

**Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers**

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**Folder label: ESH from Carrie Lane (mother-in-law)**

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Dear Mother same;

I am writing on the couch that takes us to Sweden  
and then we cross over to Kabeche where our dog Little Girl  
is to be buried in the foreign cemetery which is nearly full already.  
Little is well, and is taking it very well indeed. Most of the  
time she seems more concerned over my grief than over her own.  
She stood the labor wonderfully well, the doctors say, and Mrs.  
Lesher specially remarked about her control, and the way in  
which she helped the pains. I have written my mother and Aunt  
Belle about almost everything and they will send their letters to  
you. But right at the end I don't think I said enough - I mean about  
the end of labor. Up till 4 P.M. (the pains began just after  
midnight) everything was satisfactory and for a woman having  
her first child it was making good progress. The head was about  
tight against the perineum. And in just a little while they were  
going to give her chloroform. They wanted her to lie up by leaning down.  
But the head is tight against the perineum - then the important  
thing is for it not to come too fast, and they give the chloroform to  
relieve the pain. But about then the pains decreased in number and  
severity and progress slowed down. and after an hour or so was  
very little, so they gave her the chloroform, and applied the last forceps.  
The child was born at 6.45. Mr. Lesher and the nurse were sterile. He held  
the forceps, she held one leg grasping the sterile sheet. I held the  
other leg, touching the sheet as little as possible, and also the hands  
which bothered at first. Professor managed the chloroform and  
acted as urinal boy. When the child came out the cord was  
around it neck once, but not tight and it was beating with  
some strength. But it beat more strongly. Artificial respiration  
didn't work so hot & cold water in alternation will need (I  
forget which first) followed by more respiration. and Mr.  
Lesher blowing into the lungs thru a sterile cloth, then pressing out  
the air. Also hypodermic of strychnine atropin, twice in the  
arm, once over the heart. I can't tell what order these all came  
in: the cord had to be cut after a few minutes because it  
interfered very seriously with the dipping. At the end when hope was  
about gone, he omitted the sterile cloth, and just blew and squeezed.  
Lesher is too cool to get rattled, and too strong to get tired, and he  
worked hard and fast, and didn't quit till the heart had truly  
stopped beating - some time after. Then the little girl was  
wrapped up and laid aside. and the placenta attached to the  
nurse had been breaking the stars and it was good and firm  
the placenta was already to be expelled and came out in a  
shake as soon as Lesher got sterile again and brought it out.  
He kept sterile at first while working on the baby for he had

Mrs. Hildreth was delivered of a girl baby, Dec. 4th, evening!

The labor was quite normal, the mother standing the ordeal very well. watching the progress and the change in the characteristics of the pains with much interest, laughing and talking between them. The pains became fewer and weaker the last half hour before 6 p.m.!

the head was on the perineum and visible. Forceps were applied, and the child delivered. It was an easy case.

The heart beat during the day, and up to the time of delivery ran at 136. The heart continued to beat for fully thirty minutes after delivery, but no respiration; artificial respiration and drugs were administered, but all in vain; the heart beat ceased between 30 and 40 minutes after delivery.

There seemed to be no apparent cause for the failure of

respiration. Autopsy showed two small extra openings in the septum

oval, but scarcely of sufficient size to be any causative factor

in the failure of respiration. *Conny Ellis*  
The lungs had not taken in any of the amniotic fluid; there was 2 1/2 in and weighed 4 lbs.  
was present in the bronchial tubes a small amount of creamy substance  
specimens of which have been taken for staining.

beautifull baby it was. It certainly was very lifel after we had pressed the baby on Sunday morning and laid her on the bed beside father. She stood now things had gone. I think she has mentioned what I heard I didn't know which was true then: my and she they stopped working on the baby and I didn't know and tell her any good news so as she became more conscious she gradually understood how things had gone. There has not yet been opportunity to examine the specimens. After the autopsy, which was made late in the afternoon of Dec. 4th, I have often talked to wife. Father's well, and standing & very well indeed.

But presently the water headed & he noticed so I got common hot water from the kitchen and off came the (style) gloves the cord was already cut and then there was nothing but wool, wool, while I stood by and watched, and prayed as I never prayed before. Father became partly conscious and knew what was going on, and asked me if that was my baby. I said I didn't know which was true then: my and she they stopped working on the baby and I didn't know and tell her any good news so as she became more conscious she gradually understood how things had gone. I think she has mentioned what I heard I didn't know which was true then: my and she they stopped working on the baby and I didn't know and tell her any good news so as she became more conscious she gradually understood how things had gone. There has not yet been opportunity to examine the specimens. After the autopsy, which was made late in the afternoon of Dec. 4th, I have often talked to wife. Father's well, and standing & very well indeed.

attention to Lottie who by this time was emp awake so that she knew what was going on more or less and lived without telling that it was in vain. I was glad I didn't have to tell her. She took it better than I did, and all the evening she kept saying it's not think about it. <sup>how</sup> how sorry she was for the Fisher's and me. You know the Fisher's lost a baby girl last year, just about 11 months ago. Drowned in the amnietic fluid. So it did make it hard for them to have the same thing gone over again in their house when they were in charge of the case. Mr Fisher has managed everything that was sterile but Mrs Fisher has done all the best.

I must close now. The funeral is at Wakefield tomorrow noon, at the foreign cemetery. We asked Dr Groves to take charge. The Groves & Co. Dr Fisher made a beautiful casket and the baby did look so pretty in it.

On the other side is a report of the case that Dr Fisher wrote. We wanted the autopsy for the same reason that the Fisher's did, to find out why such a perfect child didn't come to life. I don't know whether we shall find out or not. I fear not.

We thought about cabling, and my conscience has troubled me quite a bit over not cabling. But it seemed best to wait for a letter to give some details and not barely the sad news. I hope you'll forgive me for not cabling.

We had it planned that if this baby was a girl we would name her Katharine, and we have decided to do so. We may never have another girl to give that beautiful name to, and while it's too bad that you and your mother can't have a live namesake we love her as much as if she had come to life. and we hope you'll understand.

Your loving son,  
Ellison

Let me repeat Lottie is getting on very well indeed. You don't need to worry about her. I would write more but it's 10 o'clock and we have to have 6.30 breakfast.

Please send this to Northampton and ask them to send it to Miss J M Webber. Summer St Bridgewater Mass. She will be glad to send it to Rockport, and I hope Rockport will return it to you for I know you will want it back. I haven't time today to write long letters to them. When I do write the letters will be different from this and I know they will be glad to send them to you.

Chaoyang, China, Dec. 3, 1915

Mrs Hildreth was delivered of a girl baby, Dec. 4, evening; the labor was quite normal ~~the mother standing~~ the mother standing the ordeal very well, watching the progress and the change in the characteristics of the pains with much interest, laughing and talking between them. The pains became fewer and weaker the last half hour before 6 P.M. The head was on the perineum and visible. Forceps were applied and the child delivered; it was an easy case. The heart beat during the day and up to the time of the delivery ran at 126. The heart continued to beat for fully thirty minutes after delivery but no respiration, artificial respiration and drugs were administered but all in vain; the heart beat ceased between 30 and 45 minutes after delivery.

There seemed to be no apparent cause for the failure of respiration. Autopsy showed two small extra openings in the Septum Ovale but scarcely of sufficient size to be any causative factor in the failure of respiration.

The lungs had not taken in any of the amniotic fluid; there was present in the bronchial tubes a small amount of creamy substance, specimens of which have been taken for staining.

*This was finished about dark Sun P.M. and of course there has not yet (Mon AM) been opportunity to study them at all)*

Ruby  
Hollywood  
N. Thompson

Chaochow, China  
Jan. 16, 1916

My dear Family, I am sorry that I have not been able to write more than the postal since the last letter of two weeks ago. - Already it is 8:30 P.M. Ellison has been home this Sunday m. and has been writing up stories. It has been so pleasant! He tries not to leave me alone more than he can help, because he knows how lonely it would be just at first. He has been so good and kind and thoughtful! I can't imagine any way in which he could have done more; and he forgets himself absolutely in trying to make me happy and keep me from worrying.

By the way in this conference - (which I did not attend very much) they decided for Ellison to continue Mr. Baker's work until his return next December or January - and then probably take the out-station work for this field and Mr. Davis's field at Nying. That will mean that he will have to be away from home a good deal, but I am not going to cross the bridge before I come to them. It will be hard work, but if we can do best service in that way, and see some work accomplished, there will be a great satisfaction in doing that work, however it be.

It is 8:15 and as I'll stop for to - night because I have ~~for made~~ <sup>made</sup> it was last night that I stopped at 9:15. I thought she was just going to start writing again when I fortunately had to let me write while she played the piano. It is now 10:15 and we have up to 11 P.M. but I haven't heard the piano except about five minutes last night.

We came up by the afternoon train and had positively the same time leaving Kachich that we have had starting on any day since we were married - or before. Conference closed Thursday noon, and we packed leisurely in the afternoon, and Friday A.M. sent the goods off by boat for the R.R. station at 11. Had dinner at 12:15 and left the house at 1. We went without haste did some errands and got to the station 30 or 40 minutes before this time. I don't know what sort of time my cookie had had wrangle with the express but evidently they had disagreed for a long time. The station car is still to a corporation and practically

have a monopoly. And in anything unusual such  
as carrying the hundred yards from the river  
bank to the station, they demand most  
exorbitant prices. Finally my coolie succeeded  
in persuading the boatmen to carry, and they  
had the job about half done when we got there.  
Then ensued the only exciting part of the  
trip. We had 5 carriers (and 4 bags of flour  
from America, and it all had to be weighed before  
being loaded on the baggage car. Well first  
I sat Tottie on the table and left all my hand  
baggage with her. Then I persuaded the  
baggage man to weigh what was there, and  
let it be put on the train. Good and  
worked fast at that job, and I carried  
50 lb. ~~the~~ baskets over and put on the  
or 60 train, without stopping to consider  
whether they were heavy or not. Just as I  
was beginning to consider what I should  
do if the last two boxes didn't arrive in  
time, along they came, and the boatmen  
put them on that train. I paid the Xmas  
charge \$1.43 per (for some 6.00 or 7.00  
pounds I think) and saw everything all OK  
just as they began to ring the bell which  
means the train is about ready to start.  
But as the that sounds exciting, it really  
didn't cause any worry. Another interesting  
thing was to be stopped by soldiers as we  
entered the city gate. As Chinese custom  
approaches they consider it important to  
check the possibility of disturbances so  
soldiers are stationed at each city gate and  
if anyone brings in a burden that looks as  
if it might contain guns, the soldiers search  
it. My boxes of canvas looked very suspicious  
but I assured them that I lived on the hill  
across the river, so (if I was telling the truth)  
my burdens would be immediately carried  
out of the city again. But I fear they would  
not so readily have taken the word of a  
Chinese. I the often comment to be a  
foreigner. For instance, when Mr. White  
and I came down from Chao-chung, the  
soldiers were looking for someone, and they

made everybody go thru a narrow gate and be examined. But White and I climbed the fence. They objected a little, but then they were looking for a certain business and obviously neither of us could be it, so they let us go.

I was over at the Presbyterian compound this afternoon. It is quite deserted. Mr and Mrs James are still in Swatow. The young ladies went down today for a wedding, and ~~Edwards~~ was the only one there - a lonely bachelor. He doesn't seem to mind it tho. I was very glad to hear that he is not going to leave us. The Swabine doctor was to go to the front, and Mr Rose go to Swabine to take his place. But on further investigation it appeared that the Swabine doctor wouldn't be needed, so nobody goes. The Mission Physicians certainly are needed here. We are glad, indeed, that there will still be a foreign doctor at the City.

The Conference relieved me of one of my bothersome jobs - that of Auditor. There are three clerical jobs connected with our Conference, jobs that take a lot of time, but no skill, so that a missionary who is new and not yet very busy can do them - and for a few days recently I had all three. Conference Secretary (and I was) Auditor and Statistician. But they wisely elected another man as Auditor, and I'm glad. It is a job of addition and my arithmetic isn't good, and furthermore one is likely to have a object to them, and the man who makes the account is likely to object to the objection. I haven't had any serious trouble about it yet, and I am glad to be rid of the job. It is rather interesting that my predecessor Mr Kemp, used to be Auditor and Statistician, and Baker (of Sifu) was Conf Secretary.

Our Conference this year was peaceful and easy to report. I feel writing to Baker



I would write about 4 or 5 pages, but fear that even what little I have said may not be very interesting. The things that affect us most is that plans for medical work at Shaochowfu are dropped, and our medical work is to be concentrated at Kakehach: that the Methodists are not to come up here to be company for us, for fear it might be too hard work for them to move away when Baker came back. (I have my own ideas on that subject, but don't publish them very freely.) And that probably when Baker comes back he will do the city work at Shaochowfu and I will take over the country churches and also the Ninglung county churches leaving him free to do school and city work.

It might be worth mentioning however that the Mission framed a policy for the next five years that gave a boost to every station we have except Shaochowfu and Chgozang. I am Shaochowfu at Shaochowfu, the project of medical work and half or more of me. I am still to be here, but a great deal more than half of my time will be given to country work. I wish Baker had been here to see if something more couldn't be done for Shaochowfu - what I said didn't carry much weight.

Ellison's poem to Mother -  
Mar 15<sup>th</sup> 19 ?

Mrs Lane had seven kids -  
And she took such wondrous care  
That they grew up fine & big  
And are scattered everywhere.  
No two in a single place -  
And the best one lives with me.  
How she made them all so nice  
Is one great big mystery!  
So we wish to Grandma Lane  
Many happy returns of the day.  
May her life be full of joy  
Till forever & a day.