

Rosemary Cottage,
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Feb 11 - 1940.

My own darling One

While waiting for your letter let me tell you our news. The weather is mostly dull, wet, and depressing - but every now and then the most strikingly lovely day. Yesterday was one of these - all sunshine all day. I took the children for a long walk by the canal. on past the farm & the two upper locks till we came to the wood. There we gathered nut catkins and pussywillows and other buds & nuts. So lovely. Spring was shouted at us from everything we saw - the green grass was unbelievable - also the birds - like May in their excitement - Oh if you could have been there -

Now for business. Evidently electric light Co sent you a bill for the 3 bulbs I got just before Xmas - and you have paid it. I've credited it to you. 5/6.

Miss Rickells rang up that the shop property was leaking in 3 places - due to the heavy snow I suppose. I said we'd have to get Pethick on to the job. She said she'd ring him up. I'll tell you more about it when he has been.

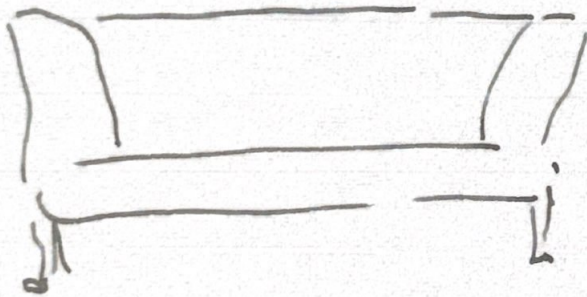
Have just got in some more coal and got highly commended by Mr Williams (of Pethericks) He says if all customers were so like we there would be no problem at all. I got 1/2 ton for boiler & 2 1/2 tons 5' cut of the other - We still had plenty left so are well set up. I haven't bothered them all through this cold and difficult time - and am rewarded as just now they have some

Very much better than they had. The Trally is still here.

Penna is true to her name Mowenna. She will think nothing of skipping up & down that cliff to her Saint's well. What do you think she does now? Chinks from the couch to the window



sill - the high front room windowills & walks up and down them banging the glass - Why she doesn't topple backwards in her exciting banging



is only because her head is small and doesn't overbalance her as Gylliam did. I didn't even think she could get on to the couch - let alone the back of it

then there is another bin or so to the window sill.

Gylliam does some lessons with me. Rather Mantiswri as I don't want to start her on different lines & those she is doing at school - she is a delightful child to teach - so quick & intelligent - you were saying that she should ~~learn~~ ^{learn} some poetry. I took a poem I learned as a child "I once had a sweet little doll dem." and said it with a doll in my arms. I've after said it to her but didn't realize she knew it. She then took the doll - forgot everything except the poem & the doll and said it swiftly exquisitely - Not a spot of self-consciousness - just lived the whole thing - We after play Ludo together with four players.

Re the Measles. No sign of it here yet. Gilliam has not been at school since Sat Feb 1.

These are the dates as far as I can gather.

Jan 23 1st case at school. Gilliam at school until Feb 1

Feb 4 - 5 - Twelve more cases. none in Gilliam's class but

Contact may have been made at prayers.

There are more cases at school - all being nursed there so goodness knows when they will be out of quarantine.

I'm keeping Gilliam and Panda apart from each other I'm looking after Gilliam & Tom is taking after Panda. Had there been no more cases at school after the 1st case

We should all have been out of quarantine tomorrow. Now

I reckon even if Gilliam does not take it she will not be out of quarantine till Feb 22 - her birthday - 3 weeks from her last attendance at school. On that day Gilliam & Panda plan a great reunion.

But when Gilliam will ever get back to school I don't know. If 14 cases were contracted from one how many will the 14 give it to?

As you say for Panda's sake we must try and keep from infection this year. but it seems to me apart from that that it is quicker to have the disease & get it over than to try and keep the quarantine times.

I'm having a pretty fierce attack of Coriça (is that spell right?)

I'm beginning to think that it isn't a coincidence that I always get an attack like this when I go to the dentist. Either it

is the poison round my arms & teeth that spreads all over
my mucous membranes of nose. etc - as I have an idiosyncrasy
cracy to some of the things they spray on my gums or
put in my teeth - Well I go for the last time I hope on
Thursday. Hope to be better when he has finished with me.

I'll post this letter tomorrow so as to be sure you get
it before Sunday - I'll just add a line when I get yours
- but I'll answer yours properly on Wed night & post
Thursday - as I used to - I can't do writing in the
morning with Gillian at home.

Oh, I've fixed up ^{Gillian's} little camp bed under the dining room
table (the old nursery) for her ^{Zurawskie} air raid shelter - so as
not to be under the stairs with Tema. We've had one warning
of (6.30 p.m. - 10 p.m. -) since - How delight & sleep there!!! &
she slept soundly. I did not bring the baby down - If the
all clear did not sound by the time I went to settle I'd put up
my "rest a while" in with Gillian - and let Tom & Tema have the
stairs - Of course if real danger imminent we'd all go under the
stairs - weasels or no -

Wed. a.m. Lovely long letter for you this morning
which I'll answer tonight - meanwhile I'll post
this - so glad to have heard your voice this
morning - All my love
Ada.