

(1-364) Circumcision.

LESSONS.

Matins—Genesis xvii. v. 9; Romans ii. v. 17.
 Evensong—Deuteronomy x. v. 13; Colossians ii. v. 3
 to v. 18.

Up at 0440. Bathed and partly dressed for breakfast. After breakfast completed shaving and dressing and then went out for a walk round. Balled in at Club and read latest N. and M. Record. Went to Upper Barraca Gardens and waited for mid-day gun to fire. It is fired electrically from Chart-house in Dockyard. Returned to Hotel and finished letters to M. before lunch. After lunch took letter to M. N. S. O. for post, drew my own and men's pay and then with Smyth the Chief Gunner (Sr.) of Mining depot crossed to Sliema in Ferry and walked round to Valletta via Misida, Pieta and Floriana, arriving at hotel at 4-30 P.M. for tea. Passed B. and his wife in Strada Reale on the way to hotel. After tea went out again, listened to band for a while in the Palace Square and afterwards had a walk round before returning to hotel for dinner. Remained indoors after dinner. Nothing out of the way occurred to remind us it was New Year's Day. P. and O. lines Novarra entered Sliema harbour from England during afternoon. Did not cross to office as Dockyard was shut for the day. Martha du Lac our Prima Donna left Imperial. No Mass at St. Philip's today. Day very muggy and over. warm, a sirocco wind blowing.

(2-363)

up at 0410. Shaved, & bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Crossed to office from Custom House with Oswald and remainder of Experimental Station people, at 0900. Sent my store book to B. at M.N.S.O. by one of the wisemen. Completed 1918 diary and started this one. Completed lists of P.V's and other outstanding work. Passed forenoon reading up latest A.W.O. and C.I.O's. and discussing a proposed new boat routine with Oswald to be put into force as soon as we have them turned over to us from Experimental Station which is to close down soon. Crossed for lunch at 1230. After lunch crossed to Egmont in skiff and drew my hotel bill for December. Returned to office afterwards then went on board. Forward to gain some information re. her P.V's. Returned to office at 3.40 P.M. As there was nothing doing we packed up at 4.0 P.M. and crossed to Calcutta Gate in skiff. Oswald did not put in an appearance during the afternoon. There was a baseball match on at the Maza between ~~cross~~ teams from the Yankee submarine chasers now in harbour. he went to see this after tea I paid the hotel proprietor my last months bill and then shifted into mufti and called on bootmaker to see about Peggy's clogs. I also looked up the man who is making my knights in armour. Neither jobs finished. Returned for dinner after a short walk and afterwards remained in reading J.B. I also invested in a stick of nitrate of silver. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P.M. Day hot and clammy, sirocco wind still blowing. Sonzo sailed for Marseilles 1515.

(3-362)

up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0825. Proceeded to Custom House and caught boat to Ranteen Steps for office at 0850. Oswald did not cross over with us. After reading up signals etc. of previous night I went on board Guichen and got 16 men with whose assistance I had her paravanes placed in their stowages. A pretty strenuous forenoon's work. Got this job finished by 1130, then returned to office and found O. had arrived but had gone to Egmont. Had a talk with B. over the phone and arranged for a muster of stores in consequence. Oswald got back from Egmont at 1215. Packed up and crossed for lunch at 1230. Returned at 1400. Passed afternoon mustering stores with Oswald. Packed up for evening at 1610 and crossed to Custom's House in Pelican. After tea send a letter to M. as a memento of the 20th. anniversary of my joining the R.N. After dinner took letter to M.N.S.O. for post. On way back met B. and had a chat with him. Had a read of Dispatch which I received from M. via the Gorkha which had arrived from Marseilles during the forenoon. A cold, dreary day, a strong N.E. wind blowing and a nasty lumpy sea in the harbour in consequence.

(4-361)

Up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0825. Crossed to office with Oswald from Custom's House. The wind which had been blowing from the N.E. had veered round to N. although it blew strongly during the night it had moderated considerably. The state of the sea in the harbour was also less lumpy. Passed forenoon mustering stores belonging to the Experimental motor boats. Oswald busy making out routines and fixing up the necessary messing for the motor boat's crews and for our wiremen. Packed up and crossed for lunch at 1230. Neither of us crossed over to office after lunch. I remained in and had a nap and a read before tea. After it went to club with Smyth and had an hour's practice at billiards. Remained there until it was time to go to dinner then called at bootmaker to enquire about Peggy's boots, uppers only made. Remained indoors after dinner passing quite a while in the dining room listening to Mr. Evoy relating various experiences of his. Prepared for the morning and retired at 11.30 P.M. The evening was not quite so wild as the morning and the wind had veered round to the South. Day sunny and fine.

(5-360) 2nd after Christmas.

LESSONS.

Matins—Isaiah xlii.; Matthew iv. to v. 23.
 Evensong—Isaiah xliii. or xlv.; Acts iii.

Was up at 0430. Bathed, shaved, partly dressed and had breakfast at 0830. Completed dressing and went to Custom's House to catch skiff for office. On arrival at office found nothing doing so went to Mass at 10.30 A.M. at St. Philips. Exposition of B.S. was on and the altar was very lavishly decorated. Returned to office at 1145 and remained until 1215 when I packed up and crossed to Custom's House in motor boat. Called in at Sultana's on way to hotel to enquire about some things I require. Invested in a pair of light boot trees for 2/6. Returned to Hotel for lunch at 1250 after it had a read and a nap until tea time. After tea Smyth and I had a trip in Ferry to Sliema and walked back to Hotel via the waterside and Floriana. After dinner remained indoors for remainder of night.

(6-359) Epiphany.

LESSONS.

Matins—Isaiah lx; Luke iii. v. 15 to v. 23.
 Evensong—Isaiah xlix. v. 13 to v. 24; John ii. to v. 13.

Up at 4.30 A.M. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0900. Did not go over to office at all during day as Dockyard was shut. Oswald was there for part of day. Went out at 0945 and had a walk as far as Barracca Gardens then went to Club and passed rest of forenoon there, reading N. and M. Record. Had a cog with Professor Heatst and Cuminy-ham about the election results and woman M. F.'s. Returned to Hotel for lunch at 12.50. After lunch started a reply to enclosure in last Despatch; also wrote a note to Peggy and to Kitty in reply to theirs of Dec. 9th. Continued writing after tea. At 6 P.M. went out for a walk round by Floriana and Masamuscetta. Remained in after dinner. Weather was rather gloomy with a damp strong S.E. wind blowing. The town was en fête for the holiday. Plenty of bell banging going on all day, particularly during early morning when they are a bally nuisance.

(7-358)

Up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Went to Custom's House to catch boat for office at 0900. Called at Egmont with Engineer Commander of Adamant en route. Went to experimental station to see about stores I am to take on charge and required by Wade who is experimenting with some device of his. afterwards went to Guichen and saw her P.V. stores were on board and fixed up about steam on the Capstan for tomorrow. Went on board M.L. 164 and arranged for some small stores to be handed over to her from my charge. Returned to office at noon and at 12.30 crossed to hotel for lunch. Returned to office at 11.15 and paid another visit to Experimental Station. Osiris arrived from Marseille. Paid a visit to P.V. store at Ordnance and fixed up about P.V.'s going to Calafrana. Returned to office and put in rest of afternoon on book work. Packed up and crossed to Custom's House at 1600. after tea, read local paper and then went visiting lace shops to compare prices. Invested in a lace handkerchief. Had a short walk before returning for dinner. Remained in afterwards. Retired at 22.45. A fine, dry day but a strong S.E. wind blowing.

(8-357) Cambridge Lent Term begins.

Up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0825. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Received our mail on arrival, it came by Osiris the previous afternoon. Paid a visit to P.V. store and put in some time fixing things up there. Went on board Guichen at 1100 to get her bow chain hauling gear fixed up. Had to be deferred owing to unequal length of chains. Packed up there and returned to office at 1145. Passed time till 1230 making out weekly P.V. list. Crossed for lunch at 1230. Returned at 1430 and put in the afternoon on the typewriter. It began to rain heavily during afternoon and continued wet all the evening and rained heavily during the night. We packed up at 1600 and crossed to Calcutta in Pelican. Went to Oswald's flat with him and had tea there. Had a look round the flat and then returned to Hotel, where I had some more tea. Read all letters again and then went out and investigated some more lace. Purchased $4\frac{1}{2}$ yds. and another handkerchief before returning for dinner. Remained indoors for rest of night and retired at 2245.

(9-356) Fire Insurance expires.

Up at 0715. Shaved, dressed, and had breakfast by 0830. Went to Custom's House at 0845 for boat to office, calling at Egmont en route. After reading and digesting all signals orders etc. went to Experimental Station and viewed some stores I am to take over. At 1000 went on board Guichen and had another trial of P.V. chains. Fixed things up satisfactorily with the constructive people and the rigging people. Had some showers during the forenoon. Returned to office at 1100 and passed rest of forenoon in office. Crossed for lunch at 1215. Did not return to office again after lunch read the Chronicle and afterwards had a walk round. Called into Club and passed an hour there before returning to Hotel for tea. Started reply to M's letter after tea and at 6.30 P.M. went out and called at bootmaker's about Peggy's boots. Found they were completed and only needed polishing up and finishing off. Were to be sent when these finishing touches had been put on. Called at tinsmith's shop and found it locked up. Returned for dinner at 7.20 P.M. and after it resumed letter to M. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P.M. and retired at 11.0 P.M. Afternoon and evening fine but cold.

(10-355)

Up at 0415. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom House for boat to office at 0900. Waded through signals, orders from B. etc. and made out the demands for any stores required. Went to P. V. store at Ordnance and put in some time on stores, fixed up about P. V.'s to be overhauled and arranged for return of P. V.'s to Hope. Also viewed some paravanes returned from Mudros. Returned to office and put in rest of forenoon on store accounts. Crossed for lunch at 1230. Returned to office at 1430 via Calcara Steps. Went on board Liverpool and passed afternoon there viewing her paravanes and arranging for the necessary stores to be sent to her. Had a cup of tea with the T. W. O. before returning to office. Packed up and crossed to Calcara Steps with Oswald and party and returned to Hotel for tea at 1600 via Floriana. At 1745 P. M. crossed to Senglea in Ferry and attended Dockyard school until 7.0 P. M. having a shake up generally in Trig. Mensuration, Mechanics etc. Recrossed to Hotel for dinner and after it completed letter to M. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P. M. and retired soon after 11.0 P. M. A fine, dry day, somewhat cold.

(11-354) Hilary Law Sittings begin.

Up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0825. To Custom's House for motor boat to office at 0900. Had some trouble in starting up, eventually got away. Gave a passage to Japanese Lieut. Commander Sakano to one of Jap. destroyers at Magazine Plot. Passed all forenoon in office attending to work of a routine nature, and copying out fair abstract. Fixed up with Mr. Weale about Guichen's trials for Monday P. M. and with Naval Ordnance about sending Ladpoles to Calafana. Packed up and crossed to Custom's House at 1220. After lunch had a read of Chronicle and then had 40 winks in armchair before tea. After tea went to Marsa Muscetta and crossed to Sliema in Ferry. Walked round to Valletta via Misida, Pieta and Floriana. Invested in some cigarettes and paid for Peggy's boots whilst out, also called on Hismith to see about my "Knights". Returned to Hotel for dinner at 1915. Remained indoors for the rest of the night. Prepared for bed at 10.40 P. M. Touched up one of my razors on stone and got all ready for the morning. Retired at 11.20 P. M. a fine, dry, bracing day, a cold N. W. wind blowing, a beautiful moonlight night with a cloudless sky. S. and O. transport Kaiser-I. Hind arrived from Marseilles and brought a mail, none for me.

(12-353) 1st after Epiphany.

LESSONS.

Matins - Isaiah li.; Matthew vii. v. 7.
 Evensong - Isaiah lii. v. 13 and liii. or liv.; Acts vii.
 v. 35 to viii. v. 5.

Up at 0430. Shaved, bathed and partly dressed before breakfast. Completed dressing after it and at 0930 went to Custom's House to catch boat for Lanteen Steps. Found a mail had arrived by Kaiser-J. Hind, but none for me or for Oswald. Nothing doing so went across to Rope Walk in Petrel and out to St. Philip's for Mass. Returned to office at 1145 and packed up for the day at noon. Crossed to Custom's House in Petrel and had a look in at Club and a walk on to the Upper Barracca before returning to Hotel for lunch. After lunch Smyth and I set out for a walk to St. Paul's Bay via Sliema. We started from Hotel at 2.0 P.M. and crossed to Sliema in Ferry. Started from Sliema at 2.20 P.M. and walked via Nascaro arriving at the Royal Hotel - "some Hotel, I don't think" - at 4.45 P.M. We went the wrong way at the cross roads near the village of St. Paul, and had to make a bee-line for the village by striking across country through cultivated fields and over stone walls. Had tea off a boiled egg, bread, butter, jam and so-called toast. For this we were forced to pay 3/6 or rather Smyth did like a B.F. We set out for Dalletta after a three-quarters of an hour's rest, going back by the same road and arrived at Sliema at 7.20 P.M. Crossed in Ferry and arrived at Hotel at 7.45. Rested indoors, reading afternoon dinner and retired at 10.30 P.M. rather tired. Day was fine and with little wind, bright sunshine. A fine, clear moonlight night.

(13-352)

Up at 0910. Had a good, long undisturbed sleep. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed all forenoon in office copying my Gair Abstract. Paid a visit to P.V. store at 1130 and returned again to office at noon. Crossed to Custom's House at 1230 for lunch and returned to office again at 1415. Went on board Druid and fixed up about giving her back her paravanes. Also arranged to remove them from Beaver. Went on board Guichen afterwards and arranged about her bow chain trials for 1000 tomorrow. Passed rest of afternoon taking over stores from Experimental Station for use of Lieut. Wade R.N.V.R. Packed up and crossed to Custom's House for tea at 4.20 P.M. after reading Chronicle had a walk round for about an hour and returned for dinner. After dinner remained indoors for the rest of night. Feeling very sleepy so prepared for bed at 10.0 P.M. A dull, sunless day, but calm. Started to rain towards evening. The Isonzo arrived from Maddailles during the forenoon but when mail was served out I found I wasn't entitled - rotten -. The Kaiser-J. Hind sailed for Suez at 0800.

(14-351) Oxford Lent Term begins.

Up at 0715. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. A very dirty morning, a N.E. gale blowing straight into harbour. Got wet crossing in Pelican. At 1000 went on board Guichen and had another trial of her P.V. chains. Mr. Weale and staff with divers being present. Got over these O.K. except for a few minor alterations. Had a few slight showers during the forenoon. Returned to office at noon and passed time till 1230 on bookwork. Crossed for lunch then, landing at Calcutta Steps. Returned to Calcutta Steps at 1415 and proceeded in Pelican to P.V. store. Had a talk with Checkfield re. number of P.V.'s he could turn out in a month and attended to a few other things before returning to office. Passed remainder of afternoon in office on bookwork and at 1600 packed up and crossed to Calcutta Steps. After tea had read of Chronicle and then went out for a short walk, called in at Club and had a quick read of N. and M. Record before returning to dinner. Remained indoors afterwards, reading and prepared for bed at 10.0 P.M. Retired at 2230. The day continued dirty and the gale continued to blow strongly throughout the evening.

(15-350)

Up at 0715. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. The sea in the harbour was still nasty and the wind somewhat strong. Got across to office without a wetting and passed some time there dealing with routine work. Had a visit from Ward of the Skirmisher about his paravanes; fixed him up and went on to ordnance depot to get weekly list of paravanes. Returned to office at 1130 and continued bookwork till 1215. Crossed for lunch then, landing at Calcutta Steps as sea was still heavy in harbour. Returned to office at 1430 and passed afternoon at the typewriter, and on bookwork. Packed up at 1600 and crossed to Custom's. Received a letter and Dispatch from M. before crossing. After tea started a letter to M. and wrote a post-card to Peggy for her birthday. Took these to Daviar at 8.30 P.M. for post and afterwards had a walk around by Matzamuscetta and Floriana before returning to Hotel. Had a read before getting ready for bed and fell asleep in armchair whilst reading. Woke up at 10.50 P.M. and prepared for bed, retiring at 11.20 P.M. The afternoon turned out fine and the wind died down to a calm. It was a clear bright moonlight night.

(16-349)

Up at 0415. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Did not shave as face around chin was somewhat tender. To Custom's House at 0900 for boat to office. Waited there until 0915 for Oswald; as he did not turn up I pushed off without him. The Hospital Ship Gookha arrived at 0800 from Marseilles. She brought a mail, but none for me. After attending to routine affairs etc. in office I went to Paravane Store in order to get list of stores and see about a few jobs to be taken in hand. Returned to office at 1115 and passed time till 1220 there. Oswald put in an appearance at 1130. He was with B. during forenoon. Crossed for lunch at 1230, landing at Custom's House. Did not return to office again during afternoon. Read Chronicle after lunch, then went to Club and read N. and M. Record of 6th. Returned for tea at 1630 and at 1800 went out in mufti for a walk via Bavias, Matamussetta, Pieta and Floriana. Remained indoors after dinner reading Dispatch and prepared for bed at 2215. Retired at 2250. A fine, calm evening but chilly. Yankee submarine chasers with their parent ship Leonidas sailed for Syracuse at 0800. Osiris II. arrived from Marseilles at 1230.

(17-348)

Up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast at 0825. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. The morning was quite fine, dry and calm with the sun shining brightly. On arrival at office found a letter from M. waiting for me. It came in Osiris II yesterday and was posted on the 10th. the quickest since I've been out here. Read it in armchair in front of fire and then went to paravane store at N.O.D. for store accounts. Put in about 2 hours there on bookwork before returning to office. afterwards went on board Cameleon and Beaver about their paravanes and returned to office at noon. Crossed for lunch at 1220. Oswald spent forenoon at Massa investigating the other fittings of some merchant fittings. He also returned about noon. We returned to office after lunch from Calcasia Steps at 1420. Passed all afternoon in office on store accounts and other routine work. Packed up at 1600 and crossed to Calcasia. After tea went to Custom's House and crossed to Dockyard School in Pelican. Had a shake up in Mechanics until 1830, when we packed up. Crossed to Custom's House at 1845. gave our pedagogue a passage. Remained in after dinner as evening was very chilly and threatening.

(18-347)

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. The morning was very bleak and wild, with a moderate N.W. wind blowing. It rained heavily and blew strongly during the night. Passed all forenoon in office, wrote a brief letter to M. amongst other things; also put in some time on Fair Abstract. Packed up at 1220 after a quiet forenoon. Oswald had a trip to the Maza in Prosperity, visiting some merchant ships that had arrived. We crossed to Custom's House at 1220 in Commander D's steam boat and were thereby saved a wetting as sea in harbour was nasty. Did not return again to office. After lunch read Chronicle and then made up parcel for post-home. Went to Club at 1530 and ordered a motor boat for 1600 to take me to Egmont in order to post parcel. Returned to Hotel at 1630 for tea afterwards. Went to Club about 1800 and passed time till 1930 there, reading and arranging lights in the reading room. After dinner remained indoors as night became very showery and dirty. Passed time doing a little needlework on shirts etc. before preparing for bed. Retired at 2315.

(19-346) 2nd after Epiphany.

LESSONS.

Matins—Isaiah lv.; Matthew xi.
 Evensong—Isaiah lvii. or lxi.; Acts xi.

Up at 0430. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0900. To Custom's House at 0930 for boat to office. Found nothing doing on arrival so passed time there in an armchair in front of fire reading till noon. It rained all forenoon hence no Mass. Packed up and crossed to Custom's House at 1215 in a downpour. Remained indoors after lunch as it rained off and on all the afternoon. Had a read and a nap until tea time. Had an hour's walk at 1800 going out by Floriana and Pieta, returning by Sans Maison and Via Marsamuscetta. It kept fine whilst I was out. The roads were in a putrid state from traffic. It was very dark but there was no wind, it had died down during afternoon. It rained heavily again soon after I returned and continued showery all night. It also blew strongly during night. Very cold all day: altogether a rotten miserable sort of day, a day when a fire would be a godsend. Retired soon after 2200. Transport Wandilla arrived from Marseilles, going East.

(20-345)

Up at 0710. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed all forenoon in office attending to office work; had a visit from Engineer Captain Broadbent about 1000. He appeared to be deeply interested in the office, its furniture and fittings, also in lecture room and workshop. He pushed off after a long cog. Also had a visit from Ward, Gunner (B.) of Skirmisher. We packed up at 1220 and crossed to Custom's House, for lunch. Returned via Calcasia Steps at 1415. Put in afternoon on book work and packed up for night at 1615. Crossed for tea then landing at Calcasia. After tea went out and got gloves I had made from Chamois leather, then invested in a pair of Phillip's rubbers for boots, took these to boot-maker, Camelleri to be put on my service boots and left my measure for a pair of new black ones for civilian wear. Returned to Hotel for dinner at 1910 and at 2030 went to Club to attend Monthly meeting and raised the question of the cost of lighting for past quarter only £20. We packed up at 2130. I returned to Hotel at 2200. The forenoon was showery but the afternoon and evening kept quite fine.

(21-344)

Up at 0710. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed time until 1000 in office, then went on board Guichen and made arrangements for her harbour paravane trials. Afterwards crossed to No. 1 dock and went on board Shark to see James, late of the Mons, an "old Flotilla" boat. Called on Mr. Weale about noon in connection with Guichen and returned to office at 1215. Crossed for lunch at 1230 and landed at Custom's House. Returned to office from Calcasia at 1415 and passed afternoon at paravane store at N.O.D. Returned to office at 1530 and packed up at 1610. Crossed to Custom's House for tea, then. After tea started a reply to M's letters and resumed writing after dinner. Did not go out at all during the evening. It was a very wet day, raining at intervals from early morning. Cold and dreary, a typical March day. Wandilla and Isonzo sailed for Marseilles during the afternoon. The Honeysuckle arrived from Marseilles, bringing a mail. No letters for either myself or Oswald. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P.M. and retired about 11.0 P.M. Received my new slippers from Farrugia, "some" slippers.

(22-343)

Up at 0410. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed time in office until 1000 and then went on board Guichen in order to prepare her for Paravane trials. Had everything ready by noon. Returned to office then and at 1220 crossed to Custom's House for lunch. Returned at 1430 and proceeded on board Guichen directly after arrival at Lanteen Steps. Got through the trials O.K. and packed up about 1615. Po. was there for them. Crossed to Custom's House at 1620 and after tea crossed to Dockyard School and had a shake up in Mechanics until 1845 when we crossed to Custom's House in Petrol. After dinner I went to Club and had a game of Whist and Tombola until 2330 when I packed up and returned to Hotel. Did not succeed in winning anything. Retired soon after arriving back at Hotel. It rained at frequent intervals during the day and was wild and cold.

(23-342)

Up at 0410. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Crossed to office and at 1000 went on board Guichen about her paravane trials. Saw that everything was fixed up in readiness for afternoon harbour trials. Returned to office at 1100 and passed rest of forenoon in office typing and preparing lists of stores etc. Packed up at 1220 and crossed to Calcare Steps for lunch. Did not return to office again afterwards. Passed the afternoon finishing letters to M. and after tea took it to Davias for post. Afterwards had a walk around by Marhamuscetta and Floriana. Called on bootmaker about my old boots and on an electrical shop and procured some half-watt lamps for our Club. I then went to the Club and fixed these in position before returning to Hotel for dinner. Remained indoors after dinner reading and doing a few odd jobs for self before retiring. Retired early as I was feeling rather drowsy. The day was very dirty, rain falling practically all day, light rain and little wind.

(24-341)

up at 0410. Shaved, washed, dressed and had breakfast by 0815. So Custom's House for boat to office then. After making arrangements in the office for our transport from Guichen to the shore on arrival in harbour after trials. Went on board Guichen at 0850 with Banister and Oswald, and proceeded to sea in her for paravane trials. On arrival outside, we went through the various forms of drill, doing everything in slow time for their benefit. The paravanes behaved successfully throughout the trials which lasted from 1000 till 1430. A moored mine was placed about 1½ miles from harbour entrance and at 1030 we proceeded to cut it. We rammed the mine which was of course empty and had too much buoyancy for the 5 cwt. sinker which was attached to it. The mooring rope was towed by the paravane wire until we got into shallower water, when the sinker dragging along the bottom caused the mooring rope to travel along the paravane towing wire until it reached the cutter blades when it was severed. As this trial was not very successful a second moored mine was dropped but with a heavier sinker. This was successfully cut, the mine jumping out of the water about in line with the mainmast and about 25 yards from the ship's side. We returned to harbour on completion of the steam trial at 1400 and left her for the shore at 1430 after an enjoyable day and a successful one. We had lunch on board at noon quite a jolly party all round. After tea went out for a short walk and purchased J.B. After dinner remained indoors and retired at 2245. It was a fine, dry day and fairly calm at sea with little wind.

(25-340) Conversion of S. Paul.

LESSONS.

Matins—Isaiah xlix. to v. 13.; Galatians i. v. 11.
 Evensong—Jeremiah i. to v. 11.; Acts xxvi. to v. 31.

Up at 0415. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. So Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed forenoon until 1100 in office on clerical work. Went on board Guichen then and had a pow-wow with her paravane officers on the care and maintenance of paravanes. Afterwards called at paravane store and gave necessary orders for future work. Returned to office at noon, calling at Druid en route. Packed up at 1220 and crossed to Custom's House. Did not return to office again after lunch. Had a read and 40 winks until 1630. Went out then and called in at Club. Passed evening there fixing up the new electric lights and making arrangements for their alteration. Returned for dinner at 1920 and passed rest of the night indoors. Prepared for bed at 10-30 P.M. It was a showery day with no sunshine and with a strong S.E. wind blowing. It rained heavily during the night. A very dark night with a good deal of lightening.

(26-339) 3rd after Epiphany.

LESSONS.

Matins—Isaiah lxii.; Matthew xiv. v. 13.
Evensong—Isaiah lxv. or lxvi.; Acts xv. v. 30 to xvi.
 v. 16.

Up at 0430. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0900. To Custom's House for office at 0930. Attended to any business there was on arrival and at 1015 crossed to Senglea for Mass. Returned to office again at 1145 and after a chat with B. on the 'phone packed up and crossed to Custom's House. Found that 4 of party had left at 0900 for home in *Ceanothus* via *Marsaille*. After lunch had a read and forty winks but it was too chilly to be comfortable so didn't sleep long. After tea Smyth and I crossed to *Sliema* in *Ferry* as weather had kept fine and walked to *Misida* along the front then along the *Misida Valley* to *Birchicata* and back by *Stamrun*, *Floriana* and *Strada Reale* to *Hotel* arriving there at 1915. Remained indoors after dinner as it turned out dirty and wild again. *Wandilla* and *Heroic* arrived in *Grand Harbour*

(27-338)

Up at 0410. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Went on board *French Cruiser Guichen* with a drawing of her paravane installation, thence on to *Druid*, *Cameleon* and called at *P.V. store* before returning to office. Passed rest of forenoon in it and at 1220 crossed for lunch. *Dswald* had a very bad cold and after some cog I prevailed on him to go to bed and stay there until he was better. Returned to office at 1420 by my self and passed afternoon there attending to office work until 1600 when we packed up and crossed to *Calcara Steps*. After tea read 2 letters which I received from *M. per Isouzo* which had arrived from *Marsaille* at 0930. then invested in some more lamps for club and went there fitting them till 1930 when I returned to Club for dinner. Remained indoors afterwards. A very cold, wet, wild, miserable day: a proper Match Day home.

(28-337)

Up at 0400. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Customs House for boat to office at 0900. Oswald did not come over. He was still in bed with a chill. Passed forenoon in office attending to correspondence and routine matters. Had a visit from P.V. officer of Manseman and caged with him about alterations to his paravane fittings. Crossed for lunch at 1220 and returned to office from Customs House at 1415. Found B. and his wife there. They were going to P. and O. lines which had arrived from England. Passed all afternoon in office and at 1600 packed up and crossed to Calcutta Steps. Remained indoors all evening as weather was very showery and very cold. The Guichen and Osiris sailed during the afternoon. Petty officer Barnes who had been sent to Egypt in July last returned last evening.

(29-336)

Up at 0415. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Crossed to office at 0900 from Customs House. Oswald put in an appearance looking fit. After attending to routine work went on to P.V. store and put in time there on bookwork. Returned to office at noon and at 1220 crossed to Calcutta Steps for lunch. Returned to Calcutta Steps at 1415. Found B. there with Oswald. He crossed over in order to interview the N.S.O. Passed all afternoon in office on bookwork and correspondence and at 1550 packed up and crossed to Customs House intending to cross to Dockyard for school but weather became too dirty so remained indoors after tea. Replied to M's letters. Concluded this after dinner and took it to Bavaria for post. Invested in some quinine whilst I was out. Prepared for bed at 10-30 P.M. and retired at 11-0 P.M. another filthy, wild, cold day. Heavy showers at intervals all day and during night. Received Dispatch from M. posted on 21st.

(30-335)

up at 0405. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Customs House for boat to office at 0900. Crossed over in a downpour. Went to Torpedo Lecture Room after attending to routine matters in office and from thence on to Forward and Agamemnon. Returned to office at noon. Packed up and crossed to Customs House at 1220. After lunch went to Club and spent all afternoon and evening altering the lighting and repairing defective fittings. Returned to Hotel for tea dinner at 1930. Had no tea. Heard about our increase of pay whilst there, 3/6. "Some" increase that. Did not go out again after dinner. Passed time reading. Prepared for bed at 2230 and retired at 2300. Another wintry day, very cold wild and wet. A little sunshine occasionally. Wandilla sailed for England with a cargo of W.R.N.S. V.A.D. W.A.C.S. and other miscellaneous tanks and ratings.

(31-334)

up at 0415. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Crossed to office at 0900. Weather had improved somewhat, as it was calmer and gave promise of a fine day - vain promise. - Passed early part of forenoon in office and at 1030 went to boathouse to make enquiries about getting out motor boats on slip for overhaul. No luck - too busy. Returned to office at 1130 and passed remainder of forenoon there. Crossed to Calcutta Steps at 1220 for lunch. Returned to office from there at 1420. Passed all afternoon in office on Store Accounts and at 1650 crossed to Customs House for tea. At 1900 crossed to Dockyard school for a shake up until 1900 when I returned to hotel for dinner. Remained indoors afterwards reading up a few chapters of Pentlebury for a refresher. Prepared for bed at 2230 and turned in about 2300. Another cold, cheerless day. Several showers of rain but little wind. It remained fine all evening.

(32-333)

Up at 0420. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Crossed to office from Custom's House at 0900. Spent some time there attending to routine affairs etc. Went on board Forward and Acheron about their paravanes and afterwards went on to Return Store to make enquiries etc. about certain stores. Oswald went to Massa to visit a merchant ship and inspect her otter fittings. I afterwards went on to Egmont and drew pay for the staff boat's crews and my own hotel bill. Returned to office at noon and whacked out pay. Packed up at 1240 and crossed to Custom's House for lunch. At 1430 Smyth and I went to Baviar for our own pay; from thence we proceeded to the Club and I remained there till tea-time reading and discussing various matters with others. After tea Smyth & I crossed to Sliema in Ferry and walked back to Hotel via Misida, Pieta and Floriana. Remained indoors after dinner, darning socks and doing a few other jobs of a like nature. Retired at 2300. A fine, dry forenoon but a rotten afternoon and evening as a Sirocco wind was blowing. No rain.

(33-332) 4th after Epiphany.

Purification of B.V. Mary.

LESSONS.

Matins—Job xxvii. or Exodus xiii. to v. 17;

Matthew xviii. v. 21 to xix v. 3.

Evensong—Job xxviii. or xxix. or Haggai ii. to v. 10;

Acts xx. to v. 17.

Up at 0430. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0900. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0930. Gave Cunningham a passage to Egmont en route. Did not go to Mass as morning was too threatening. Passed all forenoon in office and at noon packed up and crossed to hotel via zig-zag path and Club. Heard Thompson was going home in Heroic via Taranto, sailing at 1400 Monday. Said good bye to him. Went on to hotel for lunch at 1300 and remained indoors reading until tea-time; too cold to have the usual 40 winks. After tea crossed over to Sliema and had a walk back to hotel via Misida, Pieta and Floriana. The weather conditions had improved since the forenoon so it was quite decent out except that the wind was somewhat stronger than one would wish. The roads were quite dry after the strong wind of the forenoon and afternoon. Got back to Hotel at 1910. Remained indoors afterwards reading up Pentlebury and preparing for the morning. Retired at 2300. Monitor Sir Thomas Pickton arrived, also Partridge II.

(34-331)

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. So Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed all forenoon in office attending to routine business, on Store Accounts and fixing up about paravanes. Oswald went to Massa to arrange about transfer of all Otters and stores from Vickers, Massa to N.S.O. Crossed for lunch at 1220 and returned from Calcutta Steps. Went to Egmont at 1445 and returned some of the pay which I had left over from pay-day. Returned to office at 1520 and packed up at 1610. Crossed to Custom's House for tea then. After it went out shopping until tea-time dinner-time. Remained here indoors after dinner reading M's letters and doing a few odd jobs before turning in. Retired at 11-0 P.M.

A fine, dry, warm, day with little wind. Osiris arrived from Marseilles with mail. The Monitor Earl of Peterborough from Brindisi. Heroic sailed for Piraeus and Mudros.

(35-330)

Up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. So Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. After going through correspondence, signals etc. went to Egmont and interviewed Doctor about my fore thumb which had swollen and appeared to be septic. Had a hot fomentation put on and then returned to office. Went on to paravane store and put in time until noon there, on bookwork. Returned to office at noon and crossed for lunch at 1215, landing at Custom's House. Returned to office at 1415, calling at Egmont en route to have fomentation renewed. Passed afternoon in office on routine work and Store Accounts. Packed up at 1615 and crossed to Custom's House for tea. Went over to Egmont again at 5-0 P.M. for a further dressing of thumb and returned to Villetta afterwards. Went to Club for a survey of latest papers en route to Hotel. After dinner remained indoors. Prepared for bed and retired at 2240. Colson's wife arrived per S.S. Asturian from London, 16 days on the voyage here, cost £20. A wet, wild, cold day. Isonzo sailed for Marseilles.

(36-329)

Up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0630. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Went on to Egmont at 0930 for dressing of thumb. Had it lanced for the purpose of freeing the septic matter. Fainted soon afterwards. Came to again lying on a bed and with my thumb bandaged. After a while got up and went out into fresh air where I remained for about 15 minutes before feeling well enough to carry on back to office. Found B. there on arrival and soon afterwards Commodore Baird arrived for an inspection of our place. He didn't stay very long. We pushed off ashore at 1230 as B. had not arrived back at office. At 1400 went on to Egmont and had finger dressed after soaking it in very hot water for 20 minutes. Returned to office afterwards and paid a visit to paravane store for stores list. Returned to office at 1530 and at 1615 packed up and crossed to Custom's House. At 1700 went over to Egmont for another dressing of thumb. Started letter to M. on arrival back and completed it after dinner. Another wet, wild, cold day. Retired about 2300.

(37-328)

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. Crossed to Egmont at 0915 to have thumb dressed. Much puss did not appear to be coming out so the Dr. gave it a good squeeze and forced a little out. The cut made yesterday appeared to be healing up. Had it dressed and returned to office arriving there about 1030. Paid a visit to boat house about motor boats and passed rest of forenoon in office. Crossed for lunch at 1220, landing at Calcutta Steps. Returned to Egmont for another dressing of thumb at 1400. Had 20 minutes soak in hot water, then a dressing. Returned to Custom House at 1515. Petrol broke down so had to arrange for her to be towed back to Canteen steps. Called in at Club for an hour before returning to Hotel for tea. To Egmont for another dressing at 5-07 P.M. Returned to Hotel at 6-08 P.M. Remained indoors afterwards. A very wet, wild, cold, day; a little sunshine.

(38-327)

Up at 0410. Managed to shave, using safety razor, then bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0915. Had thumb probed under quick of nail and a piece of antiseptic gauze pushed into incision, stuck it O.K. It was then fomented and dressed. Returned to office at 1100. Had to walk back as no boat was available. Called on board Forward en route to office and arranged about trials of her P. Y. bow chains. Packed up for lunch at 1220 and crossed to Custom's House. Returned to Egmont for dressing of thumb and from thence on to office. Went on board Forward and arranged for adjustment of endless whip. Returned to office and remained there until 1610 attending to routine work. Oswald did not come over during afternoon. At 1400 went over to Egmont and had thumb dressed.

Returned to Hotel at 1830. Cunningham who also attends Egmont for medical treatment had a fresh gash made in his ribs and was a long time having this attended to. Remained indoors for remainder of evening. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P.M. and retired at 11.0 P.M. a fine, warm forenoon, but it became quite cold towards evening, remained fine.

(39-326) Half-Quarter Day.

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0810. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. Had thumb treated as yesterday, the old piece of gauze being removed and a new piece inserted; swelling had gone down a good deal. Had fomentation put on and then blew on to office. Called on board Parthian and made arrangements for her paravanes. Passed rest of forenoon in office. Packed up at 1230 and crossed to Custom's House for lunch. After lunch went to Club and put in time there reading until 1600 when I returned to hotel for tea. At 1400 crossed over to Egmont for dressing of thumb and returned to Valletta at 1800. Had a walk around viewing the street decorations in honour of the Anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck. Returned to hotel for dinner at 1915 and afterwards remained indoors. Retired at 2300. A fine, dry day, warm during the forenoon but cold later. It rained heavily during night.

(40-325) 5th after Epiphany.

LESSONS.

Matins—Proverbs i.; Matthew xxii. v. 15 to v. 41.
Evensong—Proverbs iii. or viii.; Acts xxiv.

Up at 0430. Shaved, washed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0930. Called at Egmont en route and had thumb dressed. On arrival at office found Oswald there, so after showing Cunningham around and a chat with Oswald we crossed over to Custom's House at 1100. Went on to Club until lunch time and after it paid a visit to St. Paul's Church to see the decorations. afterwards called in at Club and remained reading until 1600. Returned to hotel for tea then and after it crossed to Sliema in Ferry and walked around by front to Misida thence onto Birchicara by Misida Valley and so on to Hamrun, Floriana and so back to hotel for tea dinner arriving there at 1920. Had a struggle coming through Strada San Paulo owing to crowded condition of street. After dinner remained indoors and prepared for bed and the morning. A fine, dry, dull day, very cold.

(41-324)

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930 with Cunningham. Had thumb again par. boiled, a piece of gauze inserted under quick of nail and a hot foment put on. Returned to office after it and went on board Forward for trial of her bow chains. Divers had not turned up. Arranged for the trials at 1130 and returned to office until 1220 when we crossed for lunch, landing at Custom's House. At 1400 crossed to Egmont for dressing of thumb and returned to office when this had been finished. Went on board Forward at 1440 and completed fitting of her bow chains. Returned to office at 1530 and put in time there on routine work until 1610 when we packed up and crossed for tea. At 1700 crossed to Egmont for dressing of thumb and returned again with Cunningham at 1815. Went for a walk around via Marsamuscetta in order to avoid the crowded streets of Valletta and called in at Club en route to hotel. Called at main office for letters whilst waiting for Cunningham to have his side dressed. Received one letter from M. posted on 3rd. Remained indoors after dinner reading and looking up Pentlebury. A fine dry day, still very cold. Isouzo arrived from Marseilles at 1300. Ceanothus sailed at 0400.

(42-323)

up at 0710. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. As thumb was looking healthier a dry dressing was put on after 20 minutes soaking in carbolic lotion. I also had my little finger of same hand soaked and dressed after being soured with iodine. I cut it at tea time previous evening whilst cutting bread, the knife cutting into top of finger to half length of nail - some blood. When dressing was completed I landed Cunningham at Custom's House steps and went on to office from there. Went on to paravane store and put in time there on stores until noon. Returned to office then and at 1220 packed up and crossed for lunch. Crossed to Egmont at 1400 for dressing of hand and returned to office at 1500. Went on board Blenheim at 1515 to interview F.V. offices there, had a cup of tea whilst there. afterwards went on to Agamemnon for a call. Returned to office at 1600 and crossed to Custom's House for tea at 1615. Went out for a walk and called at boot-maker and tin-smith about my orders whilst out. Called in at Club en route to hotel for dinner. After dinner wrote a short letter to M. enclosing a Bradbury. Retired at 2300. A damp, warm day but very wild, a grigale blowing.

(43-322)

up at 0720. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. Had fingers attended to same as yesterday and returned to office at 1030. Passed forenoon there on routine work and on Store Accounts. Went on board T.B. 18 to see Mulcahy before she sailed, he was not on board. Packed up for lunch at 1220 and crossed to Custom's House. After lunch went on to Calcara Steps and at 1415 caught boat for office as hand did not require treatment. Passed time in office typing and attending to routine matters until 1530 when I went on board T.B. 18 to say good-bye to Mulcahy, Gilbert etc. They sailed for Gibraltar at 1550 to pay off. We packed up at 1600 and crossed to Custom's House for tea. At 1650 went on to Custom's House and took Petrol to Dockyard for School. Had a shake up in graphing equations during evening. Packed up at 1840 and crossed to Valletta for dinner. Remained indoors afterwards. A damp, stiroccy day a strong E. wind blowing; a nasty lumpy sea in harbour.

(44-321)

Up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0810. To Custom's House for boat to office Egmont at 0930. Had hand treated as yesterday and returned to office after landing Cunningham at Custom's House. Passed all forenoon in office on store accounts and lists of Patavanes. Crossed for lunch at 1220, landing at Custom's House. After lunch read Chronicle and then went shop visiting looking for a decent cameo. Saw several but none of them really good. Went on to Club afterwards and passed rest of afternoon there reading. Returned to hotel for tea at 1030 and after it started a reply to M's letter which I continued until dinner time. Resumed writing at 9-0 P.M. and finished it soon after 10-0 P.M. Prepared for bed then and retired about 2315. A wild, wet day with a strong E. wind blowing. B. put in an appearance at office at noon and remained cagging until we packed up for lunch. I had a talk with him about my going home and it was mutually arranged I would remain on until end of May or some time in June.

(45-320)

Up at 0720. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0810. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. Had hand dressed and treated to a carbolic lotion bath before being dressed. Landed Cunningham at Custom's House at 1030 and then went on to office where I passed all the forenoon on store accounts. We packed up at 1230 and crossed to Custom's House for lunch. Returned to office at 1130 and put in remainder of afternoon on store accounts. Packed up at 1615 for the day and crossed to Custom's House for tea. After it shifted and went out shopping or rather chasing after cameos, visiting several shops but saw nothing really good. Afterwards called in at Club and spent some time there reading before returning for dinner. Remained in after dinner reading and preparing for the morning. Retired at 2300. A cold, wild, wet day. It rained heavily all the forenoon and blew a gale from the E. It became fine and the wind moderated considerably during the afternoon and continued fine all the evening, but cold. The Gaz, liner, and Heroic arrived from the East. No mails in.

(46-319)

Up at 0715. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. Had hand treated and bandaged as yesterday and after landing Cunningham at Custom's House went on to office. Passed all forenoon there on store accounts and routine work. B. paid us a visit about noon and remained cagging until 1230 when we all packed up and crossed to Custom's House. After lunch the Captain of Paucas, Smyth, Vella and myself with one of the Hotel waiters went on a voyage of exploration to the underworld of Valletta. We went down a great many steps into the bowels of the earth, so it seemed and eventually got to this curious spot. We explored it fully and came out by the A.S.C. Stables near the Valletta end of the Sliema ferry. We then paid a visit to a Maltese joiner's shop in Strada Forni and heard from him all about his troubles such as cost of wood, fittings etc. From there we visited the Malta Metal Works and saw all sorts and conditions of things being made from old tin boxes etc. We went back for tea after this last inspection. After it I went camel chasing but had no luck. I invested in a mosaic brooch and did some further shopping. Called on bootmaker and tinsmith, neither of which had finished their jobs. I called in at Club before going back for dinner and after dinner remained talking to Colson and wife about our experiences. Prepared for bed at 10.30 P.M. and retired soon after 2300. A fine, dry warm day with plenty of sunshine. The Czar lines, sailed for Marseilles.

(47-318) Septuagesima.

LESSONS.

Matins—Genesis i. and ii. to v. 4; Revelation xxi. to v. 9.
 Evensong—Genesis ii. v. 4 or Job xxxviii.; Revelation xxi. v. 9 to xxii. v. 6.

Up at 0715. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to Egmont at 0930. Had fingers dressed with a dry gauze dressing as they were well on the way to recovery. Landed Cunningham at Custom's House at 1015 and then blew on to office. Superb was entering harbour as we crossed to Egmont. Paid a visit to S.S. Castralia re. her damaged otter fittings. Found her boom had snapped off at socket whilst getting otters out soon after leaving Liverpool. Could do nothing for her. She is one of the Anchor Line vessels and was filled with Army ranks and ratings, women and children from Egypt and Mesopotamia. She sailed at 1600 for Liverpool. I passed time in office until noon when I returned to Hotel for lunch, calling at Club en route. After lunch had a read and went on to Opera to see Faust at 1600. It was in Italian, the singing and acting were very good indeed but the acoustic properties of theatre very poor. It was over at 1915. Returned to Hotel for dinner then and after it I went out for a short walk and called in at Club for a while before returning to Hotel for bed. A fine, dry sunny day and very warm.

(48-317)

Up at 0715. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House at 0930 for boat to office Egmont for dressing of hand. Had little fingers only dressed, iodine only on thumb. This was my last visit. Did not get away as there were a number of officers requiring Mac.M.'s attention. Landed Cunningham at Custom's House and then blew on to office where I passed rest of forenoon on routine work. Crossed to Custom's House for lunch at 1215. Returned to office at 1415 from Custom's House. Paid a visit to Stationery Office at 1500 and brought back some necessary Stationery for office. Passed remainder of afternoon on Store Accounts and packed up for the day at 1615 when we crossed to Custom's House. After tea did a little darning and made a few chamois finger stalls. Went out for a walk at 1800 going via Str. Massamucetta, Floriana and back by Marina. Called in at Club at 1915 before going back for dinner. Remained indoors afterwards, reading up Admiralty Manual of Navigation. Fell asleep in chair whilst doing so. Prepared for bed at 2240 and soon afterwards turned in. A fine, dry, warm day, rather windy. Pando Africa arrived, also Ceanothus from Marseilles.

(49-316)

Up at 0710. Bathed, shaved, dressed and had breakfast by 0835. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Went on to paravane store at 1000 and made arrangements for paravanes to be tested to be put on board Drisk and also dealt with other matters requiring attention. Returned to office at 1130 and passed remainder of forenoon on Store Accounts. Crossed for lunch at 1220 and called at Drisk en route. Returned to office at 1430 and went on to paravane store and put in some time there on stores etc. Returned to office at 1530 and at 1600 packed up for the day. Crossed to Custom's House at 1710 and after tea started a reply to enclosures received in papers received from M. which I found waiting for me on arrival at office in forenoon, etc. Ceanothus. Went out and called in at Club at 1900 to keep an appointment. Returned at 1930 for dinner and at 2030 went on to Club again to attend a general meeting during which various matters anent the betterment of the Club and our own Rank were discussed. The meeting concluded at 10 PM. I returned to Club Hotel soon afterwards and retired about 2300. A fine, dry, warm forenoon. It became very wild during afternoon and evening blowing strongly at night, some showers. Transport Hiosk arrived from Salonicka homeward bound.

(50-315)

Up at 0715. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed all forenoon in office on routine work, filling up paravane history sheets etc. Oswald out in Brisk testing paravanes. Crossed for lunch at 1220. Returned at 1415 from Canteen Steps, called alongside Prosperity in Bighi Bay and went on board Manxman en route to office. Brisk returned to harbour at 1430. Passed all afternoon or rather what was left of it in office. Oswald returned to office after a strenuous day at 1530. We packed up at 1600 and crossed to Custom's House for tea. After tea I went to Dockyard School for an hour and a half's shake up. Returned to hotel again at 1900. Called in at main office before returning to Valletta and was lucky enough to get a letter of the 10th. from M. Remained indoors after dinner and finished reply to enclosures received in papers. Prepared for bed at 2315 and retired at 2330. A fine, bright, warm day, the wind was rather strong during the afternoon but it died down towards evening.

(51-314)

Up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Oswald was to have gone out in Brisk but the C.O. thought otherwise and had not arranged to go. He got it in the neck from B. for disobeying orders, i.e. refusing to go out for further trials as arranged. Paid a visit to paravane store at 1000 and arranged for further paravanes for trial to be sent to Brisk. Called on Jenkins and had a look around his salvage plant then went on to No. 6 dock to have a look at Superb. Returned to office at noon and packed up at 1220. Crossed to Custom's House for lunch and went on to Hotel via Winding Path. After lunch read Chronicle and then went on to Club to see latest papers. Remained there reading and discussing various things relating to ourselves, particularly the war bonus we are to receive, particulars of which were announced in the papers of 12th. inst. Went on to hotel for dinner at 1930. Remained indoors reading afterwards. Prepared for bed at 10-30 P.M. Retired at 2310. Did not have my usual long walk as big toe is on sick list. A fine, bright sunny day. Little wind. Hiosk sailed for Southampton with troops and dockyard workmen with their wives and families.

(52-313)

up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Customs House for boat to office at 0900. Oswald out in Brisk for paravane trials. Passed all forenoon in office on Store accounts and routine work. Received Dispatch of 9th from M. on arrival at office. A very quiet morning. Oswald returned from F.V. trials at noon after a very successful day. We crossed for lunch at 1230 and returned again at 1415. We called at Sick Bay, Egmont for medical attention, Oswald to his eye, and myself to my big toe which became poisoned by some means or other. Went on board Blenheim soon after arrival in office and passed a half hour there before returning to office. Packed up at 1600 and crossed to Custon's House for tea. Had a read of Dispatch afterwards and at 1800 went out and called on boot maker and tinsmith about my orders, neither finished. Had a look at some cameos en route to hotel for dinner, saw no good ones. Remained indoors after dinner reading. Prepared for bed at 2240 and retired at 2310. A close, dry, simocory day, damp and hot. There was a great deal of lightening at night. It rained heavily about midnight.

(53-312)

up at 0410. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0810. To Custon's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed all forenoon in office on Store accounts and office routine work. Oswald was away on Elysia seeing about her otter fittings and arranging for their refitting etc. We packed up at 1215 for the day and crossed to Custon's House. Had a nap and a read after lunch and after tea crossed over to Sliema in Ferry and walked around to Hotel via Misidia, Pieta and Floriana. Visited some tailor's shops about having a pair of flannel trousers made. I also visited a few jeweller's shops enquiring about cameos and other ornaments. Returned to hotel for dinner at 1930. Remained indoors afterwards reading and preparing for the morning. Retired at 2300. A fine, dry sunny day; but it became very cold towards evening.

(54-311) Sexagesima.

LESSONS.

Matins—Genesis iii.; Mark i. to v. 21.
 Evensong—Genesis vi. or viii.; Romans vii.

Up at 0430. Bathed and partly dressed and had breakfast by 0840. Shaved and completed dressing by 0920. So to Custom's House for boat to office at 0930. Found nothing doing there on arrival. Went over to Senglea for Mass at 1020 and returned to office at 1145. Packed up and crossed to Custom's House at noon. After lunch started a reply to M's letter of the 19th. After tea went for a walk crossing over to Sliema in Ferry and walked back to Hotel as yesterday. After dinner resumed letter writing and finished at 2230. Prepared for bed then and retired at 2315. A dull, overcast day, some slight showers, warmer than yesterday, a good breeze blowing. Heroic arrived from Marseilles, Partridge from Mudros.

(55-310) S. Matthias.

LESSONS.

Matins—1 Samuel ii. v. 27 to v. 36; Mark i. v. 21.
 Evensong—Isaiah xxii. v. 15; Romans viii. to v. 18.

Up at 0420. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0830. So to Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed forenoon until 1100 in office, then went on to electrical fitting shop in M.L. 166 to interview Mr. Thomas. Found him out so walked back again with Oswald who was visiting the electrical engineers. Packed up and crossed for lunch at 1220. Returned at 1245. Put in all the afternoon on Store accounts and finished my fair book at last. Packed up for the day and crossed to Custom's House at 1610. Oswald left at 1530 in order to go to Egmont to post his letters. After tea I went out for a stroll in mufti and called in at Club before returning to hotel for dinner. I also invested in a tie and J.B. After dinner I remained indoors reading and at 2245 prepared for bed. Leonzo arrived from Marseilles with mails etc. none for me or for Oswald. Gave letters to Cunningham to post. A fine day but cold, with a strong N.S.W. wind.

(56-309)

Up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed forenoon until 1100 in office on Store accounts and bookwork. At 1100 went on board M. I. lying off Egmont and was shown around by her engineer. Some sub. Oswald came with me and was also to have a look around but as he is R.N.V.R. he had to receive permission beforehand. He pushed off to Custom's House then and called for me at 1130. B. was on board Pelican with him. We blew on to E.E.'s workshop where an experiment with a searchlight and an M. L.'s dynamo were being carried out. This stunt was packed up with at noon B. then went on to C.E. to have a cog with him about his experiment. He kept Oswald and myself waiting for an hour before he had finished. We crossed to Custom's House soon after 1300. I did not return to office again during afternoon. Had a read of Chronicle and 40 winks before tea. At 1700 crossed to School for further tuition and returned at 1900. Shifted and had a short walk before having dinner. Remained indoors afterwards reading and preparing for the morning. Retired at 2300. A fine, dry, sunny day.

(57-308)

Up at 0720. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Paid a visit to paravane store at 1000 and put in some time there on Store accounts. Returned to office at 1130. Went on board T.B. 29 to see Mr. Darley, found him not at home. Passed rest of forenoon in office and at 1220 packed up for lunch. Returned to office at 1420 and found Darley waiting there for me. Had a long chat before he pushed off. Did some typing and bookwork before packing up. Crossed over to Custom's House at 1600 for tea and at 1700 returned to dockyard for school until 1900 when I returned to hotel for dinner. Remained indoors afterwards. Not feeling fit to walk about as usual owing to wound on left big toe and sea-cut on toe of right foot. Prepared for bed at 2230 and retired at 2300. Said good-bye with Colson who has been the longest in Imperial and who was sailing for Port Said in sloop Azelea. His wife is remaining behind until she can get a passage to rejoin him. Went for one of my models before dinner in order to show it to him before he sailed. A fine, dry, sunny day, cold at night, a strong wind blowing.

(58-307)

up at 0710. Shaved, bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Had to telephone for a boat as there wasn't one waiting. She arrived at 0920. Went on to Egmont with Wade and whilst there enquired about the parcel I sent in January containing Peggy's boots. It arrived in London on the 19th. inst. Went on to office afterwards and at 1030 went up to Esper. Station and look over all stores from Wade. Had these placed in lecture room for returning. Packed up and crossed for lunch at 1230. Did not return to office afterwards. Had a read and 40 winks before tea. At 1730 went out in mufti and after a walk round called at Club where I spent until dinner time reading N. and M. Record. After dinner remained indoors reading and preparing for bed. Retired at 2310. A fine dry day, not very warm, a cold wind blowing.

(59-306)

up at 0715. Bathed, dressed and had breakfast by 0840. To Custom's House for boat to office at 0900. Passed early part of forenoon in office on store accounts and at 1100 went up to Wade's place in order to get some more stores removed. Packed up and crossed for lunch at 1220. I returned at 1145 from Custom's House and called at return store, then on to electrical fitting shop, trying to beg, borrow or steal a searchlight for experimental work. No luck in either place, so went on to No. 54 store to see what could be done. Saw one there but "nothing doing" until a reference sheet had gone through to C. in C. Returned to office at 1515 and packed up at 1600. Crossed to Custom's House for tea at 1615. Called in to see Ball who had to go to bed with a bad chill, hence no school for us this evening. Called in at Club whilst out and passed the rest of evening there talking and reading. Returned to Hotel for dinner at 1930 and afterwards remained indoors. Prepared for bed at 2240 and retired at 2300. A fine, bright, sunny day, very hot when sheltered from the wind. Cold at night-time.