

# Royaumont News-Letter



JANUARY 1953

No. 16

**Object of the Association:** To maintain and strengthen our war-time comradeship.

**Subscription:** Half-a-crown per annum, due **January 1st**, for the year.

**President:** Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.S.

**Vice-President:** Lady Sanderson.

**Chairman:** None.

**Hon. Secretary:** Miss Rachael Middleton, 90 Kensington Park Road, London, W.11.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Lady Hills, 37 Cottesmore Court, Kensington, London, W.8.

**Hon. Editor:** Miss C. F. N. Mackay, 15 Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

## Editorial

This last year has been a sad one for some of us. Looking at the picture of our Old Abbaye above, many of us may have nostalgic memories of the days we spent there, of the friendships we made—friendships which have survived throughout more than a quarter of a century; and which, now as time inevitably takes its toll will surely become more precious. It was only a little more than a year ago that, although in bad health, our late Vice-President Miss Cicely Hamilton came to the dinner we had that year at the Forum Club; the last of our reunions which she was able to attend. For many months she was confined to bed with serious heart trouble, but even when obviously very tired and ill she would talk as wittily as ever. For Royaumontites she always had a special welcome, and on the last occasion I saw her she said how grateful she was to Brock and to all of us who had helped her. Miss Hamilton died peacefully on December 6, 1952, in her own home at Glebe Place. We print the obituary notice published in *The Times*, December 8, last. A wreath of poppies was sent by Middleton from the Royaumont Association.

We must also record with much regret the deaths of Mrs. Robichaud, known to us as Mrs. Hacon, who in her last days was looked after with great devotion by Davidson. The interesting account of Mrs. Hacon's life is on p. 5, and of Kennedy (Mrs. Clements). She was in England for medical advice shortly before her death which took place in New York in October, 1952, soon after her return there. *Vide*, p. 5.

At our 1952 Reunion which was held at the W.V.S. Club in Cadogan Square where we had a most successful luncheon, see p. 6, we were very sorry to hear that both our Chairman Smieton (Lady Sanderson), and our Hon. Secretary Salway (Mrs. McIntosh) could no longer see their way to carry on. After so many years faithful service no one can blame them. Often coming up to London, for they both live in the country, to our meetings, at great inconvenience they spared themselves no trouble. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them both on behalf of us all for their work during the past years for the Royaumont Association. Such tasks as theirs are singularly thankless, and often apt to be taken as a matter of course. We are at the moment without a Chairman, Middleton very kindly agreed to act as

Hon. Secretary, and pro tem we shall elect a Chairman from our Committee for each of our meetings. Smieton we welcome as our new Vice-President, she was unanimously elected at the Annual General Meeting.

On another page we have printed the original minute inaugurating the Emergency Fund as we are anxious that it should be better known among members. Any old Royaumontite, should they at any time know of any member who could be helped in this way, should not hesitate to write to any one of our office bearers, all such communications are treated confidentially.

We are most grateful to Armstrong, Collum, Dow, Jackson, Kennedy (the late Mrs. Clements), Sister Rose Morris and Warner (Mrs. Hodgson), for donations to the Royaumont Fund during the year.

May we end by hoping 1953 will bring us all happy days, and lots of news for the Royaumont News-Letter.

#### Letter from our President

Upalong,  
Lustleigh,  
South Devon.  
January 13, 1953.

My Dear Friends,

Mackay tells me it is time for the annual letter. We have changes this year in our officers: Cicely Hamilton's death has saddened and caused a great feeling of loss to us all. She was such an unusual character, so lovable, so interesting and entertaining, and so erudite, always friendly and so brave. Our Reunions will suffer much from her absence. In the old days at Royaumont, she seemed to me the person who kept us sane, the one who really understood the French and therefore guided us in the right path. Of course her intimate knowledge of their language was a tremendous help to the Unit.

I was lucky enough to have a week's holiday with her during the "14"-18" war, when we went to the Chateaux of the Loire, and also walked a great deal through the woods. Her knowledge of nature was as great as her grasp of history, so she made a perfect companion.

Smieton, after her long and very able time as Secretary, and later Chairman, has accepted the office of Vice-President so that her valuable advice will still be available to the Committee. I am very glad about that. Salway, too, who has been such a help in so many ways for years, could not continue as Secretary, unfortunately. Middleton, I know, will make a good successor, and I am grateful to her. I hope someone will volunteer to be Chairman.

The sorrow which came to Williams and McGregor on the loss of their sons, due to accidents, last year,

was very sad and we all sympathise with them in their trouble.

I was very sorry not to be at the Reunion this year, which I hear was most enjoyable. I had to have an operation on my hip joint for arthritis, in March, and I find it takes a long time to be active again and independent. It is progressing well, I am glad to say, and I hope to be with you next year. Miller very kindly came in June to help to look after me and guided me on my crutches for afternoon walks, while we talked about Royaumont and its war-time inhabitants. She is such a wonderful letter writer that she knows about very many members.

I should like to congratulate Mackay on getting so much information for the last News-Letter. It must mean a great deal of work, and I am sure we all appreciate her labours and thank her for the trouble she takes.

I heard from Dr. Henry from Montreal, who last year so kindly offered to send us a ham for our Reunion meal. Unfortunately I forgot to tell her the date which disappointed her as she was anxious to send us the gift. I have written to apologise and I hope she has forgiven me. Her daughter Ann, a medical student, is coming to England this year with other Canadian girls to see the old country and I hope she will visit Devon.

May 1953 be a happy year for us all.

Yours affectionately,  
RUTH NICHOLSON.

#### Letter to the Editor

Kingsmuir Hall,  
Peebles.  
January 15, 1953.

Dear Mackay,

I'm sorry you had the trouble of writing to me for I had been thinking of you and the News-Letter, and meaning to get down to sending you a report of my visit to Canada last summer. We got back the first week of October and were immediately involved with visitors and then plunged into alterations to this house. The changes we are making don't seem to be very great but from the number of workmen who swarm round the place and the amount of detail that has to be arranged you would think that we are building a large house from the foundations. The work began at the beginning of November and is still going on. Some days quite quickly and the next every one has a problem to be solved and I don't know which to take first. When finished the house will be much more easily worked and we will have a nice little cottage to let furnished. So if you hear of anyone requiring such a thing in this neighbourhood do tell them about it.

But now about Canada. My sister and I spent eleven weeks on our trip and went right across to the west, and if we just didn't see the Pacific, we as near as saw it as we were in Victoria for a night. That city is a gardeners paradise as the flowers are marvellous and grow so easily. Everyone had told us that we must sail up the St. Lawrence as it was so lovely, so we went by sea instead of flying, but the weather was chilly and foggy all the way over and when we got into the St. Lawrence we couldn't see anything for fog! When it did lift we had thunderstorms and rain, and I felt I was back in Scotland. Near Quebec the shores were rather flat with little French-Canadian farms sprinkled around. What struck us most both coming up the river and all the way across Canada were the forests. I knew we'd see lots of trees but had not realised that for miles and miles, up and down hills as far as one could see there was nothing but trees. And going through the country the next thing was the water, rivers of all sizes and colours from the blue of the snows and the chalk white from the glaciers to the ordinary grey brown, and then the lakes—the huge inland seas of the Great Lakes to little pools, and everywhere through the forests stretches of water of every size and colour and shape. The water power in Canada must be immeasurable. Our first stop was a little country house about 12 miles from Ottawa, and just beside a lake where most people spent the day swimming and boating and sunbathing. Ottawa has some very handsome buildings which, of course, show up very well as the Canadians can afford to have large open spaces, and also none of their buildings are old as we count old in Europe, so if more space is wanted the "houses in between" are just pulled down. We went by train to British Columbia as we wanted to see the Rockies and the railway journey was well worth while. The Rockies are well named as their stoney crags rising in fantastic shapes above the forests, and sometimes snow covered, are magnificent. Owing to the shortage of dollars we couldn't stay at Banff though we would have liked to do so, but went on to visit cousins who had a fruit orchard in the Oleanagan. We revelled in peaches and pears and helped to pick the apples. From there we motored to Vancouver by a marvellous new road, the Hope-Princeton Highway. Wonderful new roads are rapidly being constructed throughout the country, great wide four track roads, really needed for those huge high-powered motors which one sees everywhere, usually two outside a minute cottage!

Coming back we took the train to Edmonton so as to see that northern bit of the Rockies and were lucky to get a wonderful view of Mount Robson (according to the guide book "Everything a mountain should be"), and certainly it was grand. From Edmonton we flew to Toronto, another of those new and wonderful cities which are not much more than 100 years old; and had a day to Niagara. We were thrilled by it but I hear there are lots of people like the

Scotsman who said "I see naething to stop it," and are not impressed. After a few more days in Ottawa we flew from Montreal to Prestwick, a calm and uneventful flight and came down right on time.

We did not see the new oil workings but, of course, we heard about them and also all the new minerals which are being discovered. It certainly is a country waiting to be developed, and the Canadians would welcome British settlers who are prepared to work hard (and play hard as one of them said to me), and to adapt themselves to Canadian conditions. There definitely is a future for our young people out there—if they will take the chance. And with air travel it is only a night journey to Montreal.

Good luck with this number of the News-Letter.

Yours,  
RAMSAY.

#### News from Scotland

"Ashfield,"  
34 Caldercuilt Rd.,  
Glasgow, N.W.  
December 16, 1952.

Dear Mackay,

I am forwarding a paragraph for the News-Letter in the hopes that it may be useful.

In July, I attended the first International Congress of Dietetics. It was held in Amsterdam and approximately 600 delegates were present. The premises at the Tropical Institute provided excellent facilities for such a congress. As a medical congress was in progress about the same time, we were fortunate in having at some of the sessions, lectures and discussions by world famous professors and doctors.

During the week the delegates were given an official reception which was held among the Rembrandts in the Rijksmuseum; an outing round the canals and harbours of Amsterdam was given by the committee; and a closing banquet was held at Hilversum.

I was fortunate in being one of 25 delegates who took part in a four-days' post congress tour of Holland. The tour included visits to museums and places of interest. The Palace of Peace fascinated me and we also visited some British war graves and the spot where the R.A.F. bombed the dykes during the late war. Many amusing incidents happened en route but space does not permit of me relating any of them.

I also managed to squeeze in on my own a visit to Volendam and Maarkem, a visit to a large hospital and an outing to the flower market at Aalsmeer.

Food in Holland was excellent and plentiful everywhere, but no adjectives could describe dinner at the Amstel where I stayed while in Amsterdam.

Returning to Scotland I joined my family for a three week's holiday in Mull.

One day we visited Iona. After lunch and a survey of the cathedral, etc., it suddenly occurred to me that Bruce might be in residence somewhere near the village. On inquiring at the post office, I was directed to her house, but unfortunately there was not time for me to retrace my steps before returning to the mainland.

Unfortunately I was not able to be at the Reunion in October and I have not seen Betty Bruce since. She occasionally gives me some news. The weather here is dreadful. Snow yesterday, with frost but heavy rain today. I have been very busy since September with correspondence. Remember me to all my friends in London with best wishes for Xmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,  
McLEOD.

### In Memoriam

#### MISS CICELY HAMILTON

##### ACTRESS AND AUTHORESS

Miss Cicely Hamilton, author, playwright, and journalist, and a noted figure in the women's suffrage movement during the years before 1914, died at her home in London on Saturday (6th December) at the age of 80.

Of versatile taste and accomplishment, Cicely Mary Hammill (she adopted the name of Hamilton when she went on the stage, and retained it afterwards) was born in London in 1872, the child of an Anglo-Scots father, who commanded a Highland regiment, and an Irish mother. She went to school in Malvern, then in Homburg, in Germany, and, the family fortunes having declined seriously, started to earn her living at an early age as a pupil-teacher in the Midlands. From this she passed to the writing of novelettes and serial detective fiction and for a dozen years managed to combine journalism and literary hackwork with a busy career as actress and stage director in touring companies in the provinces (one of her professional names was Elfreda Salisbury). Her most striking performance in London was as Mrs. Knox in *Fanny's First Play*. Her first piece for the theatre was a one-act play, produced in 1906. Two years later she achieved success with an entertaining if slightly rough-edged comedy, *Diana of Dobson's*. Though she had precipitately sold the rights of the play for £100, her reputation from this time onwards enabled her to write what she pleased.

She wrote some 20 plays in all, but, although more than once she came very near to success on the grand scale, conspicuous good fortune in the theatre just passed her by. *A Matter of Money* (1913) made a taking impression, as also did *The Brave and the Fair* (1920), but the play of hers that was best received was *The Old Adam* (1925), a clever, amusing and

pessimistic piece arguing the psychological inevitability of war. Asquith is said to have gone to see the play three times. This pre-occupation with the aggressive instinct and war, together with her strongly feminist bias of mind, gives substance to a great deal of her other writing.

##### ARDENT FEMINIST

She had first proclaimed her feminism in a witty and acutely reasoned book, *Marriage as a Trade* (1909), and up to 1914 she was a familiar figure on Suffragette platforms, eloquent though also nervous and excitable, not least when she was condemning the excesses of militants. During the 1914-18 war she served in a British women's hospital in France. For a short novel, unaffectedly tragic in temper which she produced in 1919, *William—an Englishman*, she was awarded the Femina-Vie-Heureuse prize. In another novel, *Theodore Savage*, which she published in 1922, she envisaged the desolation in England left by a future war waged with all the resources of air bombardment and poison gas. A work of a different and more rewarding kind was the history she wrote, in collaboration with Lillian Baylis, of the Old Vic, a very lively contribution to the story of the English stage.

Miss Hamilton had always been a tireless traveller, equally fond of walking and cycling, and in 1931 she published *Modern Germanies*, the first of a long series of descriptive and travel volumes. Italy, France, Russia, and Austria followed, and then came separate volumes on Ireland, Scotland and England, and only last year a volume on Holland, all of them observant and often unexpectedly informative. They were fair-minded, too, in a way that may have surprised some who knew only one aspect of her ardent and combative temperament. Pale and expressive of face, with intelligent eyes, a witty and frequently acid conversationalist—she was not always a good listener—Miss Hamilton was a genuine individualist, who hated and feared what seemed to her to be the growth of irresponsible democracy. She wrote an engaging volume of informal autobiography, *Life Errant*, in 1935. In 1938 she was awarded a Civil List pension.

#### LATE MRS. E. C. ROBICHAUD

The death occurred in a Glasgow hospital yesterday (August) of Mrs. Edith Catherine Robichaud, Oversteps Cottage, Dornoch. Mrs. Robichaud went to Dornoch 57 years ago as the bride of the late Mr. William Llewellyn Hacon, barrister-at-law, who predeceased her in 1910. An intimate friend of Millicent Duchess of Sutherland, who founded the former County of Sutherland Nursing Association, she was the founder and first president of the Dornoch branch. Also an ardent supporter of the British Red Cross, she was actively associated with the Red Cross auxiliary hospital run by the Duchess in France during the First World War. In the last war, she gave valuable

service to the Red Cross cause in Sutherland. She had been in indifferent health for some time.

Mrs. Robichaud remarried in 1918, and is survived by her husband, who lives in Canada.

#### MRS. E. C. ROBICHAUD

The Art Gallery and Industrial Museum,  
Aberdeen, August 30, 1952

SIR,—In your columns today you paid tribute to the services which the late Mrs. E. C. Robichaud had given to the Red Cross. May I add a note regarding her earlier life in London, when she was very prominent in artistic circles.

Her first husband was the late Mr. Llewellyn Hacon, barrister of law, who was a partner of Charles Ricketts, R.A., in the Vale Press, which took a prominent part in the revival of the art of printing following the work of William Morris at Kelmscott. Four years ago Mrs. Robichaud very kindly presented to the Aberdeen Art Gallery the hanging sign which Charles Shannon painted for the premises of the Vale Press.

At their London house, The Vale, and in their Dieppe flat, Mr. and Mrs. Hacon were surrounded by many of the leading artistic and literary personalities of the period, to whom Mrs. Hacon was familiarly known as "Ryllis." Drawings were made of her by Charles Shannon, R.A., and Sir William Rothenstein and in the Art Gallery we have an oil painting of the

shore at Dornoch by Charles Conder in which she is shown seated on the beach. The painting is inscribed "To 'Ryllis.'" This was painted when Conder was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hacon, the occasion when he wrote in a letter to John Lane, the publisher, "We are having a good time here, and if it weren't for so much rain I think Scotland would be a very nice place indeed. One sees the most wonderful sky effects. But the populations (sic) are essentially golfers and take little interest in anything else."

This latter statement was certainly not true of his hostess, who lived on in Dornoch after the death of her first husband with many happy memories of the artistic friends of her youth, examples of whose work filled her home.—I am, &c.

CHARLES CARTER, Director.

#### KENNEDY (MRS. CLEMENTS)

Kennedy (Mrs. Clements) was one of the earliest members of our Association. She went out to Royaumont as a chauffeur about 1916-17. For a time she lived in London, then she and her family (she had one daughter, who is now married) went to Bermuda, where they finally made their home. Her husband, Mr. Clements, sent a kind note to Middleton saying how touched he was by the many expressions of sympathy he had received expressing regret at his wife's death.

Kennedy was always most generous and kind and we shall greatly miss her.—EDITOR.

### Statement of Accounts

#### Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for Year ending December 31, 1952

Debit		£ s. d.	Credit		£ s. d.
Eastern Press, Ltd., News-Letter	...	19 17 10	Balance in hand, January 1, 1952	...	72 7 11
Stamps	...	8 0	P.O. Interest, 1951	...	1 11 1
Wreath	...	2 2 0	Subscriptions	...	17 13 6
Balance in hand, December 31, 1952	...	73 19 2	Donations	...	4 14 6
		<u>£96 7 0</u>			<u>£96 7 0</u>

ANGELA HILLS, Hon. Treasurer.

#### Hon. Treasurer's Note

The Credit Total of £96 7s. 0d. includes future subscriptions and a donation, paid in advance, amounting to £16 10s. 0d.

The Royaumont Association Emergency Loan Fund has a balance of £303 10s. 3d. to date.

R. MIDDLETON.

### Dinner Accounts

Owing to the absence abroad of Simonsen, the Current Dinner Account is not available.

At the Annual Meeting there was a balance in hand of £6 15s. 4d.—*EDITOR*.

### Changes of Address in 1952

**Armstrong** (Miss Millicent), Woodlawn, Cathcart Street, Goulburn, N.S.W., Australia.

**Berry** (Miss Phyllis), Oakcroft, Pondtail Road, Horsham, Sussex.

**Cranage** (Mrs.) (Costa), Via Giovanni, Dalle, Bande Nere, 6 (bis), Forli, Italy.

**Don** (Miss Gretta), 40 Victoria Road, Broadstone, Dorset.

**Percival** (Miss), Prior's Lodge, Bream, Gos.

**Peters** (Sister Louise) (Mrs. J. H. Davey), P.O. Box 135, Gladys Avenue 1112, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada.

**Richmond** (Mrs. Haydon), Hollambys, Speldhurst, Kent; and 8 Cable House, Lloyd Street, London, W.C.1.

**Smeal** (Miss H. M.), c/o Bank of Scotland, 16 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

**Whitworth** (Mrs. Cadman), The Cottage, Redenhall, Harleston, Norfolk.

#### Rejoined.

**Allan** (Mrs. Percival), Prior's Lodge, Bream, Gos.

**Sinclair** (Miss E. A.), 189 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh 6.

#### Resigned.

**Bunyan.**

**Minchin** (Mrs. Steinmann).

### The London Reunion

The Annual General Meeting and a Luncheon were held by kind arrangement with Morgan, at the W.V.S. Club, Cadogan Square, on October 3, 1952. After an excellent lunch, including cider cup kindly provided for by Morgan and Middleton, we had time for plenty of chat before the meeting began. M. Henri Gouin, who had been invited to attend as a guest of honour, was unfortunately not able to do so and sent his regrets. There were twenty-four members present

and we were especially glad to welcome Dr. Savill who, in the absence of Miss Nicholson, who was not yet fit enough to travel after her recent operation, took the chair. Others present were: Buckley, Butler, Berry, Burrard, Carter, Churchill, Collum, Adrain, Large, Leishman, Howard Smith, Morgan, Middleton, Macfie, Mackay, Simonsen, Salway, Smeal, Stewart, Tozer, Tollit, Smieton and Young.

Messages of regret were sent by: Anderson, Banks, Sister Bedwell, Don, Day, Dr. Escourt Oswald, Miss Hamilton, Dr. Hancock, Jackson, Miller, Miss Martland, Merrylees, Moffat, Paley, Sister Rose Morris, Sinclair, Summerhayes, Dr. Stein, Wilson, Sister Peters, Oliver, Rolt, Warner, Winstanley, Kennedy, Ramsay Smith, who was in Canada. Sister Adams had bought a ticket but did not turn up. Poor Betty Macpherson, who had come all the way from Scotland to be there, lost her voice and was not well enough to come; we all sent her a message of sympathy.

At the General Meeting we had to accept with many regrets the resignations of Smieton, Chairman, and Salway, Hon. Secretary, also Simonsen and Collum, Dinner Secretaries. Smieton was unanimously elected Vice-President.

No Chairman was appointed to take Smieton's place, but Middleton kindly agreed to be our Hon. Secretary, and Morgan, with help from Collum, to act as Dinner Secretary.

We hope very much to have other reunions at Cadogan Square, where the surroundings are charming, and the food excellent; it is, too, quite central, being just off Sloane Square.

### The Emergency Fund

Extract from Minute Book of the Royaumont Association, dated November, 1926:

"The Emergency Fund has now reached the satisfactory total of £104 8s. 6d. It was decided to make it into a Trust Fund, the money to be placed in deposit at Bank."

Later, various efforts were made and the fund gradually increased. It was originally decided that it should not be allowed to drop below £100. The Fund started as a fund for endowing a bed in hospital, but this was closed and the above minute adopted, so that it will be realised that any suggestions about paying the whole Fund over to any scheme or individual is not possible under our Constitution. As Members will see from the accounts, we now have over £300, so it is hoped that in future any member in need of a loan or otherwise to help them in illness or any other emergency will not hesitate to apply, either for themselves or for a friend. We can say with truth, and without betraying any confidence, that various people at different times have benefited by the Fund, and were most grateful for it.—*EDITOR*.

### From Far and Near

**Adrain** (Mrs. Maclagan) was at the Royaumont luncheon, but she had not much news of her old friends, Woodall and Freeman; it would be nice to meet all three of them again.

**Allan** (Mrs. D. K. Percival), we are delighted to hear, has rejoined the Royaumont Association. We hope very much to see her and Percival at our next reunion.

**Mrs. Alison** has our deepest sympathy in the loss of her husband, who died in S. Africa last year. She is coming back to London in March, when her address will be 17 Clareville Grove, S.W.7, where she intends to stay with her daughter until she can find a flat.

**Anderson, A.**, is, we understand, back again in Cornwall, but very busy looking after her relations there. Perhaps we shall see her at the Coronation? We hear she may have to leave her Bude house.

**Little Anderson** (Mrs. Longrigg) is in Spain and sends best wishes.

**Arthur, E.**, we are sorry to say, is not much better. Stewart was at the luncheon. She hopes soon to retire to some remote cottage in Scotland.

**Banks** (Mrs. Simmonds), writing to Carter, says that Cranage (Mrs. V. M. Costa), who now lives in Italy, did not get her copy of last year's News-Letter. Banks hopes to come to our next reunion. Her son is now a fully-qualified doctor.

**Bedwell** (Sister) has now almost recovered from the effects of a fractured left thigh, so she wrote last February, 1952, so we hope to see her again this year.

**Berry, P.**, has now settled at Horsham, where she has a delightful house and garden, with garage and everything complete. She is much better and is most sporting the way she manages to drive her car and get around. I spent a delightful afternoon with her when we sat in the garden and had a real old Royaumont pow-wow.

**Bunyan, E.**, we are sorry to hear has resigned from the Association last August for health reasons, and also because she can never come to the meetings as she has to be with her eldest sister, who is not at all strong.

**Golville** (Mrs. Silvanus) could not attend the last reunion, but hopes to come to the next one.

**Davidson.** We send her much sympathy on the death of Mrs. Robichaud. Writing to Collum she says: "I am missing my old friend very much, she was so much a bit of old Royaumont. She was very

crippled latterly and blind as well. . . . She died in Stobhill Hospital, where she had the best care and attention and lots of people went to see her. . . . She lived next door to me and I was constantly with her. She kept her gay courage to the end. . . ."

**Don, G.**, who is now living in Dorset (see Change of Addresses), writes: "I am always interested in the News-Letter, though I have lost touch with most members except Flo Moffet, who was a neighbour of ours in Scotland, and I usually saw Miller when she was staying with the Moffets. I am now in Dorset looking after an invalid sister and her nonagenarian husband—which makes it impossible for me to attend the meetings and dinners."

**Dr. Henry**, writing to Miss Nicholson, tells her she had very kindly intended to send us a ham for our reunion, but did not hear what we had arranged in time. We are all most grateful for Dr. Henry's generous thought, and regret that her kind message was not received in time for the luncheon. Dr. Henry is hoping to come to England in 1954, so we may perhaps have the chance of seeing her at our reunion.

**Kiel** (Mrs. Neethling) writes from S. Africa: "I look forward to the News-Letter, although after so long the names hardly ever ring a bell in my memory."

**Miss Loudon**, we are glad to hear, keeps fairly well, but is no longer able to come south. She often talks of Royaumont and her old friends; her companion writes to our treasurer every year about her.

**Dr. Martland**, who was not able to come to the luncheon, wrote: "I am very disappointed and shall be thinking of you all as I peddle pathology around the hospitals of Wiltshire. We are very short of staff just now, or I should have managed a day in town."

**Merrylees** went to France last summer. She first of all visited Toulouse and then went on to Chartres.

**Miller** writes: "I have had rather a tragic year so far. In January I got an urgent call from an old friend in Stratford-on-Avon, whose husband died with startling suddenness. I stayed with her till the middle of February, then my Aunt died, the last surviving member of my Grandfather's large family of twelve. This was followed by the death of my brother, the greatest grief of all, and one I have hardly got over. I was six weeks with Ruth—June and July—and I enjoyed that very much. When I arrived she was on crutches, feeling very carefully her way about, but by the time I left she was managing extraordinarily well with one stick. The operation on her hip has been a big success, at least so far, she has no longer any pain, and she walks well. I don't think there is to be much of a limp, if any. I was with my sister-in-law (the widow) until last week, when I returned to my own house where I shall settle down

for a little, I hope. I have been only three consecutive weeks in it since the beginning of the year! That is the reason I am not coming to the luncheon. I just can't be bothered packing up and setting off again, much as I would like to, all the same! If I went to London I should have to go as far as Bournemouth to see my brother there, so I have shut my eyes to all allurements, cancelled all engagements and visits and feel I have done the right thing. I had ten days at the Edinburgh Festival by the way, and I enjoyed that very much. I saw two operas, *Fidelio* and *Die Zauberflöte*, the New York Ballet, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, heard the Gebouw Orchestra under Van Beinum and a Piano Quartet of four stars, Clifford Curzon, Pierre Fournier, William Primrose, Szegeti. It was all most stimulating. I hope you have a good turn-out on the 3rd. Betty is going to it, and perhaps Leishman if she can arrange a meeting with her brothers at the same time. One is at Oxford, the other at Cambridge. I wonder if Henri Gouin has accepted our invitation?"

**Minchin** (Mrs. Steinmann) writes to Carter, resigning from the Association. We send her much sympathy as she suffers terribly from arthritis and her husband is in poor health. "Royaumont is an enchanted memory to me and the friends I made there unforgettable," she wrote. We very much hope that she may be able to rejoin later. Perhaps some of her old friends would write to her. Her address is: 70 Romestrasse, Ober Winter thun Switzerland.

**Rolt** writes to Mackay about her experiences in Spain and in Paris where she found everything very expensive—she adds—"any Royaumontites on the way north or south by road would get a great welcome here, especially if they are 'from over the Border' from my friend who is a militant Scot."

**Sister E. Rose-Morris**, writing to Collum, says: "I have just returned from a very lovely trip to California and Canada to find the invitation for the lunch and Royaumont reunion awaiting me. I regret sincerely I shall not be able to join you this year. Having just been in the South en route for Scotland, I fear I cannot return so soon but shall be with you all that lunch time, and wish you all a very happy reunion."

On my return through Canada I called on Dr. Leila Henry. It was a great tonic to see her again—looking quite a matron with pretty grey hair and cheery manner. My sister and I had dinner and a long chat with her. She has a charming old tall house, built years ago by the monks of the Monastery here: it stands on a hillside—one of a terrace—charming old-world, with walls as thick as Royaumont. I was very disappointed not to see Professor Henry and her son and daughter, they all being away, working and studying. Time was short, as our train left for New York at 10 p.m. and we only arrived at 6 p.m.

Dr. Henry was very proud of John, who was in a hospital appointment. The daughter, Anne, studying hard at University; she hopes next year to come to Britain, and tour and work in the long vacation. Shall hope to see her then. When all the family are discussing the Medical World, and express their opinions, they are really surprised to hear that Mother—making a remark—"Did you really DO THAT, TOO, Mother, in your early years?"—"Yes, of course!": they are dumbfounded! Dr. Henry thinks she is now only "Mother"—to run the household—and a very jolly and charming one, too.

We discussed Royaumont, too. She was disappointed not to have a reply to her telegram-letter to the Dinner, last year. She was anxious to send a ham, to help the commissariat. She hopes to get over to Scotland in the near future. It was good to meet her after all those years—1930—I think I last met her on Princes Street, Edinburgh. . . . Yes, it was a pity our efforts to contact the Californian members failed—they seem to move about so much. Still we did try! California is a very beautiful country, always seeming warm. Plenty of good things—food—if one has the dollars to pay for them. The mountains, desert, flowers, forests—are marvellous. We enjoyed our return journey over the Rockies in Canada, to brave the heat wave in New York—99 to 100 deg., sticky wet, but we saw it well, and these old feet went up the Empire State building. Marvellous view of the City, and rivers. With best wishes for a very happy reunion to all who attend."

**Smeal**, who was at the Royaumont luncheon and made a very good speech for France, is anxious to find "a small convenient flatlet suitable for one person." So if anyone should hear of such a rarity will they write to her, c/o Bank of Scotland, 16 Piccadilly, London, S.W.1.

**Smieton** (Lady Sanderson) writes to Carter that she and her husband are just off to Sierra Leone, where Sir Harold is going to give advice on rice growing.

**Williams** (Lady Smyth), as most readers know, suffered a great loss in August, when her eldest son, Osmond, was drowned in Formosa whilst trying to save his friend. We hope very much to see her in England this year. She writes to Carter: "I met Webster this week, as her husband, a judge, was up for the High Court. We had great talks. She seemed rather ill and very lame from rheumatics, but hopes to get rid of it with injections."

**Miss Winstanley's** sister writes to say that she regrets that owing to illness she cannot come to the luncheon, and sends all good wishes for a happy reunion. We are very sorry to hear Miss Winstanley is ill and send best wishes for her speedy recovery.