

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1928

Book 6 - 1928

In Paris till 7 Jan. Rud pretty well but Carrie ill. Much society. They go to the film of *Ben Hur* a second time and like it even more.

Ben Hur was an American epic silent film, of 1925, starring Ramon Navarro, based on a novel of 1880, by Lew Wallace. It tells the story of a young man in ancient Rome, sentenced to hard labour in the galleys, who rises to fame as a chariot racer and triumphs over his enemies.



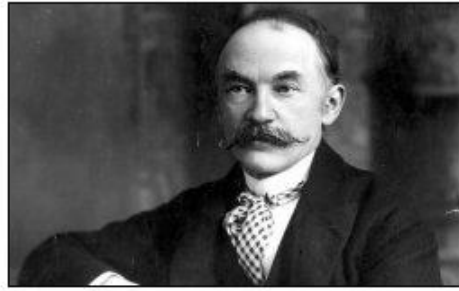
Jan 7 We leave on the Golden Arrow for Dover. A long trip home by car

They took the train to Calais, and crossed to Dover, where they were met by their car. It is not clear why the trip home was a long one – since they they'd done it before without comment.

16 Jan. At 1030 for lunch, Brown's; to the Abbey for Mr. Thomas Hardy's funeral. Rud pall-bearer. I near the grave for the ashes – not a very impressive ceremony. Home after tea. Bad weather and mud on roads.

Jan 16 To the Abbey for M. Thomas Hardy's funeral. Rud a Pall Bearer.

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), author and poet, had died on 11 January, and his ashes were interred in Poet's Corner, in Westminster Abbey.



Thomas Hardy

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 412, is Kipling's letter to Hardy's executors, accepting the honour of being a pall bearer. He much admired Hardy's writings. Hardy is thought to be the original of the distinguished writer, 'Eustace Cleever', in A Conference of the Powers (1890).

24 Jan. He declines presidency of the Authors' Society.

Jan. 24 The Authors' Club or Society ask Rud to take the post of President. He declined.

The Society of Authors is a British organisation and was formed in 1884, and has been described as a trade union for authors. It currently has some 9,000 members.

28-9 Jan. Weekend at Chequers [a pleasant visit of the old family sort.](#)

Jan. 28 We leave for Chequers.



Chequers Court

30 Jan. Began a poem on King David – 'Sir Davy' (and working at a story called 'Stars in their Courses' (afterwards named 'Unprofessional'))

Jan. 30 Home.

Feb. Bateman's. No entry till 24 Feb. when they pay £4251.15.9 for Income Tax.

Feb. 3 A general tidy up of all work and putting away of MSS. (There is a break in the diary until Mar. 2. No clue from the Kipling Correspondence but details probably available in letters to Mrs. Bambridge.)

*The details are indeed available in Kipling's letters to Elsie – see below. Presumably, at the time the Rees Extracts were made, Elsie kept the letters to herself, as being entirely personal. There are five letters to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 413-42), written on board their outward-bound liner, SS Oronsay, (4 Feb); Naples (13 Feb); and Palermo (19. 22 and 26 Feb). Thereafter the correspondence dries up until they arrived home in early May.*

2 Mar. At Taormina, but Rud has influenza.

*In a letter to his doctor and friend, Sir John Bland-Sutton (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 421-22), Kipling says that both he and Carrie have “**steam-heat germical colds which half the population seem to share.**”*

Mar. 2 Arrived Taormina, leaving Palermo at 10. a.m.

Mar. 13 Leaving Taormina.



Taormina

- 14 Mar. To Naples. He coughs.
- 21 Mar. Left by boat for Gib. A rough passage, Rud stays in bed.
- Mar. 21** Leave by boat for Gib.
- 25 Mar. To Algeciras.
- Mar. 25** We arrive at Gib. To Algeciras by motor



Algeciras was the Spanish town about five miles away, on the opposite side of Gibraltar Bay.

- 26 Mar. To the Ritz at Madrid. George and Elsie.
The Bakers.
The doctor warns him to stop smoking.
- Mar. 26** Leave by train for Madrid.

George Bambridge and Elsie were still in Madrid. The Bakers are, we assume, the architect Sir Herbert and his wife – see Index.

- 6 Apr. To Toledo.
- 9 Apr. To a bullfight, [excellent show](#).

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 423, contains a letter to Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, inviting him, his wife and one of his staff to attend the bullfight with them. Rudyard had written appreciatively of bullfights in his story, “The Bull that Thought” of 1924.

It is evident from the letter that the Admiral was visiting Madrid, almost certainly making his official farewell calls on the Spanish naval authorities before he hauled down his flag as C-in-C Mediterranean, which occurred on 1 May.

11 Apr. Rud much better

12 Apr. Biarritz. A show of Goya pictures.



French soldiers execute Spanish rebels, May 1808
Francisco Goya

Apr. 12 Leave by night train for Biarritz.

13 Apr. To the frontier and met by the car.
Stayed at Biarritz.
Rud writing a 'Stalky' story.

This can only have been 'The Satisfaction of a Gentleman', published next year, and collected in The Complete Stalky and Co., also in 1929.

Apr. 13 Arrive Hendey (?)

Hendaye is the border town where they would have had to change trains – the Spanish and French railways had – still have – a different gauge, and so through trains could not be run. But, as shown in Carrington, their own car met them.

26 Apr. To Villeneuve-sur Lot.

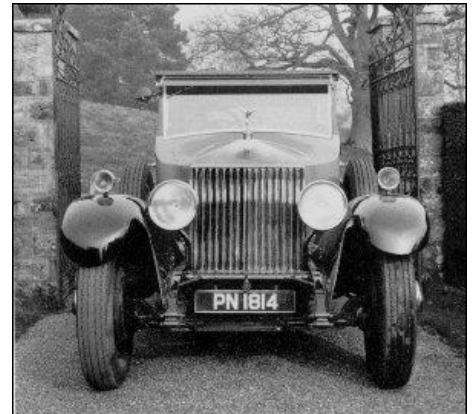
Apr. 26 To Villeneuve-sur- ??

They headed north-east across Gascony on the way home.

- 27 Apr. 300 miles of blooms, to Tours
- Apr. 27** Tours.
- 1 May To ? [some nice young Americans – Hoovers.](#)
- May 2** Rouen.
- 3 May Rouen for Dieppe and home.
- May 3** Home.
- May 4** I arrange many domestic matters, there being three new servants.
- 10 May They order a new Rolls.
- May 10** Go to Rolls Royce and order a new car.

*This was his last car,
to be named 'Esmeralda'.*

*It is now on display at
Bateman's*



- 12 May 'St. Paul at Antioch'.

This was the tale 'The Church that was at Antioch'.

- 16 May To Sybil Colefax (as they often do) to meet Maurois. Frank Doubleday there, [so ill, so good and patient.](#)

André Maurois was a noted French author.

He had been a liaison officer with the British army on the Western Front, and had written warmly of them in "Les Silences du Colonel Bramble".



André Maurois

His one volume History of France can also be recommended. For Lady Colefax and Frank Doubleday - see Index.

17 May Rud starting a new story.
Mrs. Bruce Richmond brings Miss Mayo (Mother India). [Rud not as interested in Miss Mayo as in her book.](#)

Mrs. Richmond was the wife of the editor of The Times Literary Supplement. Katherine Mayo (1867-1940) was an American writer, known for what would today be described as racist views.

Her book, Mother India, was highly critical of Hindu society and she opposed any idea of Indian independence. Her book clearly interested Kipling.



Katherine Mayo

19-20 May Weekend with the Stanhopes at Chevening. Church again. Rud and the Lord Chancellor (Birkenhead?) have a long walk and talk.

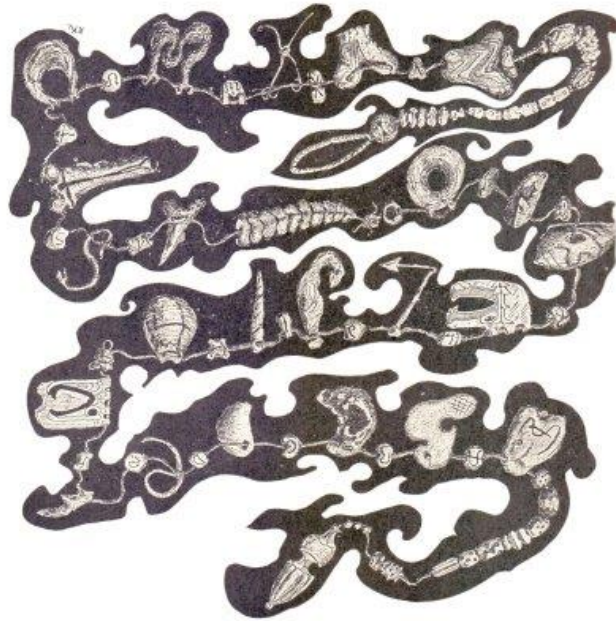
Being 'dragged off' to church on Sundays seems to have rankled with Carrie!

In fact, the Lord Chancellor was Viscount Hailsham.

22 May [The chauffeur summoned at Chichester for driving to the public danger but is discharged.](#)

A summons on such a charge would have been heard in a Magistrate's court. The Chichester bench's jurisdiction only covered an area right at the western end of the county but Carrie's diary does not record any journeys in that direction.

23 May Mr. Gwynne and Sir P. Bates bring the wonderful copy of the Alphabet Necklace.



In "How the Alphabet was Made" in which Taffy and her Daddy Tegumai invent the first alphabet, Tegumai makes a necklace of all the letters. to be kept in the Temple for ever and ever. It is described in the story in great detail (Just So Stories pp. 150-153) and such a necklace had been made for Rudyard. For Gwynne and Bates, see Index.

25 May To the 'Pirates' Collection at the Grafton Gallery.

It is possible that this was an exhibition of paintings by French Masters, which was reviewed in The Times of 11 June,

2 June Rud's second story about Paul.

This was The Manner of Men, a fictional version of Acts, 27, the biblical account of St. Paul's perilous voyage which ended in shipwreck on the island of Malta (in what is now St. Paul's Bay at the northwest end of the island).

4 June Stanhope, First Lord, takes them to see the Trooping of the Colour, from the Admiralty.

Lord Stanhope was, in fact, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty. The Board of Admiralty, which ran the Royal Navy, consisted of three civilians (the First Lord, the Civil Lord (both politicians) and the Secretary (a Civil Servant –(a post once filled by the diarist Samuel Pepys); and four Sea Lords (1st Sea Lord, 2nd, 3rd and 4th – all professional naval officers).

The back of the Old Admiralty Building on the east side, and the south side of the main Admiralty building, on the north side of Horseguards Parade make magnificent vantage points for the spectacle of the Trooping of the Colour, which takes place on the Sovereign's 'official' birthday, usually in June.



Trooping the Colour

6 June Rud goes to his first dinner of the Grillons Club, [a dull one](#).

The Grillion's Club (as it is correctly spelt) was an old established dining club, which met in Grillion's Hotel.

7 June With Elsie to the Royal Tournament.

For the public, this was a programme of displays put on by the three armed services, taking place at Earls Court. Not part of the public display were a series of skill-at-arms competitions (boxing, fencing, bayonet-fencing, tug-o'-war, etc).

9 June Carrie is warned of incipient cataract in both eyes

June 9 Rud hears from Arnold Lawson that he finds the start of a cataract in both my eyes.

Sir Arnold Lawson (1867-1947) was an Honorary Surgeon to King George V, and probably the best ophthalmic surgeon practicing in London at this time.

13 June To a review of the Yeomen of the Guard. Duke of Connaught talks with Rud.

The event, which took place in the gardens of St. James's Palace, was reported in The Times of 14 June.



The Yeomen of the Guard

To the Spanish pictures.

To the Graves Commission to arrange the Prince of Wales' visit to the Cemeteries.

To an Edgar Wallace play – received by the author and put in the Royal Box.

*A letter to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 435-6) indicates that this was The Squeaker, at the 'Apollo' Theatre, which had opened on 29 May. Wallace also had The Flying Squad, playing at the 'Lyceum' Theatre, and had already had a musical and another play showing simultaneously in the West End since the beginning of the year.*

16-17 June Weekend with Lady Hudson at Hill Hall, Epping. Lord and Lady Byng, Lord and Lady Lawrence, Sir Owen Seaman.
To church.
Rud negotiates between Byng and Baldwin about the Police appointment.

The Extracts are misleading: Kipling's letter to Elsie, cited above, reveals that they lunched with Lady Hudson, and then went on to spend the week-end with General Byng at Thorpe-le Soken.

Lord and Lady Byng were General Lord Byng (later Field Marshal Viscount, 1862-1935) and his lady, herself an author: The General was Chairman of Glynn, Mills, the bankers. Byng had completed five years as Governor-General of Canada (1921-26) and was about to be appointed as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.



Lord Byng

Sir Owen Seaman (1861-1936) was the Editor of Punch magazine, 1908-32).

He contributed light verse to that magazine frequently.



Owen Seaman

June 18 I have to face a domestic crisis – my cook having walked off, bag and baggage and said nothing.

This episode is better described in Kipling's words in a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 437-8):

"The Sec. came to us with a somewhat stricken face and said that Cook to whom a day off had been given in our absence had gone away on Thursday and had not returned!"

It appeared she had quietly made all her arrangements and had walked out of the house with her suitcase . . . But there was a queer turn to the rest of the tale. Up and spake the kitchen maid and said, "Except for an occasional soufflé or a savoury it is I that have been cooking for you these weeks past." Whereupon with gratitude to Allah, she was promoted to be cook on the spot . . ."

- 23 June He finishes 'The Miracle of St. Jubanus'.
- 24 June Bland-Sutton astonished at Rud's 'Stars in their Courses'* – as much in advance of the times as the flying stories.
*(Unprofessional)

"Unprofessional" ("The Stars in their Courses") was not published until 1930, so Bland-Sutton must have seen an early draft of it. (In our NRG notes for the story we note that Kipling was anticipating, by many years, research into biorhythms).

"The flying stories" are "With the Night Mail" (1905) and "As Easy as ABC" (1912).

- 25 June Creighton brings the script of the Empire Marketing Board [film] which pleases Rud, called 'Xmas Pudding'.

See our entry for 22 Aug. 1926. Creighton, with whom Kipling had worked on the Wembley Exhibition, was also employed on work for the Empire Marketing Board.

- 27 June Lord Dawson says Carrie has diabetes.
Lunch at the Neville Chamberlains'.
Royal Academy reception.

For the Neville Chamberlains - see Index.

- June 27 Lord Dawson gives me thorough overhaul and says I have diabetes.

- 28 June Downing Street Garden Party.

- July 2 Lord Dawson finds matters worse in my health and wants me to come up to town and be treated.

*Two letters (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 445-6 & 446-8, describe Carrie's examinations and subsequent treatment.*

4 July Rud to the Milner Memorial Committee.

See our entry for 24 July 1925.

6 July Miss Jefferson and the three Roxby children for a couple of hours. Miss Jefferson is the Aunt, two boys aged 9 and 8, one girl slightly older.

July 9 We leave for London and our rooms at Brown's.

Carrie's tests and experimental diets did not require a stay in a nursing home, and were carried out in their suite at Brown's.

10 July Tests for Carrie and starvation diet.

July 11 Starvation begins

13 July [In the evening to dine with the Salisburys to meet the King and Queen. Managed quite comfortably to neither eat nor drink.](#)

July 13 In the evening to dine with the Salisburys to meet the King and Queen. I manage quite comfortably to neither eat nor drink.

15 July His Shakespeare parody. (*Muse among the Motors?*)

Kipling published the last six poems of The Muse among the Motors in his next collection of verse, published in December 1929, so might have been working on them at this time. But none were Shakespeare parodies: perhaps this was another never-completed, portion of Gow's Watch – he had published two scenes in Debits and Credits in 1927 and might reasonably be expected to be getting into 'the swing of it.

17 July To the Club. Met Lord Stamfordham.

For Lord Stamfordham – see Index.

23 July Lunched with Stamfordham, to meet the Athlones.

For the Athlones – see Index.

July 24 We inspect the new car and take a drive in her. The doctor . . . reports me down to normal again. Next move, to consult my oculist again.

This was not the first time they had taken their new car out. They had evidently taken her up to Hampstead to visit. Kenwood on the evening of the 20th

*Carrie's blood-sugar levels had evidently come down with a rush, and in Kipling's words (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 448-9, to Elsie): "**All the tests . . . have been uniformly good as far as the system clearing itself was concerned, and now she has been promoted to butter and cheese and whole ounces of chicken and lamb!**"*

26 July Buck. Palace Garden Party.

July 27 Home.

July 31 The doctors say I may have a try at a life with food weighed out for me which combined with no use of eyes except for necessity is a poor prospect.

August Back to Bateman's.

3 Aug. Lord and Lady Dunsany.

For the Dunsanys – see Index.

15 George and Elsie on a visit.
Mr. Maurois very full of his Life of Byron.

For M. Maurois – see 16 May above, and Index. The French original and English translation were both published in 1930.

Aug. 17 Another domestic calamity. Cook receives a wire (true or otherwise) from her home asking for her immediate return on account of illness. (See 25 June 1928 to Elsie) (Carrington is referring to the letter cited in our entry of **June 18** above).

Carrie had a suspicious mind. But she seems to have had more than her fair share of 'servant problems', a perennial concern of the middle and upper classes in Britain.

21 Aug. We go to see our new property adjoining 'Keylands'.

*We assume that this was another acquisition at the west end of the estate – see previous entries for 12 Sep. and **Sep. 12 1925**.*

31 Aug. Rud writing 'Beauty Spots'

Collected in Limits and Renewals.

2 Sep. Starting a poem about foxes, stimulated by an RSPCA agitation against hunting.

This was 'Fox-Hunting', which was laid aside until 1932, before publication in 1933 – see PINNEY, Poems, Vol. II, p. 1548. However, LYCETT, p. 552 suggests that, because 'Fox-Hunting' was not published for another five years, it is more likely to have 'morphed' into 'The Great Play Hunt', the second part of Thy Servant a Dog, on which Kipling was shortly to start work (see our entry of 4 Oct. below).

5 Sep. They leave for Scotland by road,
To Stamford.

Sep. 5 We leave for Scotland. To Stamford for the night.

They were off for a fortnight's holiday, visiting some old friends. Kipling (though not Carrie) had been invited to stay at Balmoral with the King.

6 Sep. Lunched with A. Bailey and to Ripon.

Sep. 6 Ripon.

7 Sep. Beaufront Castle, Lady Rayleigh, and to Edinburgh.

Sep. 7 Hexham.

For Beaufront and Lady Rayleigh – see Index.

8 Sep. The Scottish War Memorial and National Gallery.

The Scottish War Memorial (which now commemorates the dead of both world wars) is contained in a side chapel within a converted barrack block inside Edinburgh castle. It was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, one of the architects employed by the IWGC, and had been opened in 1927.

The Scottish National Gallery stands on The Mound, in the centre of Edinburgh, above the Waverley Gardens.

10 Sep. Huntly Arms, Aboyne.

Kipling was invited to Balmoral 11-15 September. Carrie remained in this hotel, and was extremely bored. Aboyne is about 15 miles east of Balmoral, in the valley of the Dee.

11 Sep. A bothering letter from F. Ware annoys Rud (*War Graves Commission*). He leaves for Balmoral.

12 Sep. She stays at Aboyne and gets bored with the Highland Games. [Finding courage to face the darkness that has come into my life.](#) A telephone message from Rud after seeing the Braemar Games

Presumably Carrie was referring, literally, to the possibility that her cataracts might cause her to go blind.

Braemar is close to Balmoral, and the Royal family always attend the games.

15 Sep. Rud returns.

*The only remarks he made about his visit were contained in a letter (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 451-2, to Elsie): **My visit to the castle was, I think, not a failure and I was asked to stay on till Monday but fled on the Saturday and so avoided the Sabbath which, I am told, is somewhat grisly in these parts.***

Sep. 15 Rud returns to Aboyne. A delight to have someone to talk to,

16 Sep. To the Airlies at Airlie Castle. The Archbishop (Davidson), Lady Strathmore.



Airlie Castle

Airlie Castle lies about eight miles north of Kirriemuir, near the confluence of Prosen Water and the River South Esk.

For the Archbishop – see Index. Lady Strathmore (the Countess of Strathmore) was the mother of the Duchess of York, and so the present Queen's grandmother.

Sep. 16 Airlie Castle for lunch. To sleep at Edinburgh.

17 Sep. Edinburgh and to York.

Sep. 17 Carlisle for lunch. York

They made a dog-leg journey to get to York, over the 'roof' of England – a gloriously scenic trip in fine weather.

18 Sep. Stamford and to London.

Sep. 18 Brown's. Rud and I nearly dead with fatigue but have greatly liked my trip and the new motor.

19 Sep. Rud working up a *Times* article on the Unknown Dead.

There is no article in The Times with this title, but there was a long and prominent article on the eve of Armistice Day under the title 'The Silent World', headed by a picture of the Menin Gate, and with the sub-titles of 'Battlefields of France and Belgium' and 'The Gathering in of the Dead'.

It seems very probable that this was largely Kipling's work, since there is a substantial amount of information which came from the IWGC, although his name appears nowhere in that issue of the paper.

20 Sep. Bateman's

Sep. 20 Home.

25 Sep. Drafting the Queen's letter for the War Graves number.

Sep. 25 Rud busy drafting the Queen's letter for the War Graves number.

29 Sep. A quarrel with a socialist paper, *New Dawn*, about a [dreadful](#) poem falsely ascribed to RK.

29 Sep. Young Medley of the firm to have Rud sign a paper in the matter of *The new Dawn* – a socialist paper who printed in a recent issue a poem they said was by Rud. A quite dreadful poem and action must be taken.

On 4 October, Kipling obtained a perpetual injunction against the New Dawn, and was awarded £100 to cover costs. We have been unable to find anything about the New Dawn – there isn't even a Wikipedia entry for it – but in the report of the case in The Times (4 October), it stated that the poem was entitled 'The Awakening'.

4 Oct. Rud planning a dog-story.
(Trouble over the 'Woolsack') (*House in South Africa*).

The "dog-story" was a reference to Kipling's first thoughts about 'Thy Servant a Dog'.

Kipling maintained that Rhodes had given him sole residential rights in 'The Woolsack' for the duration of his life, and despite the fact that he had not used them for 20 years, he continued to maintain that position. LYCETT, p. 571 records a further disagreement in 1932/3.

Oct. 4 We leave at 11 for Cirencester.

Oct. 8 Home at 7.30.

They had spent the weekend with the Bathursts.

13 Oct, Rud's speech ? Liverpool.

This refers o the speech he was to make at Liverpool in eleven days' time. We presume he was working at it. See our entries of 25 Oct. and Oct. 25 below.

Oct 15 I stand God-Mother for Mrs. Senior's (late Gardner-Smith's) baby, Pamela Mary, which behaves beautifully.

Mrs. Senior (née Gardner-Smith) was the Kipling's former secretary – see Index.

21 Oct. A party at the Cazalets, 'Elizabeth' Russell, Hugh Walpole, J H Thomas, Athlone, etc.

Kipling described this party in a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 455-6) as “one of their menagerie lunches”.

'Elizabeth' Russell was Mary, Countess Russell (1866-1941) a New Zealander who, having written Elizabeth and Her German Garden (she had been married to a German Count), which was popular in the years before 1914, was now known in society as 'Elizabeth'.

For Walpole and Athlone - see Index.

J H Thomas (1874-1949) was a Labour politician and Trade Union organiser who had aspirations to become the next Labour Prime Minister (he never did).

23 Oct. Princess Alice to tea.

Princess Alice, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, was the Countess of Athlone.

Oct. 25 Rud goes with Sir Percy Bates to Liverpool

26 Oct. Rud to Liverpool, made is speech, and saw plans for the new giant Cunarder..

Oct. 27 Rud returns. An excellent visit. He saw the new giant Cunarder and made his speech. (To the Liverpool Shipbrokers' Benevolent Society – RK had been working intermittently on this since Sept. 26.)

The speech, on 'Passengers at Sea' was later included, in the 'Sussex' and 'Burwash' editions, as a continuation (No. XXII) of the Book of Words.

Carrington is the more correct – it was only the plans of the "new giant Cunarder" which he saw: she was later named Queen Mary, but her building did not start until December 1930.

28 Oct. To the Windmill Press with FND.

The Windmill Press belonged to the publisher William Heinemann, in which Frank Doubleday's company had a controlling interest. It was sited at Kingswood, not far from Epsom racecourse in Surrey.

3 Nov. To Canterbury to stay with Dean Bell.
The Milner Memorial Chapel.

Nov. 3 To Canterbury Cathedral for the dedication of a chapel to Lord Milner – Rud being on the committee is an official.

For Milner and the Memorial Committee – see Index.

Dean Bell was George Bell, (1883-1958), later Bishop of Chichester.

7 Nov. Rud to dine with the African Society. Many old friends.

10 Nov. To the Stanhopes again and to church on Armistice Sunday.

12 Nov. Mrs Belloc Lowndes for lunch.

For Mrs. Belloc Lowndes – see Index.

15 Nov. Rud's speech to the Royal Society of Medicine.

Nov. 15 The Royal Society of Medicine dinner and Rud's speech a success.

Like his speech in Liverpool three weeks earlier, this speech was added to the collection from A Book of Words (No. XXXIII) in the 'Sussex' and 'Burwash' editions. The speech was given the title 'Healing by the Stars', and was largely concerned with the life of Nicholas Culpepper, the great herbalist and astrologer. (See "A Doctor of Medicine" in Rewards and Fairies.

20 Nov. Rud lunches with H. Newbolt and dines with the Navy Club and makes a speech.

H. Newbolt was Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938), poet and naval historian.

The speech which Kipling made has not survived.



Sir Henry Newbolt

Nov. 20 Rud dines with the Navy Club, only guest and makes a speech. A splendid reception.

24 Nov. Owen Wister for lunch. Rud always liked him.

For Wister – see Index: he has not appeared since 1906.

1 Dec. Weekend at Chequers.
The King's illness, news bulletins direct to Chequers. Rud up late, waiting for news.

Dec. 1 We leave for Chequers. The news comes direct to Chequers (the King's illness) and is far from good.

The King was suffering from a serious chest infection, and was very seriously ill: by 12 December he had nearly died.

Fortunately, his doctor, Lord Dawson, found the abscess and drained off the fluid which was poisoning the King's system.

Dec. 10 Back at Bateman's writing 'Beauty Spots'.

13 Dec. Public Prosecutor calls about Wells (sic) of Loneliness.

*The Well of Loneliness was a book written about lesbianism, and was a cause célèbre at this time, to much the same degree as Lady Chatterley's Lover in 1960. Its publication was banned in England, but it was published in France, and advertised, privately, in England. Kipling had evidently opened a letter addressed to Miss Kipling, at Bateman's, and had been offended. He wrote to Joynson-Hicks (Home Secretary) (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 453) and (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 461), describing the book as "**pretty damnable**", and asking if Joynson-Hicks had the power **to bring them up with a round turn**".*

Dec. 14 The Prime Minister to breakfast
Rud in court for Well of Loneliness case. [He gave evidence, but on which side, CEC]

Dec. 14 Rud to court in the case against the book *The Wells of Loneliness*.
The other side decline to call witnesses.

In fact, neither side called witnesses – submissions were made by counsel for both sides – the Crown contending that the book was obscene, and that a decision of a lower court that it was so, and that copies of the book should be destroyed, should stand. The appellants (the publisher - the well-respected firm of Jonathan Cape), held that it was a work of literary merit, and that the previous decision should be overturned. This court found that the book was obscene, and that the lower court's judgment should stand. Kipling did not give evidence. There is a report of the case in The Times of 15 December.

19 Dec. Dog-story and Pig-story.

Thy Servant a Dog and 'Beauty Spots'.

22 Dec. All to Bath for Christmas with George and Elsie. Miss Bridson, Dr. Melsome, the Bathursts. They all went to the Abbey service on Christmas evening (? Christmas eve).

For Melsome – see Index

Dec. 22 We leave for the Pump Room Hotel, Bath.

Dec. 25 We all have our presents at breakfast. A pale imitation of the old beautiful Bateman's Xmas.

27 Dec. Home.

Dec. 27 Home.

28 Dec. Rud out with the dogs. 40 letters to post today. Secretary reports 30 are normal.

New Year's Eve. Cold and feeling ill as I did yesterday, fighting off a cold and fatigue.
62 letters today.
12 telegrams
2 reporters
A photographer
And two large and one small hole discovered in Bateman's roof
An excellent day's work to finish the year. Two excellent visits with Elsie during the year. Heavy work and nothing to show for it.
Illness makes me a drag and a sorrow but a poor companion.

Dec. 31 62 letters today, 12 telegrams, 2 reporters, a photographer and two large and one small hole discovered in Bateman's roof
An excellent day's work to finish the year.
Illness makes me a drag and sorrow but a poor companion.

Much of this correspondence, of course, was for Kipling's 63rd birthday.

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

