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Sunday May 13th 1923

I am lying on the lawn of the boarding-house in the shade & am going to try to bring this little chronicle of doings up to date. I am not quite sure where I left off. It was some day last week - about the middle I think. I'm not sure of what I did on Thursday & last week but on Friday I went to hear Miss Nicholls lecture on "Limitation & the Fourth Dimension" - rather deep but quite interesting. Incidentally it poured with rain that evening very heavily. Worse, I think, than we get at home except some of those thunderstorm cloud-bursts in summer.

Saturday morning I went down to see the *Demosthenes* sail. She left about 11 o'clock. I wasn't down there early enough to go on board - I was at the office - but I saw several of the people on board whom I knew & waved to Scotty's brother from the quay. It felt as if a real link with home had gone.

In the evening I took Miss Brown to see the "Cat & the Canary" at the Criterion Theatre here. It was the first night here & it was very well acted. It's very thrilling & made us forget all our troubles.

Sunday I was very lazy. I went to church

in the morning & slept in the afternoon.
In the evening I went to call on Professor Griffith Taylor, to whom Lady Mason had given me a letter. He lives in Mosman. He & his wife were very nice, but I don't know if they'll be much use. (-I shall love like that).

On Monday I went to dinner with Miss N. & Mrs. B. & to the lecture on Valentine afterwards. I don't think it was quite so good as the earlier one but it was pretty good. Miss N. & Mrs. B. were going up to Brisbane on Tuesday to see Mrs. N's aunt. They are returning next Tuesday & sailing for New Zealand on Wednesday or Thursday - Thursday I think.

Tuesday I stayed in in the evening & played the piano & sang while someone else played. On Wednesday I went to see the Benhams. Benham was at the School of Economics & has a job as lecturer in Economics at the University here. He got married the day before he sailed. He left 3 days after me & was in the Orestes which arrived at Sydney simultaneously with us.

They are staying at a nice little boarding-home in Mosman & I am thinking of moving over there for nice company.

On Thursday evening I went to hear an Amateur ~~Operatic~~ performance with Miss Norman

- Mrs. Braden's niece I suppose she is. A friend of hers who is living with them was singing in the choir - that's the one who is studying singing here. It was quite a good show.

On Friday I went to a Faculty of Economics dance with the Benhams at the University. It was all right but for the dancing. That was almost entirely of the "one-two-three-one-two-three" variety.

Yesterday, Saturday I went to a place in Wahroonga with the Bissets to play tennis. At first my tennis was appalling! I had badly played for 2 years & was quite lost. After a set or two I improved slightly but was still very dumb. The place belonged to Mr. Hopkins who had invited several people to play. The house was empty as Mr. Hopkins is living at Warranville at present & has been trying to sell the Wahroonga house without success. He is now moving back into it & will sell the Wahroonga house. I went back to the Bissets afterwards to supper & had some music afterwards. Charles Compton of Adelaide is staying with them at present. His father is a cousin of the Brookes. He is up here to learn something about rabbit skin. He is working in the store last day "learning" "classing"

He is about 20 I should think & quite a nice fellow.

You will begin to think from this account that I do nothing but gad about in the evenings. One has to gad about a bit as there's little else to do at present till I've got settled down properly. But I do quite a bit of work during the day. On several occasions I have spent an hour or so in the store looking something about Kangaroo skins. I had a stab at classing some myself the other day. A mixed pile of skins has to be sorted out into weights, & ^{pro} good & thick. One has to judge by the feel of the skin what average weight a dozen skins that size would be. It can be checked with the scales. They have to be so classed because medium weight skins are most valuable - those weighing 14 lbs each or "15 average" being the best size for tanning. It's very interesting indeed. I also learnt something about rabbit-skin the other day. Mr Cernow, who has been from here to America & England has just returned, so we've got quite a big staff now. He is going on a trip round the country buyers & agents this week. He is a fairly big man, dark, with pincenez & seems quite nice.

Thursday evening. May 17th 1923

I am very disappointed today. The English Mail came in - the first for a week - & nothing for me! I am hoping for some letters tomorrow though - mine may be late. I feel with Amy in "Alice sitting - the first": "No letters? How unlike life". And Miss Nicholls & Miss Brown sailed for N. Zealand today & it's chilly & I've got a bit of a cold. I am not so fed up as I might be, so I mustn't grumble. I think I'm getting over being fed up badly now.

Last Sunday I went to see Lady Macpherson in the evening. They are charming people. Sir John Macpherson is professor of psychiatry at the University here. - that means "lunacy" chiefly. It's quite a nice professor too. Lady M. is very nice & has "two charming daughters" as per directions. One is, I should say, 25 or so name of 'blair' I think & the other a year or two younger. They are really delightful people. I don't know how to describe them but as the novelists do as showing "breeding". I only hope they'll like me. They asked me to go & play tennis on Sat. week. They have a court of their own. They have a very nice house at Bellevue Hill overlooking the harbour.

On Tuesday Miss N. & Myra came back

from Brisbane & I went to dinner with them.
You have probably read of Hickson's healing
mission here in Australia. Miss Nicoll
knew him some years ago in London. He was
dining at the Grosvenor that evening also & so
I had the pleasure of shaking hands with
him. He doesn't look like a spiritual healer
a bit. - Just a very healthy commercial man,
magnetic, with soft brown eyes. I am very
pleased to have seen him.

Last night I went to the "Palais Royal"
with Miss Norman & some friends of hers, to
dance. I didn't expect to enjoy it at all, but
she danced better than I expected. There
was an extraordinary crowd of people there - all
sorts. Very interesting to study. Good floor. Good
orchestra - paid £300 per week according to the 'ads'.

This morning I saw Miss N & Myra off. - The
last of the people I came from England with. They
went by the "Maungamui" to N.Z. & will be there
till July. I hoped there would be some
letters to cheer me up afterwards - and there
weren't. This must go by the special
mail to catch the "Hobson's Bay" at Fremantle tomorrow.