Letter No. 75

No. 1 Can. Stat. Hosp.
B. E. F.
July. 27th 1916.

Dear Lucile.

Yesterday his parcels arrived, one from you, & one evidently packed by you, but with Aunt Lina's name on the outside — of course was delighted with both of them, & so glad to get the white wool & nail-file. I had forgotten mentioning the loss of the latter, since when I have been using knuckles, as I could not find a satisfactory one in town.

Once again this week I was disappointed in not being able to get my hair-washed. On arriving in town Tues. p.m. found as usual the hair-dresser asleep in a chair, & after wakening him up, & give the man a chance to yawn several times, he finally came to & informed me in French that he had no hot water & as the gas was off could not curl my hair, but "if I came back in five days" etc. etc. Did you ever know such lack of ingenuity & energy? As if he could have heated water over a stove or charcoal

& Lis iron ver a spirit lamp. Plenty of which are to be had in town. But not de!! From there we went to try & find some chintz for one of the gals, who wanted to cover some linen boxes in the line - being limited as to price had to do a little bargaining - finally got some that would do, but found in measuring the man tried to cheat me by giving 2½ yds short measure. Really you never met such plausible thieves! One has to keep their eye on them every minute. By this time it started to rain. The nearest place for to eat cake is near "out of bounds" for all unladay people, so went to the White Tower restaurant a pretty place where one can sit at the tables in the open, but the room we were served. Cause on ofs of the weather was anything but attractive & the tea abominable. However we wanted something & the eats weren't bad. Just why the other place is out of bounds I don't know. Runnah says it was on ofs of their over-charging - but I imagine it must be something more than that.

Having finished tea, the shower was over, & we got back to our ambulance quite comfortably.

The heat the first week has not been at all bad, & big or little showers seemed to clear the air tremendously. I believe rain at this season is most un-usual. To-day it is only 96° in the shade, but feels much warmer - it is so muggy & damp-ish. However the sky is clear so am afraid there is little chance for a shower to-day. Did I tell you we had enlarged the hospital to 600 beds, instead of 400 as before? Of course it has meant more work for everyone but imagine some re-inforcements will come before long. We need both men & sisters - Yesterday our dentist, & eight men of the unit left for England, all of them I think invalided off the malaria - the majority anyway. Now that everyone is getting properly dosed with quinine I don't think we will have any more trouble. There are 3 more sisters wanting to go on hospital ship, two having had severe attacks of malaria, the other jaundice; the latter

has been off duty some weeks, & strictly cannot get rid of the trouble — of course I'm not surprised considering the climate & conditions, & think she ought to have gone long ago. There is no doubt about it, in this country once really ill it is impossible to recover (that is for a westerner) without a change.

In un-packing my boxes owing to excitement, I got rather unused as brolah came in yours, & what in hers — The cake looks delicious & I'm sure will be, though I must say although mighty good it can't touch your or Aunt Lucy's receipt. No one else can make fruit cake quite so good. The taffey was strictly delicious.

Well dear I'm afraid you are getting very stupid letters these days. The only interesting bits of news & gossip I can think of always seem to be prohibited subjects. Many little things that happened in hospital you would I know enjoy hearing, but just those details are ~~not~~ not allowed by the Censor, such as suicidal cases etc. Of course it would never do, for such tales always become exaggerated & really do a certain amount of harm.

When in town the other day we met across two girls who came over from Canada with us & are now with Dr 5 General. the B.C. unit. We are going to make a special effort some day soon to go over & see their hospital, & incidentally themselves.

We had a letter from Miss Davies the other day & was so sorry to hear that both Effie & Miss Grear had lost their brother, also Mrs Collin both brothers. The latter is returning immediately from Russia, & another Can. Sister taking her place.

I wonder if this will find you still in Montreal – You have not mentioned going through to the Coast, but do hope you won't return without going to Vancouver & Victoria. My love to Artie & Mollie & a whole heap for yourself

As ever
Yours lovingly
Lottie.

P.S.
Am ~~sen~~ sending by same mail a few more post cards to add to our small collection.