe was also an Army town; the School of Musketry was there.

19 Oct. Rud finds a man in John's platoon who says he saw him shot in the neck.

Oct. 19 Rud and I to town to see Mrs. Fowler who is helping to hunt up men in John's platoon. Rud goes to three hospitals. One says he saw John shot in the neck just before they fell back after which he was wounded.

30 Oct. Words with the gardener who gives notice after 17 years' service.

Oct. 30 I discover the reserve dynamo out of order. Martin (gardener) being to blame, does not like being told so and gives notice after 17 years service. (Note. Martin merited reproof about a month previously.)

Batemans' electricity was generated by a turbine driven by the mill-race at the mill a quarter of a mile SSW of the house. See Something of Myself pp. 179/80. See also our entries for Aug. (5th) 1903 and 17 Sept. 1904. The event leading to the latter entry was possibly responsible for the provision of "the reserve dynamo"; and see our note of 27 November below.

Nov. 3 Rud's Navy articles sent off in quantities. They are to be printed in the U.S., France, Australia, Greece, Italy, Russia and French Switzerland.

9 Nov. To see [Colonel Lord] de Vesci who says John was his best ensign. Arrangements for publishing naval verses in 12 translations.

All these days we are busy collecting information from wounded soldiers.

Nov. 9 Major Vessey, John's Adjutant, says John was his best Ensign and that he never gave him a job that he did not do well after he understood.

The name of the officer they visited was Lord de Vesci (1881-1958), whose family name was Vesey: his Who's Who entry says he was a Major in the Irish Guards who had retired as a Captain, but returned in 1914 to act as the regimental adjutant. The identification of these two officers is confusing because Major Lord de Vesci (family name 'Vesey' and the regimental adjutant) had a younger brother, Captain Hon T A Vesey, who was the Adjutant of John's battalion, 2nd Irish Guards.

Nov. 11 Rud's verses go off. Arrangements have been made for translation and simultaneous publication in 12 different countries.

Nov. 15 7 weeks to the day since John was last seen and still no news. Constant and steady investigation has gone on and always we just miss seeing the man who could tell us.

The Kiplings never did know where their son died, nor where he was buried. In 1992 a body was identified as his, and accepted as such by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but queries about its identity have since been raised, without being satisfactorily resolved.

Nov. 27 Arranging for Martin's departure. He has been with us nearly 18 years and leaves on his own notice. Latterly, an unfaithful servant but we could not have brought ourselves to dismiss him though he had been warned several times.

See entry for 30 October. Martin must have come with them from Rottingdean. He presumably lived in a cottage on the estate, and was working out a month's notice. It would not have been easy to find a replacement gardener in war-time

28 Nov. Carrie obliged to resign from membership of the Maple Leaf Club.

Nov. 28 I send in my resignation to the Chairman of the Maple Leaf Club. No longer able to go to town for weekly meetings.

Carrie was, of course, under considerable nervous strain, and the demands of running her house and searching for news of John understandably meant that she could not spare one whole day a week to help run the Club.

Nov. 29 Rud leaves at 10.10 for London, Cardiff and Swansea to see some of the munition work.

This trip does not seem to have resulted in any specific article, but may also be related to the earlier visit to Tyneside (see our entry of February (undated) above).

Dec. 6 A new between maid, A. Fieldwick, starts in at work.

A 'Between Maid' ('tweeny') was a junior maid who worked both in the kitchen and the general household.

Dec. 10 We leave for town. Our last drive for the present in our own motor which is put by because of the war.

So far as we are aware, petrol was not rationed during World War I, and there was no other reason than general economy to lay up the Rolls. We do not know what happened to the Ford (see entry for 30 April 1914), nor to the new chauffeur (entry for 14 May, 1915)

11 Dec. Rud opens the George Cecil Memorial at Winchester with a speech.

Dec. 11 Rud opens the Cecil rifle range in memory of G. Cecil, making a speech in hall to all the Winchester men. We lunch with the headmaster.

George Cecil, son of Lord and Lady Edward Cecil had been killed in September 1914 – see Index. The speech was later collected in A Book of Words as No. XIII, with the title, “The War and the Schools”.

25 Dec. Christmas Day a name only.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day, but to us a name only. We give no presents and in no

way consider the day, John not being with us.

They had been invited to the Aitkens, but had declined.

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

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