

1929 Diary of Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett (1854–1932)

Transcribed, annotated and indexed by Kate Targett. December 2012

NOTES

‘There was nothing wrong with my head, but only with my handwriting, which has often caused difficulties.’

Horace Plunkett, *Irish Homestead*, 30 July 1910

Conventions

In order to reflect the manuscript as completely and accurately as possible and to retain its original ‘flavour’, Plunkett’s spelling, punctuation, capitalisation and amendments have been reproduced unless otherwise indicated. The conventions adopted for transcription are outlined below.

1) Common titles (usually with an underscored superscript in the original) have been standardised with full stops: Archbp. (Archbishop), Bp. (Bishop), Capt./Capt’n., Col., Fr. (Father), Gen./Gen’l, Gov./Gov’r (Governor), Hon. (Honourable), Jr., Ld., Mr., Mrs., Mgr. (Monsignor), Dr., Prof./Prof’r., Rev’d.

2) Unclear words for which there is a ‘best guess’ are preceded by a query (e.g. ?battle) in transcription; alternative transcriptions are expressed as ?bond/band.

3) Illegible letters are represented, as nearly as possible, by hyphens (e.g. b----t)

4) Any query (?) that does not *immediately* precede a word appears in the original manuscript unless otherwise indicated.

5) Punctuation (or lack of)

- Commas have been inserted only to reduce ambiguity. ‘Best guess’ additions appear as [,].
- Apostrophes have been inserted in:
 - surnames beginning with O (e.g. O’Hara)
 - negative contractions (e.g. can’t, don’t, won’t, didn’t)
 - possessives, to clarify context (e.g. Adams’ house; Adam’s house). However, Plunkett commonly indicates the plural of surnames ending in ‘s’ by an apostrophe (e.g. Yeats’).
- Initials preceding names reflect the original as nearly as possible (e.g. TP Gill, T.P. Gill, T P Gill, T. P. Gill).
- Plunkett’s symbols for ‘about’, ‘therefore’ and the ‘long (double) s’ have been expanded.

6) Text in parentheses () is Plunkett’s; text in brackets [] is editorial.

7) Capitalisation, particularly of the letter C and common nouns, is inconsistent and has been retained if unambiguous.

8) Words crossed out in the original are usually reproduced in the transcript, as their frequency or content may indicate Plunkett’s thinking at the time.

9) Cd (could), wd (would), wh: (which) and Plunkett’s symbol for ‘about’ and ‘therefore’ have been expanded; the ‘long f’ (J) has been expanded to ‘ss’.

10) Approximate monetary equivalents were derived and adapted from Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, “Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a UK Pound Amount, 1830 to Present”, and Samuel H. Williamson, “Seven Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a U.S. Dollar Amount, 1774 to Present”, www.measuringworth.com, 2011. The index used was the Gross Domestic Product Deflator, a measure of average prices covering a ‘bundle’ of all goods and services produced in an economy (making it broader than just the consumer goods in the Retail Price Index). Figures

rounded to the nearest £ or \$. See website for alternative and more detailed measures of relative worth.

Although great care has been taken to ensure accuracy, some misinterpretations will inevitably have occurred in transcription. For clarification, readers are advised to consult microfilm copies of the diaries available in several libraries.

Correspondence

The diaries are associated with, and cross-referenced to, an alphabetical indexed collection of nearly 4000 items of correspondence donated to the Plunkett Foundation in the years following Sir Horace's death.

- Letters with an identifiable date are noted beside the diary entry for the corresponding day. Letters attributable to only a particular year or month are indicated at the beginning of the relevant section.
- Letters sent by Plunkett appear in Roman type, alphabetically by addressee (e.g. To Balfour, Arthur); letters received by Plunkett appear in italics, alphabetically by sender (e.g. *Fr Balfour, Arthur*).
- Letters between correspondents other than Plunkett appear in parenthesis and are filed with the letters of the first-named correspondent: (*Fr Balfour, Arthur to House, E.M.*).
- If, for some reason, a letter between two correspondents is filed with neither recipient nor sender, the file location is indicated: (*Fr Anderson, R.A. [BAL]*).

For additional holdings, see <http://www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/searches/> (National Register of Archives) and Archives in 'Plunkett, Sir Horace Curzon (1854–1932)', Bull, P., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press) 2006.

Abbreviations

1) Frequently occurring abbreviations and contractions:

Names

Æ	George William Russell	JGB	John George Butcher
AJB	Arthur James Balfour	KW	Karl Walter
EVL	Ernest V. Longworth	Lady B	Lady Elizabeth (Betty) Balfour
F / Fs	Fingall / Fingalls	LI.G.	David Lloyd George
GBS	George Bernard Shaw	RAA	Robert Andrew Anderson
GH	Gerald Heard	SHB	Samuel Henry Butcher
GWB	Gerald William Balfour		

Organisations

AAOS	American Agricultural Organisation Society	IH	<i>Irish Homestead</i>
AOS	Agricultural Organisation Society	IS	<i>Irish Statesman</i>
AOS & SHL	Allotments Organisations Society and Small Holders Ltd.	IIA	Irish Industries Association
BB Co	Berthon Boat Company	IRA	Irish Reconstruction Ass'n./Irish Republican Army (depending on context)
CDB	Congested Districts Board	IUA	Irish Unionist Alliance
CWS	Co-operative Wholesale Society	K St Club/K.S.C.	Kildare Street Club
DATI	Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	NAOS	National Agricultural Organization Society
FO	Foreign Office	NFU	National Farmers Union
H of C	House of Commons	RDS	Royal Dublin Society
HPF	Horace Plunkett Foundation	RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
IAOS	Irish Agricultural Organisation Society	TCD	Trinity College, Dublin
IAWS	Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society	UAOS	Ulster Agricultural Organisation Society
ICAS	Irish Co-operative Agency Society	UI	United Irishwomen
IDL	Irish Dominion League	UP	Union Pacific
		Wyo Dev Co	Wyoming Development
		WO	War Office

General

&c	etcetera (etc.)	Gt	Great
a/c a/cs	account/s	HR	Home Rule
ADC	aide-de-camp	Inst/Inst:/Inst'n	Instruction
agricl / agric'l	agricultural	I.Q.	Irish Question
ag / agric're	agriculture	legisl'n	legislation
Amer'n	American	Ltd.	Limited
ass'n / assoc'n	association	moted	motored
ass't	assistant	MP	Member of Parliament
betw'n	between	Mov't	movement
bd	board	Nat / Nat'l	National
CC (by context)	Catholic curate	Nat's	Nationalists
	Cricket Club	o'c	o'clock
	County Councillor	Parl / Parl't	Parliament
Ch: Sec	Chief Secretary	parl'y	parliamentary
coll / coll:	college	PP	parish priest
co / co.	company or county	Powder R	Powder River
com'n/comm'n	commission	Pres't	President
Conv'n/Conv'tn	Convention	Prot	Protestant
coop/coop:	co-operative	Qn	Question
coop'n	co-operation	RC	Roman Catholic
ct'e/c'tee/c'tte/ com'tee	committee	Rel'n / Rel'ns	Relation/s
DD	Doctor of Divinity	RR	Railroad
dep't	department	R'y	Railway
Do / do	ditto	Sec / Sec'y	Secretary
ed'n / educ'n	education	Soc'y	Society
Eng'd	England	SS	steamship
Ex / Exs	Excellency/ Excellencies (usu. Lord Lieutenant)	TD	Teachtai Delai (representatives in lower house of Dail)
exhib'n	exhibition	Tech/Tech:/Tec'l	technical
gen'l	general		
gov't	government		

N.B. The apostrophe in a contraction usually indicates that in Plunkett's handwriting the word ended with underscored superscript letters (e.g. Parl^x is transcribed as Parl'y).

2) Less frequent or ambiguous contractions are expanded in brackets for clarity and easier reading (e.g. rec[eive]d, originally handwritten "rec^d"). If the same usage occurs in close proximity, the expanded version is generally not repeated.

1929

Events:

Learns to fly at Brooklands

Publications:

- Foreword to *Co-operation and Rural Welfare in India*, B.B. Mukherjee (Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta)
- Letter to first International Congress of Agricultural Economists (Proceedings)
- "Agriculture and Co-operation" (letter), *New Statesman*, 28 Sep, p. 738
- "Agriculture and Co-operation" (letter), *New Statesman*, 12 Oct, p. 10
- "An Agricultural Policy – Empire Cooperation" (letter), *The Times*, 13 Nov, p. 15
- "Lord Fingall", *The Times*, 16 Nov, p. 15; "Funeral of the Earl of Fingall – a correspondent writes", *Irish Times*, 16 Nov, p. 5

Government:

President of the Executive Council: William T. Cosgrave (Cumann na nGaedheal)

Governor-General: James McNeill

British Prime Minister: Stanley Baldwin (Conservative) to 30 May, James Ramsay MacDonald (Labour)

Prime Minister of Northern Ireland: Viscount Craigavon

Approximate monetary equivalents (2010): £1= £51; \$1 = \$11

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
	1 Jan, Tue	<p>Began the year in bed with pleurisy. A visit from Gerald Heard cheered me. Letters worried me as they are piling up and when I get well I shall have big arrears to work off.</p> <p>Pain all gone except at base of right lung.</p> <p>Finished Lytton Strachey's Elizabeth. It almost makes me a Baconian in the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy. Who but Bacon with a looking glass could have created Polonius?</p>
<p>[<i>causa causans</i> – true or initial cause]</p> <p>[£35,000 – approx. £1.8 million in 2010]</p>	2 Jan, Wed	<p>Another revelation by Beare. Today the pleura made so much less noise that he could hear the lung underneath. There was a pneumonia patch which he says is unquestionably the <i>causa causans</i> of all the trouble. He warned me to be very careful and not to leave my bedroom until he could pass me sound.</p> <p>Karl Walter called again. His boy is now sick at their Cottage! He also told me that the staff at 10 Doughty Street was getting restive. Miss Digby is offered £1 more a week than we are able to give her and will not stay unless there is real work to do. Metcalf who is absurdly underpaid feels the same way. If I can get the book out this wretched situation may be saved. Otherwise I am afraid I might as well have thrown the £35,000 into the sea!</p>
	3 Jan, Thu	<p>No one looked in & nothing to record. No temperature but much pain in one spot only.</p>
	4 Jan, Fri	<p>W R Blair of the C.W.S. came to see me and we talked for 2½ hours about the part Co-operation could play for agriculture in the cities. I explained that the whole difficulty was the organisation of the farmers, who all take their lead from the N.F.U. His experience is so wholly non-agricultural that it was difficult. But he is a real co-operator and that is half the battle.</p>
[blank in original]	5 Jan, Sat	<p>Tried to do no work today & hope it will hasten the cure. Strain of any kind seems to retard the cure. The spirit is very willing but _____.</p>

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		Heard that poor Greenham had died. He was a good friend to me at 105 [Mount St]. His widow will I fear be ousted and the excellent staff may also be scattered. Another link snapped.
	6 Jan, Sun	Just after midnight I had a bad lung attack & had to call the nurse twice. The doctor says it is only the chronic trouble aggravated by over 3 weeks of pleurisy. He has cut off <u>all</u> work.
	7 Jan, Mon	Dame Ethel made a kindly call. Did a little, very little, work on the Book. It is abundantly clear that it will be my last effort to serve the rural folk of my day & generation.
	8 Jan, Tue	Mrs. Wynn [<i>sic</i>] Williams with all her own troubles is doing her best to help me with the book. I cannot keep her fed with stuff to type.
	9 Jan, Wed	The Callers were Giles (to report progress which was good – he had spent hours last night at a pub with 20 allotment holders) Metcalf & Miss Digby. I think I succeeded in showing them that the Foundation idea was sound, and that it would come into its own.
	10 Jan, Thu	<p>The Foundation met at Crest House in my bedroom. Hall, D O'Brien & Adams, Gerald, Walter & Norman present. I had to tell the Trustees of my policy, of the book in which I was going to give it to the world and of the utter failure of the Foundation to give effect to it. I advocated dipping into capital to force the recognition of the institution and its work. In brief, I came out for the 3 betters and in England Better Business for the small farmers. The important decisions were that we pay Metcalf £400 p[er] a[nnum] & Miss Digby £1 a week extra which she is offered by the International Co-operative Alliance. That body sees in us a dangerous competitor! Hall agreed that both Metcalf & Miss Digby should get information we need for enabling the proper body to organise the small cultivators.</p> <p>Harry Norman's £300 a year & Walter's £1000 are both a sore trouble. Neither earns his salary – the former because there is no possibility of doing so in present circumstances: the latter because his health is bad and his heart is in official & not voluntary work.</p> <p>Gerald has found a new secretary who will be able to do literary work. He found McKay quite ready to leave.</p>
	11 Jan, Fri	<p>Not nearly as tired as I expected. These nights I am taking two tablets of allonal, the only hypnotic I find has no after effect I can detect. But most people it doesn't help. So my idiosyncrasy is fortunate.</p> <p>In the evening Prewett came to be vetted by Beare in the morning. He is strongly with this angel! He says the public wants to be told the truth about English agriculture and that no other man with possible influence is in a position to tell it. That is, I have no reputation to lose[,] ambitions to defeat, position to endanger.</p>
	12 Jan, Sat	Beare vetted Prewett. His lungs are not bad but he is a nervous wreck and must have a holiday towards which I am contributing £50. Switzerland was "indicated" but he hates mountains & people who resort thereto! So it must be a sea voyage. But he hates Society (with a big S.) so it must be a cargo boat with a few passengers. I wrote Carr Saunders & the man can doubtless be got right.

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		I was allowed down for 2 hours. Pleurisy gone but two patches of pneumonia – the old incurable and the new, I hope, curable – remain.
	13 Jan, Sun	A bad pain from the new pneumonia patch in the early morning – rather disappointing.
	14 Jan, Mon	My pain died down. I got a cheering post. Karl Walter wrote me a letter full of affection & loyalty to my idea, so did Adams. I got too a charming letter from Lawrence Lowell. After an idle day yesterday some new ideas for the book came to me and I see my way to its completion. That would be a fit ending to my life.
	15 Jan, Tue	An unaccountably miserable and useless day. The doctor left me for 10 days in charge of a partner, but the nurse will be of more use.
	16 Jan, Wed	Better. But the strength does not come back & the book is hopeless.
	17 Jan, Thu	Gerald Heard made his weekly call and we got ahead with my secretarial plans, but he could not help me with the book. His mind is elsewhere.
	18 Jan, Fri	Mrs. Wynne-Williams was very sick & sorry for herself & quite unable to give me real help.
	19 Jan, Sat	Burrell, Beare's under-study vetted my lungs & found them only needing great care to get well – excepting of course the chronic trouble. Giles came in the afternoon & Miss M.M.A. Walsh for the weekend.
	20 Jan, Sun	Giles yesterday was too much for me and the work with Miss Walsh was very poor.
	21 Jan, Mon	McKay flies about the country with my motor cars, the nurse will soon have to go and I begin to feel lonely & helpless – doubtful if I shall be able to finish my life work. The more necessary it is to think out my future plans the more impossible it becomes. When, if ever, I get well, that is well enough not to collapse the moment I try to use my health, I must try to make a scheme & stick to it. I have a bewildering number of people as well as causes to serve. It's hard but can't be impossible.
	22 Jan, Tue	Metcalf called and I had a long conference with him. He naturally does not swallow the whole of my doctrine. All I want – or rather can reasonably ask – the Foundation to do is to get at the facts re the small cultivators who I am convinced must be got back to the land. They keep no accounts, they have no bank a/cs & shop credits: the whole story if could get at the traders books. What an <u>if</u> . . . Very sick today. Violent heartburn.
[<i>locum tenens</i> – temporary replacement] [beano – party; good time (UK)]	23 Jan, Wed	Bad pain through the night. Beare's locum tenens came & gave me a farcical bottle! I wanted him yesterday – he has 40 patients to attend to today. McKay went to town for a beano. Tomorrow Prewett will come to get the £50 I am giving him to go on sea voyage – wish I could go with him!
	24 Jan, Thu	At eventide Prewett came & McK returned, Gerald gave me ½ day. The latter was a help in my plight as I cannot think ahead on

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<p>[Betjeman]</p> <p>[<i>nunc dimittis</i> – “Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace . . .”, Luke 2:29-31]</p>		<p>my own.</p> <p>Gerald brought Betchmann [<i>sic</i>], a young Oxonian who will take on McKay’s job. He is extremely intelligent, knows nothing of my work but will step into McKs shoes & work under Gerald. He has just graduated at Magdalen, Oxford, in Modern literature, is working in the City for his father, was offered a job by the Daily Express but doesn’t like it and will take on my job. He will come at end of next week.</p> <p>Another experiment. All I want now is to finish off my life work & then sing my <i>nunc dimittis</i>. Life has nothing more for me – I cannot do good to anyone except by using my experience. This I must try to do.</p>
	25 Jan, Fri	<p>A day of awful depression. I had to Concentrate on Prewett before he left at 9 AM for a health trip he badly needs. I had given him £50 which enabled him to make the trip. I wanted his last word about the book.</p>
	26 Jan, Sat	<p>At last Beare returned and gave me real consideration & advice. I was deplorably low and the apparent breakdown of the digestive system was almost accounted for by the flabby condition of the abdominal muscles. A tonic and some ?bites solid food are to be tried. Rest – absolute rest – seems essential. The lung trouble is there but the pleura are only a bit thickened. His knowledge is great.</p>
	27 Jan, Sun	<p>McKay away all day and depression awful. Read & not a word stuck.</p>
	28 Jan, Mon	<p>McKay was himself sick with heartburn & I ministered to him! Beare came at night and gave me some encouragement. The seat of the abdominal pain was more normal & the lung was nearly well.</p> <p>Depression awful.</p>
	29 Jan, Tue	<p>Today I realised that I was <u>very slowly</u> getting better – so slowly that it was hard to realise that there was any progress. I hope to be more philosophical.</p>
	30 Jan, Wed	<p>Weather turned mild. My weakness lessened and I came down after lunch. Tomorrow I shall get on my clothes.</p>
	31 Jan, Thu	<p>Put on my day clothes for the first time since mid-December!! Gerald came for his weekly call. He lives mostly in town now. McKay took the car for his own business in town and I must only hope that John Betchmann [<i>sic</i>] will help me. I have to be sure that his service to me will subserve his own opening career. There’s the rub.</p>
	1 Feb, Fri	<p>W.R. Blair had another long talk with me. I impressed upon him the necessity of going slow and beginning with the Small Men. I told him all my plans for restarting the A.O.S. as the E[nglish].A.O.S., the Co-op Union & C.W.S. to leave the organisation of farmers to it and to restrict their efforts with farmers to helping them when organised to get into proper relations with the consumers and industrial cooperative societies. He is quick at the up-take, well informed & wholly sympathetic.</p> <p>Betty Balfour called. A.J.B. is at Fisher’s Hill, suffering from</p>

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		difficulty in swallowing.
	2 Feb, Sat	Nothing doing all day. It poured & poured – I was comatose & the nurse and McKay little more alive. At 10 P.M. John Betchmann [<i>sic</i>] came along – the new experiment & possibly the last – that is if <u>he</u> can ‘stick it’!
	3 Feb, Sun	McKay went off in the afternoon and promised to come back to help me after tea. He took the car & went to his military friends. I shall be glad when he leaves tomorrow. He hasn’t done 2 days <u>work</u> all the time he has been with me. He has used – and abused the cars – he is a careless driver, though a clever one. He has made money out of me, seen as little of me as he could decently. I have paid him liberally and done my best to help him to get the new job he is after. Fortunately I shant have to tell of his service to me. He will do well in the Sudan if he gets the job. Betchmann [<i>sic</i>] is very clever and I think a fine character. Beare called & advised me to go away for a change. I shall try Birchington. Risky but bracing.
	4 Feb, Mon	The Nurse and McKay left. I found the latter had driven my cars 2000 miles while I was sick.
	5 Feb, Tue	Got as far as Mount St. There moped. Had a look in at the Foundation, so to bed dead tired.
	6 Feb, Wed	And on, after a talk with Gerald, to Birchington by train. Betzmann [<i>sic</i>] & Moore went by road & broke down. Very cold on arrival & but for the intelligent use of the telephone I might have got a bad chill, for my warm coat was in my warm car. I think I got off all right. The car came later.
	7 Feb, Thu	Abominable weather – as cold as charity. A walk to the nearest tobacco bungalow & back was my only outing – & it was dangerous enough.
	8 Feb, Fri	The same.
	9 Feb, Sat	Had a bad attack of pain (with no temperature) in right lung. A typist had been engaged & I had to work.
["Countess of Huntingdon’s Connexion” – mid-18th century Calvinist group within Methodism]	10 Feb, Sun	Tried to break in J.B. for my work. I think he will like it – only question is – can he stick to any definite work. His mind is most unsettled! This evening he went to Margate and worshipped at some strange sect – Countess of Huntingdons Connection [<i>sic</i>], I think.
	11 Feb, Mon	Tried again to work, but no good.
	12 Feb, Tue	Still Arctic. The shivering typist came from Canterbury, but my brain would not work. Determined to leave Birchington tomorrow at all costs.
	13 Feb, Wed	To town by train. Talk with Gerald – but very short. Looked in at H.P.F. & to Newcastle by night!
	14 Feb, Thu	Not quite as cold in Newcastle, where it snowed a bit. But the night was hard on me. The sleeper was 40° Fahr at the start & very slowly warmed. The water in the basin (both hot & cold!) was frozen up. Got through Bowes business. After had long talk with Cooper over Pelton. At 10.45 P.M. found the sleeper 60° Fahr & went to

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		bed in comfort.
	15 Feb, Fri	Back to town, where I called on the chief organiser of the British Legion to find out whether they are likely to help in organising ex-service small cultivators. Then Betjman [<i>sic</i>] & I came down to Crest House in bitterly cold weather.
	16 Feb, Sat	With my new Secretary. Told him he must work for me 4 hours a day & I think he will. Took a little drive in the car to buy stamps etc! Felt more myself.
	17 Feb, Sun	Temperature last night. Had to keep the house, barring fetching Curtain (who, dear old man is week-ending in the absence of my man) and the R.C. housemaid from their devotions. I had also to fetch John Betjmann [<i>sic</i>] from his Meeting House of the Society of Friends at Esher. Four Quakers and he communed (mostly in silence). I have at any rate a good, honest, extremely clever secretary. His working in will be difficult.
	18 Feb, Mon	Had to spend today & tomorrow in the country. Working in J.B. is the thing that matters most. The whole trouble is that he cannot concentrate on anything. He reads a bit of agric'l cooperative stuff & then writes a poem or a story which comes much easier than my dull drab toil.
	19 Feb, Tue	Got Mrs. Wynne Williams & did a good bit of Chap[ter]s I & V.
[Buckmaster & Moore – stock and share brokers]	20 Feb, Wed	To town. Alas no work. Some talk with Gerald, a call on Buckmaster & Moore re business, a Pelton SS Co meeting and a call on Lord O'Hagan who is Chairman of the Central Chamber of Agriculture after tea. He is to preside over next week's Conference on Agriculture & I wanted to pick his brains as I may have to speak.
	21 Feb, Thu	A most helpful couple of hours with Adams. Fr. Henry Browne S.J. called to get me to redeem my promise to contribute to his work on the Jesuits' educational work in Newman's extinct university (Stephens Green) a note or Appendix on Father Tom Finlay's "extra collegiate work".
	22 Feb, Fri	Back to Crest House where Giles came. We talked for 3 or 4 hours on the work in its dozen or so unregarded aspects. At night I was worn out & had a temperature 102°.
	23 Feb, Sat	Beare came and put me on Creosote – rather as a precaution against infection. I had had great pain in my right lung & he kept me in bed. Tomorrow I must get up & work for the speech at the Mansion House on Monday.
	24 Feb, Sun	After a day in bed my temperature was normal, but Brooks thought he had, & Beare said Bletzmann [<i>sic</i>] had, flu. Three Fletchers were due to lunch & Lennox Robinson to call after about Irish Statesman. Beare kept me in bed & I put off the first three. Lennox got my whole mind about the I.S. & was commissioned to give it to Æ et al. And tomorrow I have to save an Agricultural Conference at the Mansion House, London from futility.
	25 Feb, Mon	The Conference at Mansion House was the worst I ever attended. The N.F.U. would have done it better. In evening had a conference at my flat with Giles and G.W.

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		Walworth, the agricultural Organiser of the Co-operative Union. The latter was very satisfactory & will work with us.
	26 Feb, Tue	Brief attendance at Conference & returned to Crest House to look after my sick Secretary. He is over the worst of a not bad "flu".
	27 Feb, Wed	To town again. Bitter cold East wind made it impossible to go out. Fletcher called & talked dully for 1¼ hour. Good worthy soul, but oh – so boring. He did fine work for Irish education & so served me well. Too unwell to get work done. Called at Foundation & had a long talk with a Quaker who is working in the South Wales coal fields.
	28 Feb, Thu	Up at 5 AM to write out a speech for the Annual General Meeting of John Bowes & Partners. I had a temperature, after a bad night, of 100.5°. It was not merely sordid business. Some 15,000 persons are concerned for the proper working of the great productive undertaking. I am afraid the shareholders had a small place in my mind. After Conference with Blair, G.H. present, returned to Crest House.
	1 Mar, Fri	At Crest House. J.B. with flu & depressed. The Doctor bade us both adieu & I hope we may be left to nature. I did a little work.
	2 Mar, Sat	The Dentist! Knocked me about a bit. J.B. more depressed than ever & made me doubt his being able to stand the strain of my work which he has not yet faced. I am helpless.
	3 Mar, Sun	The doctor had to be called in for JB who had diagnosed Jaundice (rightly as it was found) and suspected cancer on the liver, the result of searching the Encyclopaedia on jaundice!! He won't be fit, Beare says, for a fortnight for any serious work. Went over in the afternoon to Fishers Hill, where Arthur Balfour and the chess champion of Eton – aet 16 who was Gerald's Godson. (I beat him 2 games & gave him some useful advice). Arthur most friendly & of course interesting – could only stay a short time.
	4 Mar, Mon	To town in hopes of seeing Gerald but didn't. A little work done but very sickly. Called on Tom Ponsonby. In bed with horrid headache. I am anxious about him.
	5 Mar, Tue	At 5 AM I had a temperature of 100.6 at 10 AM I was 98.6 A.M. [sic] at 11.30 John Bowle, a friend of Betjmann's [sic] came as his locum tenens. Brought him to Crest House. He is no cleverer than the other J.B. but 2 years older and knows much more of life. Found the invalid much better. But he won't be able to work for another ten days.
	6 Mar, Wed	Well(?) again & tried to work. The two J.B.'s were a strange contrast – both as clever as can be, the dilettante religious Dutch-Englishman and the Anglo-Saxon son of a corn merchant – gloomy, but now facing facts – between them have all I want. But

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		their careers, not my end, must be my chief concern. I wrote to the Master of Balliol to ask about the latter.
	7 Mar, Thu	In town for some hours to show the Foundation to Bowle.
	8 Mar, Fri	Bowle got to work. I hope he will stay with me or combine helping the Book to birth with his journalistic beginning with C.P. Scott. For he is the right stuff. Heard from the Master of Balliol. Bowle was like Gibbon (minus the bad doings) at Oxford. Might have done better – would suit my work.
	9 Mar, Sat	The weather suddenly became summer like. I don't remember such a change. We went to Wisley but the ice was in the Rock Garden pools & nothing whatever was out.
	10 Mar, Sun	Another glorious day – did nothing, though, foolishly, I tried.
[Glos' – Gloucestershire]	11 Mar, Mon	Still very slack. Betzmann [<i>sic</i>] went to friends in Glos' for a week. J Bowle & I talked possible book plans, should he not be absorbed by the Manchester Guardian.
	12 Mar, Tue	To town for today & tomorrow while Bowle goes to Manchester, probably to get the job with the M[anchester].G[uardian]. James Byrne had turned up & I lunched with him & Phyllis at Frank Taylor's <u>palatial</u> house in Hyde P[ar]k Gdns. Jim kind as ever, but more gloomy about his countrymen. Their failure to seize the chance of a Roman Catholic President is unforgiveable [<i>sic</i>]. I think he really believes in the Church's claims.
	13 Mar, Wed	Another talk with Jim Byrne & back with Bowle with Bowle [<i>sic</i>].
	14 Mar, Thu	Worked at Book all day.
	15 Mar, Fri	To town to meet people at Foundation & have my weekly talk with G.H.
	16 Mar, Sat	More dentist & incapable of work. John Bowle agreed to stay with me for 3 months. That will help me to get out the book & finish my life work. Then ?
To Prewett, F.J.	17 Mar, Sun	Ernest Betjmann [<i>sic</i>], father of J.B. came to confer with me about his son who ought never to have taken on my job, in order to hold it while sick, got John Bowle (who can do it) and must now leave. The father is 10 years my junior. He is a manufacturer of the luxuries which adorn the Bond Street shop windows, lives a double life, finds his staff no longer willing to carry on without an understanding as to their future interest (which E.B. wants J.B. to inherit but J.B. can't & won't) and practically asked me to help him in his perplexities. A boulder of the worst kind! I must try to help the boy to get away from the father – But how?
	18 Mar, Mon	To town for Old Etonian dinner at Mansion House, the Lord Mayor, Speaker of H of C, Ld Chancellor & many other leading men in English life being of the School. Short & few speeches, but no more public dinners for me. The strain is too great even when mere attendance (with decorations!) is all that is required. Did a little work.
	19 Mar, Tue	Bowle brought the Hannays up for their second second day in

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		town & took me back. My guests returned for supper & I fell asleep soon after, dead tired from the banquet.
	20 Mar, Wed	The Hannays left at noon by my car, Mrs. Hannay having given Bowle excellent advice about my garden.
	21 Mar, Thu	A quiet day with Bowle. His three months with me will produce the book if my health stands.
	22 Mar, Fri	Prewett arrived about 11 and stayed till 5. Unfortunately I began the day with a temperature of 100.6 & came down 3 degrees! Still with the help of Bowle I got well into P's mind on the whole question of what can be done for English Agriculture and if only I had the health I think I could write a real contribution to the subject. Daisy arrived at Ada Watson's & phoned me to the effect that she had to return Tuesday night and had her time full till then. On Tuesday I shall see her. It clearly would be no kindness to ask her to stay part of the time at Crest House.
	23 Mar, Sat	Another day of deep depression. No work done consciously. Perhaps, after a real rest, I should find that the brain has been working furiously & wearing itself out. But the ink remains in the pen!
	24 Mar, Sun	Daisy & Jim Byrne came to lunch & we had a delightful talk, notwithstanding her anxieties. I had taken 1½ tablets allonal which gave me a better night.
	25 Mar, Mon	Again depressed & got no work done.
	26 Mar, Tue	Went to town to see Gerald & Daisy, the former not turning up. The weather was glorious & my health – but alas not my spirits – improved. The Depression is awful.
	27 Mar, Wed	Gerald turned up & I had a long talk about looking for a secretary to succeed Bowle. Saw Daisy, Oliver & Jessica at D's Club & then returned for a quiet week-end at Crest House. Bowle is getting into his job & is doing his best for me as I shall for him.
	28 Mar, Thu	Awful depression. Bowle too was more gloomy than normal and he is never cheerful.
	29 Mar, Fri	Came to conclusion that nothing but a terrific effort will get out the book and that I must have far more help than I can fairly expect from Bowle on the terms of his appointment. Told him I would give him out of "the privy purse" £5 a week for real hard grind on his part as I can only concentrate for 2 or 3 hours a day in my present state. The maximum payment to be £50. In ten weeks he ought to enable me to get the book published.
	30 Mar, Sat	We are in the middle of what Bowle calls four Sundays. The weather is glorious again today and the buzz of motor cycles on the ground with and planes in the air destroys the quiet. My physical and mental depression lifted a little.
	31 Mar, Sun	Did quite a bit of the Book & Bowle will soon be able to give real help. Badly shall I need it.
	1 Apr, Mon	[No entry]

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	2 Apr, Tue	[No entry]
	3 Apr, Wed	To town to see Gerald & the Foundation.
	4 Apr, Thu	[No entry]
	5 Apr, Fri	[No entry]
	6 Apr, Sat	Got on with the book.
	7 Apr, Sun	Another day of Depression. It was lightened by the strange appearance of "Professor" and Mrs. Wibberley. He recalled the early days of the Department when he was one of my agricultural inspectors. He managed to hold on under T.W. Russell, to work in Ireland in a multiplicity of jobs (including the experiments on "Catch crops" & "continuous cropping" on Kilteragh farm and the lectureship at University College Cork (hence title "Professor") and at the same time to survive a big abdominal operation, "the troubles" in Ireland when he was equally objectionable to the Black & Tans and the extreme Sinn Feiners, and to raise & manage to house & feed six children his wife bore him. He has since written to the Daily Mail, addressed the British Association, "managed" many big English farms and has now a job with the big seedsmen Carter. He is a Lancashire R.C. & his wife speaks with an accent Bowle called "Foreign". I think it is mixed Lancashire & Irish.
[queries in original]	8 Apr, Mon	Adams came at night and persuaded me to hold over my book till after the General Election. This will mean that I must try hard to get a permanent (? years or months??) secretary for when Bowle leaves. I have no truer friend than Adams and am proud to have been of some use to him in his life work.
	9 Apr, Tue	To town to talk to Gerald about a permanent secretary. Never have I realised so clearly that it is not good for man to live or be alone. I must have a companion or come to town & be done for in a service flat. Gerald thinks the man with the necessary qualifications may exist but can't be found. I admit it will be sheer luck if I do find him. A man who has no life of his own to live would be in all probability useless to me. If he had his own life to live he could not fulfil my conditions. The only chance is to find some one whose life has been accidentally interrupted as mine has by senescence. A widower, or one who has prematurely lost his job through ill health would be my best "strike".
[AOS & SHL – Allotment Holders Society & Small Holders Limited]	10 Apr, Wed	Motored with Bowle to Kilverstone Hall, Thetford, Norfolk where I was to attend a ridiculous meeting (in Thetford) intended to boost a dying village in midst of the "breckland", a part of Norfolk given over by God, Government & people to trees & rabbits. (En route lunched with my old friend Alston who is still managing Ld. Derby's Newmarket business.) The meeting was a wash out and an awful strain on me. Dennett of the A.O.S. & S.H.L. was there but was unhelpful. Ld. F[isher] presided – rather under protest – but in a good sporting spirit. He may be interested in the rural policy Norfolk ought to lead in its smallholding districts not far away but too far for attendance of small holders. Before leaving tomorrow morning I shall try to get him to understand. He is son of "Jacky" Fisher & is the heir of a fortune left to him by a millionaire. He is adding to & modernising a delightful old house & should be a County Magnate of great influence if he can

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
		be interested.
	11 Apr, Thu	<p>Up early after a poor night. Ld. Fisher walked me round the house, buildings & grounds before breakfast and I think it did me good. He & his wife are both rich and are determined to turn their place into a pleasance for themselves, family & friends. It is not, I suppose, altogether wise to spend so lavishly on mere pleasure but ——— I shant criticise.</p> <p>Back to town via Cambridge where I went pretty fully into Henry Morris' scheme for building up a new rural civilisation in Cambridgeshire. He is the Education County officer – I don't know his title but he is the chief of many a large staff of County officers and has elaborated a scheme of coordination over the whole County. If I can finish the book, I shall "feature" it.</p>
	12 Apr, Fri	[No entry]
[<i>l'homme necessaire</i> – the right man]	13 Apr, Sat	The dentist – not a good beginning to a day of deep depression. I simply must find " <i>l'homme necessaire</i> " to share my burden.
	14 Apr, Sun	Wrote several necessary letters but got no work done.
	15 Apr, Mon	<p>Found that Bowle cannot help me much with the book. His ignorance of public affairs in all branches and of agriculture, except so far as he has seen it through his father's business, is a big handicap. He also is thinking (very naturally) all the time of his future rather than of my present. Even the housekeeping & the garden he has to consult me about in every detail. I must give up my present way of life unless I can find a man or woman who wants a home & salary in exchange for giving me real help. I don't want only to live but to live & work, using my experience for the something – however little – that it is worth.</p> <p>All my life I have lived in a sense for others – at any rate I have done so since personal ambitions fled many years ago. To re start life (as a housekeeper primarily) is not justifiable or to my taste. It's a problem I must face when the immediate pressure relaxes.</p>
	16 Apr, Tue	To town for a talk with Gerald and Metcalf. The former got me to lunch him & Raymond Mortimer at the Reform where he remained.
	17 Apr, Wed	Went to see Betty B, Baffy, Gerald & Arthur Balfour. The last's case is sad. He is "hard up" & has to sell his town house. He cannot live in Whittinghame (except "in curl-papers"). His sister is ill and difcile & yet he has no other caretaker of his home & self. He is intellectually still at his best & physically terribly handicapped by a swallowing difficulty. How I feel for him. I had a tete a tete with Betty & we agreed that taking care of him in Fisher's Hill was the obvious – apparently the only – way to end his fine life. All very pathetic – but not more so than the case of 99% of those who outlive their companions. I feel deeply for him.
	18 Apr, Thu	Depression & no help.
	19 Apr, Fri	The same.
	20 Apr, Sat	[No entry]
	21 Apr, Sun	<p><u>Summer time</u></p> <p>O'Donovan's son (15) & daughter, about 17?, came for lunch & afternoon. I did not gather what he came about – I think to put in</p>

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
		<p>the time & give the young people an outing.</p> <p>I saw Beare about my condition. He attributes it to the poisoning of my blood by the winter illness & the worry of having no help in my work.</p>
[Wife of HP's 2nd cousin on mother's side]	22 Apr, Mon	At night Gerald came after having interviewed Mrs. Piers Dutton as a possible housekeeper-secretary. Too tired to talk to him.
	23 Apr, Tue	Gerald spent the morning at Kilteragh [<i>sic</i>] but arranged with Christopher Wood to bring him away directly after lunch. I went to see Mrs. Piers Dutton & found (as I can't understand Gerald not finding) that she was utterly out of the question as a manager of my house and me. She has escaped a husband who must have led her an awful life (as he drank) & is going to enjoy life. At any rate she is no more going to be tied to me than Gerald is.
	24 Apr, Wed	Came to town en route for Ireland. James Byrne looked in. He talked interestingly as he always does. But the proximity restricts the effect badly. Wrote Setons & Hart Synnots about a Secretary.
	25 Apr, Thu	<p>Presided over Bowes Board. Hon. Michael Bowes Lyon sat for first time in old Western's place.</p> <p>Left by Liverpool for Dublin with old Curtain. Had a temperature in the early morning.</p>
	26 Apr, Fri	<p>Curtain lost my return ticket but otherwise justified my bringing him in preference to Bowle who, I hope, is better employed at Crest House. I was far from well & comatose part of the day. I spent it mostly with R.A., Norman & Riddall. Kennedy is not yet a co-operator.</p> <p>The weather was bright but horribly cold – 50 in shade about. Everyone attributed it to the icebergs in Atlantic which is probably right.</p>
	27 Apr, Sat	An hour at Plunkett House, ¾ hour with James McNeill – thank God looking better – and on to Killeen with Curtain. Cold & damp – and what memories. Felt awfully depressed. But the change may be good. Hammond on whom I called was recovering from “flu” & did not cheer me. It seems he knew all about McKay but never gave me a hint of what he was!
	28 Apr, Sun	A day of rain & cold – every one depressed. I found work impossible. Fingall's philosophy & Daisy's courage are exemplary. It is a sad look out. In ten years I doubt the old castle being in Plunkett possession.
	29 Apr, Mon	To town & work. Saw Fr. Finlay, Dr. George O'Brien, Æ & my old secretary Dr. HG Smith. I see plainly that the self-help movement is at a very low ebb – the government will I fear absorb it. All a question of character – nothing else.
	30 Apr, Tue	Sick, but tried to think out the I.A.O.S. speech.
	1 May, Wed	A badly attended & worse reported meeting of the I.A.O.S. in an unwarmed Hall. A speech which had the main points of my doctrine of rural development. Fr. Finlay followed me with a marvellous exhibition of his quality after 81 years of life! Daisy was there at sacrifice of comfort. The chief event was a fine speech from Henderson, Sec'y of Scottish A.O.S. The Scots are

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
		<p>showing their character in marked contrast to the Irish farmers. Fr. F. said to me after the meeting, "We must wait for a new generation to be educated."</p> <p>Very tired I went to tea, sup & sleep with R.A. at his cottage close to the Dollymount Golf Course which he loves. He urged me to come back & work among my friends. I would if I could work.</p>
	2 May, Thu	<p>Hanson to lunch, Fr. F to tea & Dr Kennedy after dinner. To the three I poured out my thoughts for the times. On way to the Plunkett House R.A. showed me over the I.A.W.S. which has the real co-operative spirit but alas is in a very low financial state. Too poorly to see Government people but shall tomorrow – Hogan any way.</p>
	3 May, Fri	<p>A long interview with Hogan. He is still of my mind on the fundamentals of agricultural development – all that matters in a material way. We discussed several snags in the path of the joint effort of the I.A.O.S. & the Department. All a question of the Irish character – I don't regret a word I said about it 25 years ago!</p> <p>Again most of the day with Norman whom I drove to Kilteragh. There I saw Ogilvie who deplored the changes in the times & gave a most gloomy picture of the situation as he saw it. Poor fellow. He has a sick wife, an imbecile boy, ?one fine boy. A fair girl was swept off the Kingstown Pier in a gale & drowned! So his view is coloured. But lack of education is to him the fatal handicap.</p> <p>By night, via Liverpool to London.</p>
	4 May, Sat	<p>Back to Crest House where Bowle had a nice Oxford friend RW Ketton-Cremer on a visit.</p>
	5 May, Sun	<p>Tom Spring Rice – Monteagle now – lunched & tea'd.</p>
	6 May, Mon	<p>Meant to go to London to see the Walters. They came to Crest House by car and told me a good deal about their gloriously enjoyable trip.</p>
	7 May, Tue	<p>Went to see a Miss Gladys Suttaby, at The Malt House Fensham who at 42 is looking for a secretarial job. I think she would be able to do my work: but whether she could stand my ways and fit in with my invalidism, I am doubtful. She would have to live a life she has never lived before and unless she understood my whole history since my x-ray burn in 1916, she would not tolerate such an existence. I may try her if I can't get a man. Again I may ask her to come as a stop-gap on terms which will make a termination of the experiment no injury to her.</p>
	8 May, Wed	<p>Another day of depression. It has increased so rapidly that I begin to fear melancholia which in conjunction with the drugs I have to take – all the medical advice I have resorted to is unanimous as to this – can have only one result. I fear "doing something rash". It would be a sad but real consolation if I were sure that my affairs could be so managed that my little world would be happier without me. I shall not be in it two years hence unless my mental health takes a radically new turn. Gerald's neglect to help me in my difficulty begins to puzzle me. He alone knows what I am suffering, though of course the knowledge cannot be accurate.</p>
	9 May, Thu	<p>Hall, Adams, Gerald, Dermod O'Brien & self held the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation. Norman was there from</p>

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		Ireland and Prewett represented Orwin. I felt very ill & tonight hardly remember what took place. Gerald thinks I ought not to fight the morphia craving. It certainly seems a choice of evils but I don't like to increase the minimum dose which makes life endurable.
	10 May, Fri	Saw a Miss RD Clarke a relative of Lord Bryce's, who would have suited me for companion housekeeper, I think. But she was just engaged elsewhere. Carnegie meeting and back to the solitude of Crest House made more gloomy by Bowle. Miss Suttaby is writing me at least one letter a day parading her qualifications. She has made a bad slip. Seeing that I type my letters myself she assumes I shant dictate to my secretary when I get one. "I hate taking dictation" she assures me! This is another confirmation of my suspicion that she would soon hate me & all my works.
	11 May, Sat	Ended the most depressed week I remember. It was a hard fight every day for many hours. Under the stimulus of work now & again the clouds lifted. But the darkness came down again. The early hours in all the mornings and some afternoons were horrible. The fight must go on – the one hope is the return of the power to think along my own special line.
	12 May, Sun	Oliver & Jessica came to tea. Both happy. No concern for the future of Killeen. They don't want to be bothered with it!
	13 May, Mon	To town but a deep depression. Called on Ada. Saw Cooper about Pelton Colliery leases etc.
	14 May, Tue	Back to Crest Ho[use] after meeting Mrs. Bowle – a good second-class (socially) little body, evidently unhappily tied to a hard mate. Wrote a long letter to Bowle père.
	15 May, Wed	Miss Suttaby came to see me. She won't do as a private secretary. She is too "vital" socially & would not stand the life.
[<i>The Lady with a Lamp</i> , Reginald Berkeley]	16 May, Tue	To town to do a play based on Florence Nightingale's story with Ada & Robin. It was the worst written play I ever sat out. The acting was only fair. My object was to get an idea of my mother's "Flo" without the trouble of research in case I should write reminiscences. Saw Ernest Longworth who <u>may</u> do as my private secretary. He will come next week-end to look over the job <u>in situ</u> . He is <u>not</u> attractive in manner & looks at the job solely from his own interest's point of view. Still "any port in a storm" & I am wretched with the growing depression. Work is the only anodyne & for that I want help.
	17 May, Fri	Back to Crest House where Bowle doing no work but making himself quite comfortable. I cannot blame him. He simply does not know what life it [<i>sic</i>]. He may come out all right, but his melancholy nature makes it hard for him to face adversity. His father says he is unable to give him anything at all.
	18 May, Sat	Three days of rest must follow. I hope the power to work will come after it. If it doesn't I shall have to reconsider my whole scheme for my last years, be they few or very few.
	19 May, Sun	Nothing wrought.

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
	20 May, Mon	Bullock came over & I consulted him about Bowle's chances of getting into the Civil Service. He was not hopeful. My good old friend is ending his life more bravely than I am – he is fighting his depression much more courageously.
	21 May, Tue	To town to see Colonel Ernest Longworth K.C. & to bring him & Gerald together. Gerald had 10 minutes tête à tête with him & then advised me to try him for a month, to which Longworth agreed. I then showed him the Foundation. He may do, but I don't think he will be a sympathetic companion. He is, however, frank. He makes it quite clear that his own advantage will be the dominant consideration in our mutual relations. To this I cannot object and am delighted that he does not, as McKay did, pretend to consider my needs first, last & all the time. Wrote to tell Miss Suttaby, who must have written a dozen letters recommending herself, that I was "suited". Wrote to Bowle's father & to Lindsay (Master of Balliol) about Bowle Jr & also to Hart Synnot who was negotiating with Allsebrook.
	22 May, Wed	Added the gloom of Shan Bullock to that of Bowle and tried to conquer my own. I like S.B. He is a real friend. I Giles came to see me. The work of the A[llotments].O.S. & S.H.Ltd. is going ahead slowly on my money and may bear fruit in due season. If I could only get out the book all would be settled one way or the other quickly.
	23 May, Thu	Talk with G.H. about Longworth. AD Hall phoned that he had an alternative man aet. 60 in view. Attended Pelton SS Co meeting. Went to Foundation and at night to a "talkie" film. Poor show. The last few nights I have taken 1/400th gr[ain] Hyoscine. It is minute but distinctly helps me through the morphia gap. I am keeping the latter down to 3 gr[ains], below my prescription.
To House, E.M. <i>Fr House, E.M.</i>	24 May, Fri	Back to Crest House after a conference with Raymond Barker on my financial affairs.
	25 May, Sat	Colonel Ernest Longworth K.C. came to dinner and tomorrow begins a month's trial as private secretary, housekeeper, companion etc!! He does not make a good first impression. He is not sympathetic & I should doubt his being altruistic. I may find qualities I want latent – they might be none the worse for coming later.
	26 May, Sun	The Hornibrooks lunched. Spent the day trying to explain things to Longworth. Cannot get firm judgment of his probable suitability for my work.
	27 May, Mon	Bowle left early and I was not sorry. He is utterly incapable of any interest in life outside his own future which is, it must be admitted, enough to engage all his thought. His father refuses to help him, resents his asking for help because he has given the son a costly education (prep school, Marlborough & Oxford) and generally disowns him. His stay with me has been one long denunciation of this unnatural conduct and I shall probably be looked to for further help. I have boarded and paid the boy for three months or more & got absolutely nothing for what I have done for him.

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		Whether Longworth will suit I cannot say. He, too, evidently thinks far more of his own interests than of mine. I do not blame him. But soon I must have a very frank talk with him and find out what he can do for me.										
	28 May, Tue	To town for the day.										
	29 May, Wed	Quiet at Crest House. Longworth read a lot of my writings & will I think be a real help at the book. Whether he will stay with me is doubtful.										
[Results: Baldwin (Cons) 260 MacDonald (Lab) 287 Lloyd George (Lib) 59 Other 10]	30 May, Thu	<p>Polling in London, where I voted, was the dullest I remember. What are the flappers thinking – are they thinking at all[?]. If yes, they will return Baldwin as his election address is the best election pronouncement I have seen. I guess the figures</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Baldwin</td> <td style="text-align: right;">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ramsay MacDonald</td> <td style="text-align: right;">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyd George</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Odds & Ends</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>15</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">615</td> </tr> </table> <p>here, though to correspondents I have not been quite so round in my figures. It is pure guessing.</p> <p>After the event. Lloyd George has about 60 followers, just enough to embarrass Labour which has beaten Conservatives by a working majority. The situation should not have been guessed. The number of seats bears no proper proportion to the number of votes. Electoral reform is bound to be another big issue.</p>	Baldwin	300	Ramsay MacDonald	200	Lloyd George	100	Odds & Ends	<u>15</u>		615
Baldwin	300											
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	615											
	31 May, Fri	<p>Such was my failing (see opp[osite]) after reading Baldwin's Election address. It was too long. The first returns showed "a Conservative landslide". At breakfast the figures were</p> <p>Baldwin 77, LIG 14, Ramsay MacD 110, Odds & Ends 4 = 201. Austen Chamberlain's majority sank to 43 from 7643!! PJ Hannon increased his majority which was about 18,000!!!</p>										
	1 Jun, Sat	<p>A chill and acute pain in the old right lung sore. Temp first 94.8 & in four hours rose to 102.2. Sent for Beare who diagnosed the breaking down of an adhesion and prognosed a cure as rapid as the attack. Longworth kind. I made him keep his engagement to spend the afternoon and evening with friends in Epsom and was lonesome.</p> <p>The election figures are staggering: but I cannot think over them.</p>										
	2 Jun, Sun	Kept my bed all day.										
To House, E.M.	3 Jun, Mon	Up but weak & depressed. In the evening Bryan, Dorothy, Mary and the dog came.										
	4 Jun, Tue	<p>The family went to Eton. I could not face it. Did a little work at home.</p> <p>Two shareholders of the Pelton S.S.Co came to see me – one Armstrong and a son of Joseph Reay one of the founders of the company. I could tell them nothing; but they are going to attend the meeting at Newcastle on Thursday. I encouraged them to ask all the questions they wanted but pointed out that it would not be wise to depreciate the shares.</p>										

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		Longworth sat up to receive the family party (to which Alice's Mary had been added) and they did not come home till 1 A.M.
	5 Jun, Wed	The Derby. Mary Holroyd Smyth & Longworth went. I kept quiet having to go to Newcastle – 2 nights running in train.
	6 Jun, Thu	Ten shareholders turned up at the Pelton S.S.Co. meeting. Still it was well I came. I saw King, the Pelton Receiver and Cooper about the sale of the Bowes shares. I took in the East Coast Exhibition which was interesting and informative. I learned that the coal trade is likely to have a backset because Labour will repeal the 8 hours Act which means about 1/- a ton added to cost of production.
	7 Jun, Fri	Arrived fairly fit after a good sleep on the train. Longworth met Gerald & me. We went home for lunch and Bryan went to his regimental dinner. The rest of us called on the Barnes'.
	8 Jun, Sat	Rested & badly wanted it.
	9 Jun, Sun	Ployart of Wyoming days spent the afternoon. Also called Monteagle's uncle Commander Spring Rice, two dull but worthy people. When they left we all called on George Barnes.
	10 Jun, Mon	Early in the morning I had another lung attack with the usual pain and rise of temperature. I rang for Longworth who came at once and gave me a hot cup of tea. I kept my bed till noon when my temperature had become sub normal. Bryan, Dorothy & the dog left. Another valuable day lost.
	11 Jun, Tue	Weak & depressed. Tried to write a needed letter to The Times. Alas I cannot write!
	12 Jun, Wed	Came to town to get a change and meet a few people. Crest House is lonesome, but if my health will come back to its low normal I can work with Longworth. Called at Foundation and on George Moore! He is writing a book, after which he has to undergo prostatectomy! He is very plucky about it. I invited him to week end soon at Crest House & I think he will.
	13 Jun, Thu	Did a little work.
	14 Jun, Fri	Before I left London had long talk with Bryan who urges me to start a book of reminiscences. I explained why I could not neglect the book on English agriculture, but he was not satisfied. Longworth had a nice Col. Houlder & wife to lunch at Crest House. L wants H to join the Foundation – evidence of his superiority to the four previous secretaries.
	15 Jun, Sat	Depressed & unable to work.
	16 Jun, Sun	James O'Connor called and gave the gloomiest account of Saorstát Eireann I have yet heard. Talked a good deal with Longworth about the book.
	17 Jun, Mon	Lunched with Hornibrooks. They gave us a noticeably better lunch than we had given them & had people (dull) to meet us. Wrote letter to T[om].J[ones]. asking him to put my agricultural policy before the new gov't if he is still at his post.
	18 Jun, Tue	Rushed up to town with Longworth to lunch at the Garton Foundation and more particularly to see Tom Jones about the new

Correspondence [Notes]	1929	Diary Entry
		<p>Ministers.</p> <p>He has a poor opinion of N Buxton but a good one of Dr. Addison who is Parl'y Sec'y to the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>I had to talk on the agric'l policy of the Gov't & found the Nation people (Henderson & Wright) strongly opposed to my views. They regard agriculture as an investment for capital – as an industry which if it does not pay in a large way must not cumber the ground. And they are Liberals.</p>
	19 Jun, Wed	The small effort of yesterday tired me out. But Longworth is working and I am hopeful.
	20 Jun, Thu	To town to meet Adams & have a talk about the Foundation. Very useful. Went to see Metcalf, Karl Walter being on leave, about the Foundation's real function. He has caught on, Gerald, Prewett, Metcalf and Adams will counter act Hall, Smith Gordon (apathetic) & Orwin.
	21 Jun, Fri	To Crest House for a long week-end.
[H.]	22 Jun, Sat	<p>Went to a "reunion of old Cheam boys" at the School. R.S. and Arthur Tabor had carried on the School for some 70 years and a young Rev. A. [sic] Taylor had bought out the latter (or his estate). Most of the class rooms were unchanged – the same dirty old desks in which we carved our names – the fusty smell – nothing modern. But the prestige – good will or whatever it was – enabled the new chief to get as many boys as there was room for – about 25% less than in my time!</p> <p>Lunched with Colonel Houlder & his masterful little wife. He is a war invalid. She (Longworth's friend) is a capital manager of her somnolent colonel. I like them both & pity him as I think he suffers physically & is mentally depressed.</p>
	23 Jun, Sun	A day with Leys – one of my saints. His extreme self-observation & suppression is the one defect I can find in his personality. In my lucid intervals I got him to express his opinions and I found his judgment on the questions baffling me in my futile effort to write a book infinitely clearer than my own.
	24 Jun, Mon	Worked at home.
	25 Jun, Tue	Same as yesterday.
	26 Jun, Wed	<p>To town. Went twice to Foundation – first time to meet Col. Houlden [sic] with Longworth. Utterly unable to concentrate on work of any kind.</p> <p>Life is slipping away. Fingall is in so anxious a state (weak heart) that I must remake my will which at present leaves <u>him</u> a proportion of my residuary fund and my house & domestic effects therein.</p>
	27 Jun, Thu	<p>A meeting of the HP Foundation, Hall, D O'Brien, Prewett, Gerald, Adams, Norman & self being present.</p> <p>Afterwards motored Adams to Cambridge, where I left him & went on to Alston at Newmarket. Then back to the dinner at Trinity where the Conference of Rural Communities meets (because Noel Buxton was to be present & I was to sit next him) & "so to bed" at Falmouth Cottage. A wracking day!</p>

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	28 Jun, Fri	The morning Conference was on town-planning etc & did not interest me. In the afternoon Hyde of Oxford gave an excellent survey of the changes which have come over the Rural Village Scene. The Rural Community consists chiefly of town workers who prefer to sleep & week-end in the country and are able to do so on account of the new means of road transport. It was evident to me that we are dealing with a transition stage in <u>rapid</u> development. Society works in the city, lives in the country which it is urbanising with an unprecedented rapidity & inevitability.
	29 Jun, Sat	To London where I picked up Muriel Dutton & Longworth & took them to Crest House. At Cambridge said some good-byes to the Conference. They were nearer to realities than any set of delegates I have met with at these functions.
	30 Jun, Sun	Muriel Dutton is a delightful guest. As I have so few relatives left, I shall look forward to having her often.
	1 Jul, Mon	Took Muriel Dutton to town & had a brief talk with Karl Walter. Then an evening with Longworth. He and I get on well together. I shant do better and fortunately my job seems to be just what he wants.
	2 Jul, Tue	Worked at a letter to the Times (which probably won't be sent) in reply to one from Bledisloe in yesterday's Times calling for a conference of the three leaders to agree upon the fundamentals of an agricultural problem. Silly idea that the Labour Party will scrap their declared agric'l Policy and take Bledisloe's. Had to go to a tea fight at the Vicarage, Byfleet. A crowd of frumps. The conversation was an alternation between – "How kind of you to ask me" and "How kind of you to come". Not a soul did I know – not even the hostess.
	3 Jul, Wed	To town. Felt better. Sad news from Betty Balfour. Arthur is sinking – clots in brain have made their ominous appearance. Doctor hedging – "any moment" alternates with "possibly years". But the end is, I fear, very near.
	4 Jul, Thu	Worse again. Back to Crest House.
	5 Jul, Fri	A little work. Longworth cannot learn either to drive a car or work a typewriter I fear.
	6 Jul, Sat	[No entry]
	7 Jul, Sun	To tea with Gertrude Price. Then called on Dame Ethel Locke King who agreed to learn to fly at Brooklands if I would. She gave me a badge.
	8 Jul, Mon	My first experience of flying. At the Flying School I was introduced to Captains Davis & Jones, chief flying instructors. As I had never been up, 15 minutes "joy ride" in a "Moth" was prescribed. It was a two seater. The instructor sat in front & I behind. Both had the same controls. I had a helmet fitted with a telephone. Capt. Jones took me up and talked incessantly. But I did not hear a word until I was nearly 2000 feet up, when he said "Now I am going to hand over to you". I had no means of telling

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		him to do nothing of the kind. Fortunately I had watched the movement of the controls & did not do too badly. It was very tiring on account of the tremendous concentration required. I was told that I was "promising"; but not for some time could they say whether at 75 I could hope to get a certificate authorising me to fly.
	9 Jul, Tue	To town for dentist & H.P.F.
	10 Jul, Wed	Another lesson in the air. A good deal of wind made it much more difficult. I was kept up for half an hour which was too tiring. If I continue I shall have ¼ hour lessons till I get the beginnings of the automatic reaction.
	11 Jul, Thu	To town. Very warm. H.P.F. and a call on George Moore. Read Carnegie papers for tomorrow & had a coal conference with Godfrey Palmer. He & I get on first rate together.
	12 Jul, Fri	Carnegie meeting & good talk with Gerald. 84° in the shade! A lady journalist hunted me up on the telephone & wanted to interview me about flying!! I must say she was very agreeable when I begged her to say nothing about it.
	13 Jul, Sat	Went to Flying School at 8 A.M. & was 20 minutes in the air, going up 3000 feet. The whole difficulty in "level flying" is the coordination of hand and foot control. To get over this I made Moore fix up a rudder bar on the lawn, so that I can sit and waggle the "stick" as I turn and "bank" right or left. I expect great improvement on Monday when I have my next lesson. I still think it will be a delightful experience flying now & again <u>if I get to the automatic stage.</u> Another link with my past gone. Nugent Everard's death was in the Times and his burial on Monday wired by Norman. I wired for a wreath to be sent and wrote to Dick the not satisfactory son & heir.
	14 Jul, Sun	Went over to see George Barnes. Took Longworth. They got along well together. Wrote many letters and rested well. Beare called and approved my flying but advised me not to go too high.
	15 Jul, Mon	Another flying lesson. Not hearing my instructor and inability, owing to mist, to see the horizon added to my difficulties. The weather was glorious but at 2000 feet, to which I mounted hoping of quiet, the bumping was troublesome. If – a big if – I get a real flying sense, I am sure it will be a good tonic to go up, besides seeing England as I want.
	16 Jul, Tue	To town to meet & give lunch to Lindley, chancellor of Kansas University. Dull dry but courteous and kindly.
	17 Jul, Wed	Another flying lesson. Was in complete control for fifteen minutes & found it much less tiring than hitherto. Took Longworth to Dame Ethel Locke King. They got on well together.
	18 Jul, Thu	Came up chiefly for a meeting with Giles and Dennett. They have been fooling by pretending to organise Societies in East Anglia. They have merely promised farmers to get a better price for their product. Wrote to Betty Balfour asking her to act as referee in my will

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		<p>should my two Trustees differ on any instruction I give them.</p> <p>Also wrote to G.B.S. telling him that I was learning to fly and advising him to do likewise.</p> <p>Slept in town.</p>
	19 Jul, Fri	<p>Real Summer. Disagreeable in town. I am getting into the habit of sleeping an hour or so in the day when I can. I think it helps.</p> <p>Got back late to find a letter from Betty B. disagreeing with my testamentary procedure & asking me to call & see her. On phone arranged to call Sunday & heard that Arthur is sinking slowly.</p>
	20 Jul, Sat	<p>Today I was half an hour in the air, Capt. Davis telling me I was greatly improved since the last time. Dame Ethel looked on.</p>
	21 Jul, Sun	<p>Rested. Prior Wandesforde called for tea & supper. We had a game of Chess which I won. He gave a rather gloomy picture of the Irish Free State.</p>
	22 Jul, Mon	<p>Another flying lesson. Turned about in rough weather. I find the only way to keep level, or at any angle you want to is to work the controls experimentally – i.e. to do much as I did when learning to ride a bicycle. The fact that you can't see the wind and that beyond a general knowledge of its main direction it is inscrutable makes it necessary to react quickly to one's mistakes & not think too much. The air speed, revolutions of engine etc must be watched. But the coordination of rudder & Control stick must become automatic in the above experimental way.</p> <p>Saw Gerald & Karl in town and went by night to Newcastle.</p>
[staithe - wharf with loading shutes for shipment of coal]	23 Jul, Tue	<p>A perfect day. Sun and gentle warm breeze from sunrise to sunset. Inspected 4 of the pits & the "Staithes". Discussed many coal problems & at night visited the NE Coast Exhibition – a terribly shoddy, cheap jack show, excepting the Engineering exhibits.</p> <p>Lord Glamis turned up for the first time. He is quiet, modest and in every way a desirable colleague on the Bowes Board.</p> <p>Once more I had to consider whether I should remain a director, having no longer a substantial interest in the Company. Shortt could do the chairmanship job; but he consumes an excessive amount of alcohol. I saw him take 6 large whiskeys & sodas, 2 brandies neat, the greater part of a bottle of champagne and 2 black coffees. Still he looks extraordinarily fit & when I resign will probably take over. I can guide the politics of the concern for a while longer.</p>
	24 Jul, Wed	<p>More pits rather casually "inspected". But we did discuss coal politics more fully than ever before. We may become a worthy Board if the Government forces us to consult with the miners' leaders.</p>
	25 Jul, Thu	<p>The Board meeting. I presided over it with difficulty as the two nights in the Railway Hotel had been almost sleepless.</p> <p>Left by afternoon train & found the faithful Curtain waiting for me at Mount St. He unpacked for me but showed sad signs of failing memory.</p>
	26 Jul, Fri	<p>After morning at H.P.F., where Gerald was staying, came to Crest</p>

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		House tired out with my Newcastle experiences.
	27 Jul, Sat	Another ½ hour flying. This time I took off and landed several times not without the help of the pilot who did most of the control. I see I shall be able to learn.
	28 Jul, Sun	Christopher Wood flew to Brooklands bringing Gerald. He took me up for a short “joy ride” & had to come down, fortunately before he had got away from the aerodrome. His new machine “made in Germany” was utterly unreliable. Had he started home with Gerald that valuable life might have been lost. He had to leave his machine at the aerodrome.
	29 Jul, Mon	Another half hour in the air making four hours in all. It was rough and I did not do quite as well.
	30 Jul, Tue	To town. Saw Miss Digby & told her to watch American Farm Relief Board. Hoover has caught on to the co-operatives. He sees the need of the economic basis but not the Three Betters. I think of writing him. Went to Garton Foundation lunch. T[om].J[ones]. not there. S K Ratcliffe was. Little new.
	31 Jul, Wed	Went up in storm of wind & rain. Very unpleasant but I did far better than I expected.
	1 Aug, Thu	To town for H.P.F. etc.
[Plunkett would be 75 on 24 October]	2 Aug, Fri	Mrs. Houlder & Shan Bullock came to see me fly. She took a joy ride & will I think join the School. [Newspaper photo pasted in:] FLYING LESSONS AT 75. [photo] SIR HORACE PLUNKETT, the 75-year-old Irish statesman who is learning to fly, boarding an airplane for a lesson at Brooklands today.
	3 Aug, Sat	Another lesson of 30 min. I climbed to 5200 feet and in a high wind kept my balance. W R Blair of the C.W.S. came to see me. He was most interesting about Russia, whence he had returned after doing big business for his Society. He had only been 2 weeks in the Soviet Union & of course knew that his impressions would need large correction. The impression he left on my mind was that the Russians will work out their own salvation in not too distant future. The Press have discovered my flying. The Daily Mail had me on its leader page today & the Ev[enin]g Standard as opposite [2 Aug].
	4 Aug, Sun	[Newspaper item pasted in:] LEARNING TO FLY AT 75. ————— SIR H. PLUNKETT’S TONIC. ————— ‘I FEEL SAFER THAN IN A TAXI-CAB’ ————— Sir Horace Plunkett, the Irish statesman and agricultural expert, is learning to fly

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		<p>at the age of 75.</p> <p>He is a pupil of the Brooklands School of Flying at Brooklands Aerodrome, Weybridge, Surrey, near his home. His friends say that he is as keen as a boy on his new sport.</p> <p>Mr. Bernard Shaw, who is a great friend, wrote several amusing letters after hearing of Sir Horace's enterprise. In one he suggests that flying at his age is an 'adventurous, agreeable, and not too obvious method of suicide'.</p> <p>Sir Horace said to a <i>Daily Mail</i> reporter last night: 'I find my flying lessons very enjoyable. Already I have put in four hours and 35 minutes.</p> <p>'Mr. Shaw suggests that it is a method of suicide. I do not know what my instructor says about suicide, but I know that he has a distinct objection to homicide. I certainly feel safer in the air than in a taxi-cab in London.</p> <p>'I do not know whether I shall succeed in becoming a qualified pilot at my time of life. I find the lessons a very good tonic, however. It is an experience which I would not like to miss.'</p> <p>The instructor telephoned to Sir Horace recently when he was due to take a lesson that it was raining hard. Sir Horace, however, insisted on making an ascent between showers.</p> <p>Sir Horace has already taken control of an aeroplane while flying with his instructor, and is said to have all the makings of a good pilot.</p> <p>Daily Mail 3 Aug 1929</p>
	5 Aug, Mon	<p>30 minutes in the air making, I think, about 6½ hours in all in some 13 lessons. It was rough, but visibility excellent. Went up 5000 ft and got a bit chilled. Also was quite deaf on landing.</p> <p>Mrs. Houlder came again to lunch. She is bitten with the flying but has not yet told her husband!</p>
	6 Aug, Tue	To town. Gerald & H.P.F.
	7 Aug, Wed	<p>Flew 25 minutes in bad weather. I am improving rapidly.</p> <p>The Hannays came. She is a bit of an "old soldier" and a little inconsiderate in the services she demands – no wangles [-] out of her host. He is different. They both have a hard time, I have no doubt, to make ends meet. I enjoy his company greatly, and would do a great deal for both.</p>
[Joanna – Joan Eleanor Campbell Balfour; D.D. – prob. Rev. Edward Lyttelton, D.D.]	8 Aug, Thu	<p>Hannay came to see me fly. I was tired and must not fly when I am not near my wretched best. Practiced landing & made a mess of it. Took off once without help. I took control of the engine (throttle) today – another promotion.</p> <p>In afternoon went to Fisher's Hill about the evidence Arthur wants for the Memoirs (which he will, alas, never write) of the part he took in preventing European interference in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Did not see him – never shall. Mrs. Sidgwick his sister told me he may hang on for months & may go any moment. She seemed a bit hard about it. Baffy [Dugdale] & her sister Joanna, D.D. Lyttelton & Betty made the tea party.</p>
	9 Aug, Fri	<p>Mrs. Hannay tidied the drawing room and talked gardening to Longworth. I was tired by two successive days flying and was reminded of my decadence. But I did some work.</p> <p>In afternoon went to Wisley and in evening had Althea [Hannay] to dinner and Auction Bridge. I won 5^d at 1^d per 100 points! I must have had luck.</p> <p>I remember how I gave up whist because I used to sit down with 3</p>

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		<p>friends & always got up with 2!!</p> <p>[Newspaper item, including caricature of HP, pasted in:]</p> <p>Veteran Airman. The Duchess of Bedford is not alone in showing us that flying is not for the younger generation only. Sir Horace Plunkett (herewith), at the age of seventy-five, is going after a pilot's certificate. This Irish statesman is one of the few men who have had the privilege of reading their own obituary notices. About nine years ago a news agency sent out in error a cable reporting his death.</p> <p>Daily Record & Daily Mail, Glasgow 8/8/29!</p>
	10 Aug, Sat	<p>The Hannays left. I had 40 minutes in the air. My instructor says I am now "quite safe" in the air and only have to learn to land. "Taking off" is quite simple and I could master it in half an hour. I have now had 7 hours 15 minutes instruction.</p>
	11 Aug, Sun	<p>Prewett & wife and Killeen & Jessica came together – all without notice. I got the news of Fingall which is clearly bad. He may live a year or two or may go off at any time.</p> <p>Arranged with Prewett to come here in September when we will finish the book together.</p>
	12 Aug, Mon	<p>Another forced landing and again no fault of mine but of the engine, the first they have had at the School. I had decided to practice landing. As we had to take off down wind, Davis put his hands up when we were 6 feet off the ground. I took the machine up a steepish incline and when about 600 feet up started off in the direction of Staines. Davis said "Just circle round the aerodrome". Happily I turned quickly back. Just as I was over the track the engine slowed down. I found the throttle was full open! Davis took over & brought us down in a skilful glide.</p> <p>In evening saw Beare who is going away for a full month. He preferred my getting some other doctor to examine me for my flying certificate. He said my heart was all right but his knowledge of my lung troubles made him nervous.</p>
<i>Fr Webb, Beatrice</i>	13 Aug, Tue	<p>Went to the School to ask Capt. Davis about medical examination. Asked him to say nothing about the forced landing. Then went to town where a reporter for The Star wanted to interview me upon my thrilling experience! I told him there were no thrills – only a minor engine trouble & that there was no difficulty about landing.</p> <p>Went to Foundation with Gerald. There met Professor Fay of Canada & had a most interesting conversation with him about Co-operation in his country generally & Wheat Pools in particular.</p> <p>McKay & Bowle both called on me, the former wanted me to back his candidature for Ch[ief]: Constabship of Salisbury, the latter told me he thought he had done well in his examination.</p>
	14 Aug, Wed	<p>Flew today with Captain Jones who took me up my first two flights. He said I was "shaping well".</p> <p>The Press is a d—d nuisance. People who thought I was dead are discovering me . . . See cuttings below & opposite.</p> <p>A nice letter from Mrs. Sidney Webb asking me to "fly" over to lunch and instruct her Lord on the Irish Free State from the standpoint of the Colonial Secretary. I wrote to James McNeill to</p>

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		<p>instruct me.</p> <p>The Star 13/8/29</p> <p>[Newspaper item pasted in:]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SKILL OF 75 YEAR OLD AIRMAN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sir H. Plunkett Unperturbed by Forced Landing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENCE OF MIND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p>SIR HORACE PLUNKETT, the Irish statesman and agricultural expert, who is learning to fly at the age of 75, had an adventure when he had to make a forced landing at Brooklands.</p> <p>Unperturbed by the experience he promptly went up again in another machine.</p> <p>Sir Horace had gone up with his instructor and had been in the air only five minutes when a valve broke and the engine stopped.</p> <p>With great presence of mind Sir Horace brought the machine down again on to the aerodrome and made a perfect landing. He stepped out of the cockpit smiling and expressed a wish that he should be allowed to go up in another machine.</p> <p>One was quickly got ready for him and in a few moments he was in the air again.</p> <p>Daily News 13/8/29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FLYING PUPIL AT 75</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHAT MR. SHAW THINKS OF IT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p>Mr. George Bernard Shaw has nose-dived into the limelight.</p> <p>‘I think Mr. Shaw would make a first-class air pilot,’ said Sir Horace Plunkett, the Irish statesman and agricultural expert, who, at the age of 75, is learning to fly, in an interview with the “Daily News” last night.</p> <p>‘When I first took up flying Mr. Shaw wrote to me, and said that aviation at my age was an “adventurous, agreeable, and not too obvious method of suicide.” I told Mr. Shaw that being in the air certainly feels safer than in a taxicab in London.’</p> <p>Sir Horace has already had seven and a half hours in the air.</p> <p>On Monday he made a forced landing at Brooklands, something having gone wrong with the engine while over the aerodrome.</p>
	15 Aug, Thu	[No entry]
	16 Aug, Fri	<p>Another fly. I took off and landed without help. Quite a step.</p> <p>The Press photographed me again. I have flown 490 min or 8 hrs 10 min.</p> <p>My temperature rose to 100.4 owing to a slight chill. Forgot my muffler & the air from the propeller got under my clothes.</p>
	17 Aug, Sat	<p>Longworth & I spent 4 hours with the Sidney Webbs. They were as friendly and kindly in helping us to solve our problems as ever. L. agreed with my estimate of this fine couple. The objects of the visit were to talk about Saorstát Éireann and the Empire Marketing Board. They are almost hopelessly urban on the rural question, but I do not give up hope of converting them on Imperial grounds.</p>
	18 Aug, Sun	<p>Took off & landed without any help. This is a distinct step forward and the weather was decidedly unfavourable.</p>
	19 Aug, Mon	<p>Not quite as well & didn’t do as well as yesterday. But I am getting on far better than I had any right to expect. The weather was good & I am sorry I did not take a tour to relieve the</p>

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		monotony of taking off & landing.
To House, E.M. [74 and 10/12ths (or 5/6ths)]	20 Aug, Tue	To town to meet Prewett & Gerald. Longworth joined in the conference and was keenly interested. Prewett says nationalisation of the land is necessary and I begin to fear that it is. Dr. Isaac Jones, Consulting Physician of St. Thomas Hospital examined me for Pilot A Certificate. I told him everything and he passed me excepting the urine analysis. He said he could hardly believe I was 74-5/12ths [<i>sic</i>]. It is now only a question of practice. The 3 hours alone in the air is a severe test. I got the article I wrote when Arthur Balfour was coming to Washington in April 1917 to avert the hostility of the Irish. The London correspondent of the N.Y. World most kindly found it for me & I sent a copy to Betty.
	21 Aug, Wed	Dr. Leland Spencer and Marius P. Rasmussen, en route from Cornell University to Denmark spent some 9 hours with me. It was tiring; but the hospitality I owe Americans can never be repaid. They were too often underpaid hard working teacher (agric'l economics) class. They had all the freshness & none of the vulgarity of the successful exploiter of the resources of the land not so much of promise as of realisation. Flew 20 minutes in the morning. Davis was back and, after 4 lessons from Jones, found me "wonderfully improved".
	22 Aug, Thu	Heard from Dr. Isaac Jones that my urine specimen was remarkably good. So I have now only to learn to fly and pass a book & practical test. Then I shall become a private certificated pilot aet 75.
	23 Aug, Fri	Twenty minutes landing practice in bad flying weather. I am certainly improving fast. Most of the day I slept. That I think helps.
	24 Aug, Sat	Had to go to town to see Father Henry Browne about my note on "Father Tom" for the Jesuit book on their educational work in Ireland. Promised to have the M[anu]/s[cript] ready for the printers by Sept. 1st.
	25 Aug, Sun	Three landings, a gliding turn from 1000 feet all done well. Alas in the afternoon a sharp attack of painful laryngitis laid me low. Davis told me that I could fly him all the way to Clacton-on-Sea on Wednesday. I shall be grievously disappointed if I miss this chance of a life. It is 80 miles as the crow flies. Wrote Eddie some advice on his behaviour in India, which he won't take. He ought to know of my work. He need not take seriously such sayings as "Your uncle is a household word" etc; but he ought to know roughly how the Indians live, of what races they consist and what circumstances make the British domination either both justifiable & practicable.
	26 Aug, Mon	After a bad night a wretched day. Doctored myself with gargle. Hoping against hope that I can fly to Clacton on Wednesday.
	27 Aug, Tue	The right lung giving trouble again 101° & suffocation. Flight Lieut. Tyrrell came to dine & sleep with a nice wife & the Houlders dined – I couldn't.

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	28 Aug, Wed	<p>100.4° in the night but, with a Red Letter Day before me I determined to throw prudence to the winds. I flew Capt. Davis from Brooklands to Clacton on Sea – weather “bumpy” but wind astern. Handed over for the landing in a crowd assembled to see the “aerobatics” arranged by the B. Flying School. Marvellous performances, including a parachute descent from 1500 feet. I was “featured” as the oldest pupil of the B.F. (not “Bloody-fool”) School. A good airman flew me back against a 25 M.P.H. wind, taking 105 as against 55 minutes in the morning. Passed over Crest House where Gerald & the Sidney Webbs had arrived and the evening was more “thrilling” than the day. Heard that Father Tom Finlay had called me up from town & wanted to see me “for a few hours” tomorrow afternoon.</p> <p>The talk was on Jerusalem & the Wailing Wall, the “sensation” of the moment & under S Webb’s office (Colonial). Then we seemed to “sweep the whole range of (my) thought”, I directing the conversation whenever I woke – for I was dead tired. A red letter day indeed!!</p>
	29 Aug, Thu	<p>A sad disappointment. The Air Ministry informed me that “I have been assessed as medically unfit to hold a Private Pilot’s License”. I kept this secret from all but Longworth.</p> <p>Took the Webbs down to the School. They had to go up separately with Davis as there was no 3-seater available. After this experience, which they both greatly enjoyed, Moore took her to Passfield & I took him, Gerald & Longworth to town. Longworth & I returned at night.</p>
[Gardner]	30 Aug, Fri	Had acute bronchitis & went to Dr. Barklay, Beare’s partner & infinitely better than Burrell or Gardiner [<i>sic</i>]. He put me to bed. Could not go at once as Althea Hannay & Mrs. Manning were due for a final bridge party.
	31 Aug, Sat	<p>Dr. came & gave none too good a report. A nurse is to come tonight. Of this I am glad for if I sleep 2 hours the suffocation is alarming. Longworth most helpful.</p> <p>Charming letter from Mrs. Sidney Webb. I cannot say how I honour that woman and her man too.</p>
	1 Sep, Sun	The nurse was an Irish girl and I liked her greatly. A wretched day made it necessary to keep her on but her holiday had begun. However Dr. Barklay found an excellent English girl whom I gladly forgave not being Irish. I think I shall pull through all right, but it has been a risk.
<i>Fr House, E.M.</i>	2 Sep, Mon	Temperature and all signs baddish. Nurse Doctor & secretary excellent. 99 to 101 about. Heat intolerable.
	3 Sep, Tue	Struggled through another day. The Dr. prescribed a bath at night! Heat intolerable still – some 87 Fahr. 99° to 99.6°.
	4 Sep, Wed	97.6° to 99.4.

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<i>Fr Terpenning, Walter</i>	5 Sep, Thu	Began day at 97 & quickly went to 101. In afternoon got down to 100. Mrs. Houlder came & helped. Moore's father died and Dash dashed in en route to Canada. The Dr. was delighted with the morning temp. What he will think of subsequent events remains to be seen.
To Terpenning, Walter (by sec'y)	6 Sep, Fri	Doctor gave an admirable report. I had made fine progress from the medical p[oin]t of view & he, rightly, thought it nought else. The weakness is wretched. I don't know how I shall be able to justify my existence for the next few weeks. However, perhaps giving in to the call of nature for rest is wise.
[Five days later this record was broken at 365.1 mph.] [Richthofen]	7 Sep, Sat	Got up. The competent nurse was a bit tiresome. I had to be ménagé all day while she had a run in the car to Windsor Castle (which she preferred to Wisley though she had arranged to go there, having no interest in flowers & much in joy rides), slept and came down for her supper. She is not the kind I could stand for long & want to go on my list. The Schneider Race was on in glorious weather. (The papers of the day should be looked up for the "Memoires".) The speed attained by the <u>English</u> sea plane was 328.63 M.P.H.!! What next?! The other news was that the England-India air'plane crashed & broke into flame at Jask within a few hours of ending its week's mail journey at Karachi. The pilot E.A. Woodbridge joined the air force in 1917 and shot down Richtoven [<i>sic</i>], the famous German "Ace". A passenger & 1 mechanic was also killed, 2 mechanics wounded. I stayed up till 9 P.M. & got back a <u>little</u> of the lost strength.
	8 Sep, Sun	Doctor allowed me a little freedom. Nurse may go tomorrow. She is very good but there is nothing she can do which I shant have to do for myself for several weeks off & on. My weakness is awful. The throat is also very soar [<i>sic</i>]. Dame Ethel called. Kind as ever.
	9 Sep, Mon	The nurse stayed on at her own, not my, request. But as she slept all day I was free to get a little back into life. I am on the look out for nurses who could see me out. She would not do. Mrs. Houlder kindly drove over & took me to Guildford where I got my head made respectable. George Barnes called while I was out & Prewett wired was he to come. I wired that I was writing and told him I would rather have him next week than this, but this week than at no definite time.
	10 Sep, Tue	My nurse left. She had nursed through the war in Russia at the time of the Revolution & God knows where & when else. But nothing interested her except what the Daily Mail serves out daily. She, however, knew her job. Betty Balfour & Baffy came over (I doing double transportation) and we had a most interesting talk. So confidential I had better not write it down.
	11 Sep, Wed	Still dreadfully weak. But got some work done and planned for the future with my new secretary.
	12 Sep, Thu	Much better today. Gerald came for a supper & sleep. I began the

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		book again! Betty asked me to lunch Saturday to meet Snowden. Accepted.
(To Campbell, Richard fr Russell, George W. (Æ), IRS)	13 Sep, Fri	Early to town. There came Prewett and I brought him back to Crest House to start the book. Arranged with W. Eady to come Sunday and talk over Thomas' unemployment schemes. But oh such a day and such a danger. I began working at 5 A.M. to try & get back to life. I found my mind pellucidly clear <u>for me</u> . Will it hold, or shall I soon want another rest followed by other & longer rests till the last rest comes???
	14 Sep, Sat	Another remarkable day. Up at 5 AM because sleep left me and did a bit of work for my collaboration with Prewett over the book. Then went to the Flying School to meet Kathleen Balfour who wanted her first joy ride in the skies. The child enjoyed it enormously – so my day was not wasted. Next to Fisher's Hill with my girl to meet the Snowdens at lunch. I found them friendly to the nth. Why, God knows. Personally, I think it was because he is not spoiled a bit by his triumph before the eyes of the world and sees that I in my humble sphere also want to do my bit. Then very tired back to Crest House where good discourse with Prewett and Longworth. In the morning I went up for 10 minutes and did one landing just to see whether I had forgotten my flying. Capt. Davis said I never did better – that I only made one mistake. There was no wind and I landed a little bit fast. But I came down correctly otherwise.
To House, E.M. [poss. ref. to Joel Chandler Harris's <i>B'rer Rabbit</i>]	15 Sep, Sun	A good day. W. Eady civil servant in confidence of JH Thomas (Ld Privy Seal), who is Minister for Unemployment in effect, came for the day. Great discourse on the part agriculture should play at this crisis. A comic touch. "Professor" Wibberley came for about half the time. He never lied so little or so low, was very amusing and had some interesting agric'l information & ideas. Chris Wood was to have brought Gerald by air, but at last moment changed his plans. I was relieved!
	16 Sep, Mon	At last. A big day's work at the Book! Sent Title Page, Preface, Dedication & Chapter I to Foundation to be typed. But at what cost? There's the rub!!
[Notes for book archived at Plunkett Foundation]	17 Sep, Tue	Metcalf came to see Prewett, both benefiting, the former most but the latter was pleased with an ass't secretary. Did 10 minutes flying – two take offs and landings. Did a sketch of the book in eleven chapters. Prewett & Longworth both approved.
	18 Sep, Wed	Miss Lee came & typed. Karl Walter & his boy called to see Prewett. I did a lot of work on the book.
<i>Fr Norman, H.F.</i> (DEV)	19 Sep, Thu	Prewett & Longworth went to town. Adams & Gerald came to see me. I was very tired but got many things done. Inter alia I arranged with Adams to work to get Prewett the Bursarship of Magdalen. I don't think he has much chance, and it is quite certain that nothing but a huge "wangle" will bring it off. It would be of immense help to the Foundation if it could be brought off.

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<i>Fr Gogarty, Oliver St. John</i>	20 Sep, Fri	Prewett left me. Miss Lee came and I sent an article on Irish Cooperation to Sweden. The Foundation staff asked me to do it.
	21 Sep, Sat	Philip Hanson, wife & twins came for week-end. Reminiscid of Kilteragh. I worked a bit early in hopes of being able to rest a bit of the week end.
	22 Sep, Sun	A delightful day. In the early morning I worked. After the guests' breakfast I took Hanson & his boys to see me fly for 10 minutes. Very bumpy and I did pretty well. Then came Guy Tyrrell (R.A.F.) Deena's brother. Mrs. Houlder came over with more flowers and took the twins to play with her children. She brought them back at night. In the afternoon Gerald O'Donovan came over with his three children, notwithstanding a hint by telephone that it was not very convenient. When he left I took Philip & Deena to see Betty Balfour. She too was kindness beyond words. A great day.
[‘Agriculture and Co-operation’, <i>New Statesman</i> , 28 Sep, p. 738]	23 Sep, Mon	Took the Hansons to town en route to Dublin. Went to the Foundation & despatched a letter to the New Statesman. An hour's sleep at 105 & back to Longworth & work.
To Devlin, Joseph	24 Sep, Tue	Miss Lee came but I was too tired to do much work.
	25 Sep, Wed	To town for a Pelton SS Co meeting & to see Gerald. Also much work at Foundation.
	26 Sep, Thu	Marley Hill meeting. Lunched with GP Nair to meet M.E. Watts, ex Premier of the Nation State of Travancore, a state at S.W. corner of India. Population 4½ million, 7 million sq. miles. Took Longworth to see Seton & called on W. Eady.
	27 Sep, Fri	Flew 15 min with Jones at 9 A.M. Did well. Then dictated to Miss Lee.
<i>Fr Devlin, Joseph</i>	28 Sep, Sat	A boring simultaneous Chess exhibition. Sultan Khan the new English Champion played 30 opponents – many women & duffers. He is not comparable with Capablanca, but he beat me. Had ½ hour with Eady. I fear the Labour Gov't will make a bad mess of agricultural co-operation. They have a fine opportunity as my book, if I ever finish it will demonstrate. Horace Holroyd-Smyth turned up in town en route for Chile. He will sleep here tomorrow night, having to go & see a friend in Southsea today. Alice's family are a fine lot – Bryan is the only one I am doubtful about.
[buckeen – second-rate gentry]	29 Sep, Sun	My grand nephew, Horace, came for a late tea. He has a really good engineering job in a Chilean Nitrate Company. I was very tired & had not much talk with him, but he pleased me greatly. The way Alice has brought up her children and the way they have got themselves out into the world is past praise. Rowley would have made “buckeens” of them all.
	30 Sep, Mon	Took Horace H-S to the aerodrome, had a 20 min lesson and gave him a joy ride which he greatly enjoyed. I had to sleep after it and had not as much time with the boy as I could have wished. But I liked him greatly and felt sorry when he left that I may not see his bright, cheery face and hear his further career from himself no more. For he will have no holiday for three years – unless before that distance is still more reduced.

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		Thank God he was not old enough to be slaughtered in the War.
<i>Fr Byrne, James</i>	Oct	
[<i>The Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt</i> (1925)]	1 Oct, Tue	To town to meet Gerald and Malcolm Darling (The Bengal Peasant in Prosperity & Poverty?) at the Foundation. A long talk with Darling – far the best I[ndian].C[ivil].S[ervant]. I have met on Indian Agric'l Co-operative Movement. On return a rather tedious visitation from Rev'd Canon(?) Hancock of Byfleet who wanted to tell me of all the big people he was intimate with!
	2 Oct, Wed	Miss Lee came and I dictated a long letter to Eady definitely proposing that the Government should call upon the Industrial movement to organise agricultural cooperative societies. The collapse of Giles & Dennett has left me without any body which might become an English A.O.S. It is sadly against the grain to give up the scheme on which I had set my heart. But all the natural leaders of such a movement except Acland have deserted and he is too slack to get anything done in a big way. Whether it will be possible to ruralise such an intensely and exclusively urban body as the Co-operative Union is doubtful indeed. It is my last hope.
	3 Oct, Thu	Went to an agricultural show at Egham with Davis (at his request because an important man was there who helped the School). There was the poorest exhibit I ever say [<i>sic</i>] – attendance to match. Did some work.
	4 Oct, Fri	Wrote ¾ths of an article on Flying at 75 for the Brooklands School and, with Miss Lee's help, a bit of my book. Had a short fly – two landings.
	5 Oct, Sat	W. Eady spent the afternoon. He is most able, very well informed on an immense variety of questions of real importance to the country whose Civil Service he adorns. We had a great exchange of ideas on my particular subject. He is acting as [J.H.] Thomas' private secretary.
[7 stone 12 lbs = 110 lb]	6 Oct, Sun	In stormy weather I did two landings practically without help. I should now have no hesitation whatever in going up and coming down <u>solo</u> in a machine I could trust. What is more important, my mind is getting clearer as my recent illness – it was more serious than I thought as pleuro broncho-pneumonia settled in a new spot – recedes and my physical strength slowly returns. I am 7 st 12 lbs naked!!
	7 Oct, Mon	Another 15 minutes with 2 good landings at Brooklands. "Professor" Wibberley came with a Director of Carter's nominally to prescribe for my lawn, which only grows moss, really to get me to support his publicity stunts. Longworth got to work on material for the book.
	8 Oct, Tue	Worked in doors all day. Did about 2000 words of book.
	9 Oct, Wed	Up at 5 & worked to 9. Then to town for 3 days work there. Acland came to see me & I found him as muddled & weak over his Allotments Organisation Society and Small Holders Limited (A.O.S. & S.H.L.) as Nugent Harris – not weak by the way only

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[“Agriculture and Co-operation”, <i>New Statesman</i> , 12 Oct, p. 10]		muddled – & the old A.O.S. crowd. However, I got him to see that (1) the Allotments movement was alive & the small holdings movement dead (2) that Giles & Dennett were absolutely useless with the latter, Giles understanding the tenure difficulties of the Allotments people. (3) that the one hope of rehabilitating ag co-operation was through the industrial co-op movement. Corrected proofs of the Fr. Finlay Note for Father Browne S.J. Wrote letter to <i>New Statesman</i> in reply to Montague Fordham.
[NCSS – National Council of Social Service]	10 Oct, Thu	No sleep after 4 A.M. Gerald came at 10, I had to meet one Topley who was one of the Secs of the American Y.M.C.A. in India. Then came Adams to the trysting place (10 Doughty St.) after which a sleep at 105, more work at Foundation and two Carnegie meetings. At one Rural Development C’tee, I protested, with some success, against a proposal to merge the work of Rural Development with that of Social Service, which would have meant handing both over to the N.C.S.S. A big day’s work – but at what cost? ! ———
	11 Oct, Fri	Carnegie Exec C’tee but could not stay for the Special General Meeting. Had to go – but ought not to have gone – to a ghastly dinner at Claridge’s given by Indian students to Sir Mohammad Hamibullah (first Indian member of Viceroy’s Council), the Parl’y Under Sec’y being chief other guest. I had told G.P. Nair who pressed me into the job (including answering for the guests) that I could not stay after 9.30 as I had to get home etc. I had worked from 5 A.M.! At 9.45 the King’s health had been honoured and the toast of chief guest had been proposed & responded to. There were then 5 other speeches to come before mine & I left. Very rude but the speech would have been ruder. In the morning I had a delightful talk with G.B.S. who, I think, will give help somehow to the Flying School whose fine work & plight I explained to him.
	12 Oct, Sat	Notwithstanding last night I did two good landings & much writing in the morning. Davis & Jones were delighted at the prospect of G.B.S. which I hope will materialise. At night came Guy Tyrrell and tomorrow I hope they will let him go up with me at the School.
	13 Oct, Sun	Up at 5 and hard work till 9. Then went with Guy Tyrrell to the Flying School. With extraordinary generosity they allowed him to take me up, only going up with him in the passenger seat of the plane I was to use to be sure he understood its tricks. He first let me take off and land, both of which I did well without help. Then I went up again but was too tired to do myself credit. He understood & was most encouraging. The only fault he found was with my use of the rudder both in taking off & landing. This I had not been sufficiently taught. In any case I was so tired that I had to make a mess of it. He told me all about his service which is a hard and unfair one. He is under men of inferior achievement but more luck & “pull”. He left in the afternoon. E.V.L[ongworth]. went to his friends the Houlders who brought him back at night for a game of penny bridge. I lost five pennies and would have given 10/- to go to bed.
<i>Fr House, E.M.</i>	14 Oct, Mon	Did not mean to fly, but the day was tempting & I did 2 more

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		landings – one very good, the other indifferent. I am working hard at G.B.S's.
	15 Oct, Tue	Had Miss Lee & did most of my Flying article. Also did two good landings all “on my own”. Jones was greatly pleased. I ought to be ready for my first solo.
	16 Oct, Wed	At 11 met G. Palmer, Shortt, Glamis & Bowes Lyon at Shortt's office 6 Grafton St. to discuss Bowes affairs. Went with EVL to GBS's Apple Cart. It was a brilliant skit on Democracy, but the first act was 1 hr 20 min. Though it was a matinee I could not keep awake! Called on Ella Simeon – 1 year older than I. She has just had an operation “for high pressure” she said & I left it there. The was very kindly & gracious.
[Lady Prothero née Mary Frances Butcher, sister of Sir James George Butcher]	17 Oct, Thu	A good meeting of Foundation. Hall absent & I in chair. Others present (besides K.W., Metcalf & Longworth), Sir J Keane for first time and very helpful, Norman, Smith Gordon, Gerald, Prewett and Adams. Had Δ talks with the last three in course of afternoon. A good day's work, but the book is too much in my head & too little on paper. After supper (not taken) I went to Lady Prothero's. She & J.G. are living together till Xmas anyway, each mourning their lost mate. Henry James' “incomparable Fanny” and my oldest sporting friend J.G. talked of the far off days in Meath where the suicide of their father was the beginning of a series of domestic tragedies which were enough to kill the spirit of both. She is “liberal” in her views, he the most inveterate reactionary I have ever known – unless perhaps the last Lady Londonderry. Many subjects are taboo! I stayed till I could no longer prop open my eyelids & then an affectionate farewell.
	18 Oct, Fri	Most of the day writing a pamphlet for the Brooklands School of Flying!! A strange, but forward-looking job – certainly the strangest adventure of my life and in some ways the most interesting. The world is too absorbed in the almost daily sensations & thrills to look, as Tennyson did in Locksley Hall into the future of flying. I am trying to arouse public attention to what I see coming. Well Well. I came back all alone to Crest House & thought it all out. If I don't crash, I may do something for my young neighbours who are making a fine effort to establish the kind of School that is wanted. It is not, more than is absolutely necessary, a commercial venture. I shall try to get G.B.S. to give them a leg up.
	19 Oct, Sat	Three hours work early & two landings. Then fetched, chauffeur being “off”, Æ, Longworth & Norman at Walton by three successive trains. A sleep and really good discourse – the whole a red letter day reminiscent of Kilteragh.
	20 Oct, Sun	Took Æ & Norman to the School where I had two 5 minutes taking off & landing with Davis. Then I came back & slept. Æ left after tea. He talked incessantly and I never got in a word. But I love and admire him. He is worth listening to but why won't he

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		learn from others.
	21 Oct, Mon	Worked very hard at the Flying essay & had a couple of landings. I am determined to save the School from absorption by something infinitely smaller [<i>sic</i>] but financially & politically (bracketed) infinitely smaller. It will be an addition to the literature of flying.
	22 Oct, Tue	Another two landings & work at pamphlet. It is getting <u>so good</u> that it may be the making of my more important (but no more serious) work.
<i>Fr House, E.M.</i>	23 Oct, Wed	To town. Coal (Marley Hill & long conference with Godfrey Palmer in evening) Foundation, talk with Gerald, Pamphlet. Hectic very.
	24 Oct, Thu	75th Milestone, on which I see To Sherborne 75 Miles To Heaven . . ? . Miles Began with a Conference with Gerald & EVL & a telephone talk with Norman. Then 2½ hours Bowes Board, where I think I advanced my scheme for saving young lives thrown away thoughtlessly underground. Back to Crest House with EVL & Curtain for a little “Flying” dinner, Davis & his Secretary, Hamilton, Sir George Barnes & the Houlders (she doing hostess). Curtain redeemed Brooks. I was dead tired, but we got through.
[<i>Box and Cox</i> – play in which two men rent the same room, each believing himself to be the sole tenant.] [char – slang for tea (UK)]	25 Oct, Fri	My secretary & I live too much a la M. Box & M. Cox. This morning I had to fly – I mean in the car not the “bus” – to town before he was awake – at least I had to wake him & try to get him to absorb 3 chars. I had an appointment with G.B.S. at 10 and had to talk over the matter of any coming discussion with Gerald as I might be too sleepy to be clear. I wanted to interest him in the annoying little job which is interrupting my book – the Saving of the School and its exclusive scheme of teaching <u>safe</u> flying. Charlotte attracted G and I told him he had better go to <u>his</u> job, as tough as mine, saving the Realists. I think GBS understood – he always does. He suggested that I should try The Times for 1, 2 or 3 articles. Shall see Geoffrey Dawson. Since I saw him last I am told he has gone over to Rome! Then the Foundation & so to bed. Woke up to find Moritz Bonn. Then a Carnegie UKT[rust] meeting and home.
[Hedge Schools – early 18th century makeshift schools set up in contravention of the Penal Laws.]	26 Oct, Sat	Went with Davis by air to Heston Park aerodrome, a private highly capitalised, splendidly equipped rich flyers’ club. Do some training. This ought to be done by the Brooklands people who have the equipment and the <u>spirit</u> of the Irish “Hedge Schools”. Got on well with my Flying articles. E.V.L. most helpful.
	27 Oct, Sun	Bonn, Killeen & Jessica all called and I did a lot of work.
	28 Oct, Mon	More work on Flying articles and book.
	29 Oct, Tue	Worked from 5 to 10 and then took a fly in rough weather with Jones. I did well. Did more work & went to town to attend first of 3 lectures of Bonn at London School of Economics. It was on political parties in Germany and a witty, brilliant (if rather too cynical) analysis of the underlying motives of the politicians before the Revolution brought about by the disappearance of the Monarchy with the débâcle of 1918. The best thought was on the relations between politics and economics. Found a begging letter from G.P. Nair who has pestered me with

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		<p>hospitalities & now says God has told him to ask me for £150 – a loan of course.</p> <p>At night F.C. Swallow turned up. He wanted to make a deal with me, he to get a big commission for selling Bowes to a rich syndicate, I to be “taken care of”. I let him talk & then told him I should think of nothing but the interest of Bowes. I told him if he had any definite proposal to make he could send it to Godfrey Palmer or me & it would come before the Board, who probably would not entertain it for a moment.</p>
	30 Oct, Wed	<p>Another hectic day. Did a good bit of my Flying Articles and attended Bonn’s second lecture on Economics & Politics in Germany. Could not hear more than occasional sentences. Wrote many letters. Daisy, Gogarty, Nair (whom I was rather too ?cruelly kind to[).]</p>
	31 Oct, Thu	<p>Up early – 1000 words for Miss Lee at 10 A.M. Talks with Karl, Gerald, Bonn & to Crest House to welcome Harry & Bee Ponsonby. A hard day with a pleasant end.</p>
To House, E.M.	1 Nov, Fri	<p>Harry & Bee left. They are well mated. He a charming, sporting but serious soldier with broad, uninformed but humane views upon the place of war in “Civilisation” – she – We shall soon use the inverted commas as we do with a “General” in the Salvation Army. She housewifely & housekeeperly – withal sensible about what she does not understand.</p>
	2 Nov, Sat	<p>Finished 2 out of 3 Flying articles for The Times.</p>
	3 Nov, Sun	<p>Little work today. Had ½ hour practice at landing and taking off. I find the latter the more difficult though perhaps less dangerous. Mrs. Houlder called with a lady Doctor, an American lady flier. She flies in Nevada where the high altitude is a great difficulty. Her private plane has a 200 H.P. engine!</p>
	4 Nov, Mon	<p>Came to town to attend lecture by Adams at the Farmers Club on Rural Community Councils. Miserable attendance. I had to move a vote of thanks.</p> <p>After the day’s chief effort I walked home in the dark! I either slipped on orange peel but fear I fainted. Anyhow I fell heavily cutting my eyebrow & mouth (not badly) was put in a taxi. I remember falling and no more till I got to Mount St. I fear it is a warning not to fly solo – still less with a passenger.</p>

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<p><i>Fr House, E.M.</i></p> <p>[<i>En revanche</i> – in return; as compensation]</p>	<p>5 Nov, Tue</p>	<p>Quite knocked out, but managed to see Major Pickthorn of the Brooklands Flying School and found him chief the best brain of the three, Jones a good second, Davis a bad third. The loyalty of Jones to Davis made him suppress his thoughts on the problems I am discussing. Pickthorn having other business except at the week end is less reticent. I had 1½ hours with him and found him most interesting on the history of military aviation in England. His views and mine were identical upon the public issues involved and the School. My articles are an effort to save the Country from awful fatalities (on an American scale) from ignorantly providing facilities for flying without having first ample provision of the right kind of education and enforcing tests of capacity to fly.</p> <p>Called on Eddie who had been inoculated for enteric before going to India. He probably had a little fever & made a big fuss. His “War Wound” played its rôle and Beatrice had to sympathise & fetch & carry.</p> <p><u>En revanche</u> he let me have his Chrysler while he is away when I go to Ireland.</p>
	<p>6 Nov, Wed</p>	<p>Glad to get home. The comfort of a wood & turf fire is unspeakable. And to have in E.V.L. a real companion instead of a burden as in the case of his four predecessors is luck indeed.</p> <p>My bad lung is painful, but I think only from a muscular strain in the fall. Got Beare to come & he reported as I expected and insisted on rest. Impossible.</p>
	<p>7 Nov, Thu</p>	<p>A bit seedy. Did little work. No flying though a good day.</p>
	<p>8 Nov, Fri</p>	<p>A notable day. Major Pickthorn came to dine & sleep. I had Bryan, Davis & Jones to meet him. I definitely proposed a scheme for scrapping the Brooklands School in its present Irish “Hedge school” form and either getting Heston [Aerodrome] to join it in a big educational foundation or putting it up to Dame Ethel to enable Davis & Co to do the big thing herself. In the controversy it emerged that Davis had no ideas – no policy – whatever. I also learned to my surprise that he was a mere mechanic – a “rigger” & that he got into the air & a commission. My surprise was due to a large part of the conversation at dinner turning upon the necessity of the public school element in the control of whatever policy was adopted! It was nothing new that D. looked blank, but his silence was, it came out later, not without meditation. The night will have to bring forth a scheme and [incomplete]</p>
<p>[“Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow . . .”, <i>Macbeth</i>, V,v,19.]</p>	<p>9 Nov, Sat</p>	<p>it did. At 5 AM I was at work. By 8 I have a complete scheme with which Pickthorn after two flights with me – I was too tired to do my best but I did well – went to see Norman, Mgr Director of Heston. He was away but he saw his colleague. Tomorrow & tomorrow – . I think, however, a plan may be devised to Save the School. Meanwhile I am using my small-hour activity to try & save the whole air situation by 3 articles to the Times.</p> <p>But the Book! So I wrote a short letter on Agriculture to The Times which after being slept over probably won’t be sent in, as a reminder that it is not forgotten and as a curtain-raiser to the articles.</p> <p>To dinner came Guy Tyrrell & C.G. Grey, son of a man I knew in</p>

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		Wexford years ago, & wife. He is Editor of an Air paper – The Aeroplane, I think.
	10 Nov, Sun	<p>Again worked 5 to 9 A.M. Rewrote the letter to The Times & made it good. It ran to about 1000 words!</p> <p>Rest of day talked the Brooklands School crisis. It emerged that Davis & Co cannot possibly survive. The Brooklands people are unfriendly & mean to do them in. Pickthorn has, since he slept here, arranged to go into matters with the Heston people and I think the latter will agree to a merger of some sort which will possibly save Davis & Co's face but they cannot give him a big administrative post. E.V.L. took my letter to the Times, too late for insertion tomorrow, I fear. In the midst of the day's work a car drove up and from it were disgorged Dr. & Mrs. Jefferies [<i>sic</i>] of Pretoria (Gerald & I met them in S.A.[.]), two friends, two babies and a nurse. I fear I failed to enthuse as I should over the cheery little brats. The Greys left & I was glad to be quiet.</p>
	11 Nov, Mon	<p>A wild day. I wanted to fly, as one must not be a fair weather pilot! But neither Davis nor Jones were there. E.V.L. went to town for a little fun, poor chap. I think life has gone hard with him & I'm glad to seem to have given him a job he likes.</p> <p>Called on Dame Ethel & told her my impressions of the situation at the aerodrome & track. She spoke as if she was satisfied but, if she knows the truth she must be pretty anxious. I shall do my best to help her if I get my articles in The Times and make the public know the truth. It's a strange job to be trying at 75.</p>
	12 Nov, Tue	<p>To town and got The Times to take a not good article on Agricultural Policy (English & Imperial). They asked me to cut it down by one third as they said they would then give it prominence This I did at night in a rush & rather spoiled the letter.</p> <p>Saw Pickthorn in his office and we got ahead with the aviation policy scheme & the Times articles thereon.</p>
[“An Agricultural Policy – Empire Cooperation”, <i>The Times</i> , p. 15]	13 Nov, Wed	As I was reading The Times, which gave my letter the pride of place & had an article backing my main argument, Ada Watson called me up and asked if I had seen the “awful news[?]”. She made me look at the Obituary Notices and I saw that Fingall had passed. It was a heavy blow and for the rest of the day I was bemused. I had to upset endless plans & engagements and make all arrangements for going to the funeral on Friday. Had to see Tommy about other domestic matters. A sad day! Got no news except that F died “last night”. Daisy, Oliver wired is as well as can be expected!
	14 Nov, Thu	1. Interview with Pickthorn. 2. To Crest House to get clothes & letters. 3. To town again where Foundation affairs & packing occupied me to the elimination of my siesta and 4. To Dublin by the 5.55 PM from Euston, the helpful Longworth in attendance. A hectic day.
	15 Nov, Fri	A day of saddest thoughts and at times it was hard to keep dry eyes. By 7.30 we landed at North Wall. It was a calm passage but a bitter, frosty morning followed by a stormy cold day made the obsequies doubly tiring. After a wash & breakfast at the admirable Salthill Hotel I motored with E.V.L. to Killeen. High Mass had been celebrated in the little Chapel before we got to

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<p>[<i>The Times</i>, p. 15; <i>Irish Times</i>, p. 5]</p>		<p>Killeen. No bishop – no one but the local peasant priest, with dirty little boys holding all the machinery of a pre Christian burial! Eddie ought to have represented the other branch of the family, but I had not pressed him as I knew a doctor’s certificate would have been forthcoming and am glad I went. I thought the McNeills should have been represented. The crowd was <u>S</u>ocially, politically and every way miserable. The “one bright spot” was the representation of the Meath Hunt Club – but only by the Huntsman & Whips in new pink, breeches boots and spurs! William Dease and George Gradwell, Wilfrid & Minnie Fitzgerald, Mrs. Martin & a few others. Mamie & “Tank”, Oliver & Daisy were there in sincere grief. So too were the rustics. The Doctor & the “General” seemed to run the show.</p> <p>But what thoughts – eight centuries of them & what memories. I am too tired to write them. I returned to the Hotel in order to let the first & most poignant reflections upon the change in all the circumstances of the passing be got over in solitude. Tomorrow I arranged after a meeting of the Irish Statesman Board, to plant E.V.L. with Hammond and stay the week-end with Daisy & the new Fingalls. Jessica was laid up – not, I trust, seriously.</p> <p>Gogarty called at tea time but could only talk aviation shop.</p> <p>Sent Healy of Irish Times about 500 words for the Irish Times & The Times – if he can get them in which I doubt.</p> <p>See under Nov 21 what the <u>Irish</u> Times published.</p>
To House, E.M.	16 Nov, Sat	<p>Worked as usual and then went in pouring rain & bitter wind to the Plunkett House where a meeting of the friends of the Irish Statesman and on through the wilderness of Cow to Killeen. En route I deposited poor Longworth with the Hammonds, the Killeen people having told me they would be full up. “Tank” & Mamie were leaving & tomorrow I shall retrieve my secretary. At Killeen went to bed for 2 hours & at tea found “Fa” Conyngham who was doing a kindly but not very convenient call.</p> <p>Daisy is going to evacuate Killeen. That makes the necessary changes possible. I shall have to go into the whole situation with Ryan the solicitor and see how & where I can help. From 7.30 to 10.30 I was tête à tête with Oliver & got his “reaction” to the new situation. He is sensible and has the spirit of Noblesse Oblige of which his father was the finest exponent I have known.</p>
	17 Nov, Sun	<p>I went over to Dunsany & showed Ernest (as he has now become) the old home. He greatly preferred it to Killeen! The rest of the day was spent on the Fingall affairs. The will leaves everything to Daisy of which the deceased could dispose. It refers to her marriage settlement (1888), Deeds of settlement & Appointment and to a deed the purpose of which is not specified but obviously it was the breaking of the entail. It emerged that, until the contents of these documents are disclosed, it is idle to plan for the future. Oliver & I agreed to meet at their incompetent lawyer’s, Ryan.</p> <p>Wilfrid & Minnie, Kitty Baggally, a hunting soldier & wife, Hammond & the doctor came and went. Ernest moved from Corballis to Killeen.</p> <p>Daisy is bearing up bravely. She has quite made up her mind to evacuate Killeen & live in a small Dublin flat. She will soon be happier than she has been since her brilliant Society days.</p>

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[B&S – brandy & soda]	18 Nov, Mon	<p>About 5 hours in town. A long conference with Ryan & Oliver the chief event. It appears that everything F could dispose of he left to Daisy – too troublesome I suspect to think out a real will. Alas, the facts & figures supplied by Ryan show that when the Bank overdraft is “lifted” by the insurances there will still be a small overdraft and of course not a penny to carry on with at Killeen. To avert a forced sale I undertook to guarantee a fresh overdraft up to £2000. It will be disagreeable enforcing the exclusive use of this amount for the purpose intended and understood.</p> <p>Dictated a few letters to Miss Skipworth and went to the Hotel dead tired.</p> <p>After supper came Lennox Robinson. I kept awake for ½ hour and I then slept while Ernest talked to him for an hour over the former’s whiskey & the latter’s B&S. Things are not going well with “Lynx” at the moment. But that is the way with these literary folk.</p>
	19 Nov, Tue	<p>Another hectic but less wearing day because of an out of door interlude. It began with an interview with Colonel Russell, head of civil aviation. He is the son of a publican but no sinner. He was with the murder gang but soon gave it up when it justified its name. At war with British, Fianna Fail and the new Government in turn, he finally got his present post which he was on the eve of abandoning. I put before him the opportunity of making Ireland the landing and jumping off place betw’n the old and new worlds and fortifying the natural advantages by filling the great gap I hope to expose – a real education for the air in these islands. At Baldonnell I saw the opportunity – an ideal aerodrome & all around landing places. The whole island, barring the mountains, lakes & Bog of Allen are the antithesis of crowded & overbuilt Engla Britain.</p> <p>To the Hansons for my siesta & Philip came to the Hotel for tea & supper.</p>
	20 Nov, Wed	<p>A half hour Conference with Cosgrave upon the future air policy of the Free State upon which I have definite ideas, largely a synthesis of the air minds of Pickthorn & Colonel Russell. He asked me to send him a Memorandum on the subject. It is a vast and forward looking scheme that has grown in my mind – far too long & complicated to enter here. In course of the day I had long talks with the Normans & Hansons, Fr. Finlay, Gogarty and Col. Russell, with the last of whom I went up from Baldonnell. It was infinitely easier to fly there than at Brooklands. I think I astonished Col. Russell. The only difficulty I had was that the grass was so soft & thick that I could not tell when I was off the ground!</p> <p>I got no writing done but did a big lot of thinking.</p>
[“Funeral of the Earl of Fingall – a correspondent writes”, <i>Irish Times</i> , 16 Nov, p. 5]	21 Nov, Thu	<p>Arrived in town too tired for work. Moped the hours away – all except a short talk with Pickthorn and a visit to George Moore.</p> <p>————— This cutting belongs to Nov 15th above. [<i>Times</i> obituary of The Earl of Fingall pasted in.]</p>
<i>Fr Russell, Charles F.</i>	22 Nov, Fri	<p>Up early and did a good bit of the aviation stuff. Then came alone to Crest House to find a pile of letters & papers. E.V.L. went to the Houlders. Bryan came to dinner for the week-end. But again</p>

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		<p>too tired to get much done.</p> <p>Colonel Russell has written me a chit to the effect that I flew with him on Wednesday for 15 minutes, did all the “navigation of the Aircraft” without interference by him in the slightest degree, in weather which made a good landing difficult. What strange things we can do if we try!</p>
[Signed, typescript note inserted loose in diary, but now in Plunkett Correspondence at RUSS/C.]	23 Nov, Sat	<p>I received a certificate from Col. Russell that I had flown, that I had flown for a quarter of an hour on Wednesday at Baldonnell without any help from him in far from ideal weather.</p> <p>“I have the honour to state that on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20th Nov. 1929 at Baldonnell Aerodrome, Co. Dublin, Ireland, Sir Horace Plunkett navigated the Aircraft E – I. A.A.C. (Gipsy Moth) for fifteen minutes. During the flight I did not find it necessary to interfere in the slightest degree with his handling of the Aircraft. The weather was by no means ideal for flying, on the afternoon in question, a high wind making it difficult to effect a good landing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Charles F Russell Colonel (Rtd.) Late of Irish Free State Army Air Corps. 22-11-29”</p> <p>Pickthorn and Jones had a long conference with Bryan, Ernest & me upon our alternative to the Government’s flying policy. In the result I asked Nigel Norman & Muntz (owners of Heston) to meet me him (Crest Ho) Monday or Wednesday at Mount St. I also asked Col. Russell to let me know when he was coming over “next week”, as he had announced his intention to do.</p>
	24 Nov, Sun	<p>Worked hard at the 3 articles, Bryan suggesting a good deal from the military point of view. Dorothy & her Mary came to lunch & both had to have a joy ride. I took occasion to do 2 take offs & landings. George Barnes called & I had a short talk with him.</p>
	25 Nov, Mon	<p>Karl’s letter sent to The Times 2 weeks ago, on the Foundation was published today – no doubt as the result of my letter published on 13th inst[ant].</p> <p>Finished a revision of Articles I & II and began Art III.</p> <p>Had a temperature. Only 100.5° Fahr, but very uncomfortable. Sent for Beare. He found lung trouble.</p>
	26 Nov, Tue	<p>Did a bit of Article III, by far the most difficult because of its complicated construction. Not very well & tomorrow being a busy day in town Beare had advised me last night to sleep there. Daisy arrived at Ada’s – we were too sleep tired to meet.</p>
	27 Nov, Wed	<p>Began with long talk with Helme who has been enriching himself by buying up the Pelton SS shares for a song and managing the Co as efficiently as R.S.G[ardiner]. managed it extravagantly & fraudulently. The Chairman being sick, I presided over a meeting of the Co. Crookenden & Gardiner, pere et fils, being only present. I may retrieve £10,000 out of the concern for my estate.</p> <p>But the articles and their big issue engaged all my thoughts. Had 2½ hour conference with Jones, Norman & Muntz (the last two being the owners of Heston) on <u>my</u> policy & plan.</p> <p>Decided to expand the articles from three to four and do the thing</p>

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		thoroughly. At end of an exhausting day slept through a supper at Ada's to discuss the Killeen future with Daisy.
	28 Nov, Thu	The change in the form of the articles made very hard work still to be done. Went to the Catholic Poetry Society where met all manner of real & synthetic Gaels, including Lady Lavery next whom I sat. She has got the Empire Marketing Board to "feature" her as Ireland in their advertisements – Harp, Wolf hound and all, she told me!!
	29 Nov, Fri	Rewrote the first article as the result of E.V.L.'s criticism and my further reflection. It seems absurd – and yet is an effort that is worthwhile --- produced without an immensity of toil. Back to Crest House to get clothes etc for Birchington. Saw one Kennedy (introduced by Pickthorn) one of old Charles Kennedy's nephews. He had a scheme for an Anglo Irish mail and passenger service. I took the paper thing away & found nothing new in it. It is a nuisance being an authority on aviation!
	30 Nov, Sat	Had a short fly with Jones & got to Birchington via Leatherhead, Dorking, Sevenoaks, Maidstone, Sittingbourne & Canterbury. Setons there. Weather cold & raw.
	1 Dec, Sun	Worked hard at articles & hope to finish by Tuesday.
	2 Dec, Mon	A wild stormy day. Got a typist from Canterbury and got ahead with the articles. There is no end to the work which might be done on such a theme. I ought not to be working – unless a big contribution of fact and thought is going to be made. So I suppose the costly effort is more than justified. After it rest must come.
	3 Dec, Tue	Little progress. I cannot get E.V.L. to do constructive work. He prefers the blue pencil. Perhaps that is what I <u>ought</u> to want.
	4 Dec, Wed	Had a typist but unable to write.
	5 Dec, Thu	A fair morning's work. But weather awful. Motored back to Mount St. taking the Quex Park Museum of wild animals slaughtered in Africa & India and mounted marvellously well by Ward Rowland Ward. The animals were in huge glass cases, gentle gazelles, and lions & tigers, snakes, birds of prey all in a good imitation of their habitats. A wonderful exhibition of Nature's – and man's cruelty. For the naturalist it must be interesting, for the sportsman entrancing but for the humane observer horrid withal.
	6 Dec, Fri	Two Carnegie meetings and some work.
	7 Dec, Sat	Carnegie Executive Committee, at which Bledisloe bade farewell on his five years appointment as Governor General of New Zealand.
	8 Dec, Sun	Pickthorn very kindly came over and I took him to Dame Ethel before whom we placed the Brooklands School situation.
	9 Dec, Mon	To town where saw Daisy & worked. She, poor thing, is very wretched, not knowing what on earth to do with her life. Happily the place will be entirely off her hands – but there is Hetty for whom euthanasia would be the happiest release and entirely

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		justified. The chance of recovery is nil.
	10 Dec, Tue	<p>The most satisfactory meeting of the Foundation since its early days. Hall was back from S & E Africa, Keane, D O'Brien, Norman (unnecessarily) Prewett & Adams attended. Karl had prepared a scheme of foreign research including Finland & Russia. Hall substituted for these two Holland (now co-operatively & agriculturally far ahead of any other country, he said) and E African colonies, particularly Kenya which he had investigated himself on his Brit[ish]. Ass'n. tour.</p> <p>Col. Russell of the Free State and Pickthorn had a 2-hour conference with me. They both fear that the forces against us (Air Ministry & National Flying Services Ltd.) will be too strong to permit of a successful enlightenment of public opinion on the real needs of educational needs of aviation.</p>
	11 Dec, Wed	Trying to get into touch with Irish Assoc'n of Technical Institutions on aviation. Wrote to its Hon[ourable] Sec, the Principal of the Loughborough College and to the Principal (or other official) of Northampton Polytechnic in London. I am determined to probe to the bottom the question whether the air Ministry is seriously considering education in airmanship.
	12 Dec, Thu	More air work. Could not fly as the Moth blows over on the ground!
	13 Dec, Fri	<p>To town again this time chiefly to see Daisy before she goes tomorrow on a visit en route to Ireland. Was not well but in the morning I took a 10 minutes fly in bad weather to see the country – and, incidentally, most of the aerodrome – under water!</p> <p>It is a fine tonic as I have said every time I have gone up after the effort ceased.</p>
	14 Dec, Sat	Attended two meetings at which the A.O.S. & S.H.L. agreed to amalgamate with the other Allotments organisation. This may clear the air a bit. Came home for a quiet week-end.
	15 Dec, Sun	<p>I confess I regret having taken on the job of writing on a subject I do not understand when I can only get a very problematical advantage for my work on the subject I do understand out of the effort. I had no idea of the difficulty of the task and have only the consolation that its real importance becomes daily more manifest. But the complications are staggering. I no sooner get a clear line of argument than an "interest", a personality or what not crops up and diverts me from my course. The subject is as indefinite as it is misunderstood by the public which thinks it understands. On one of its aspects – the educational (which embraces the danger of the pursuit factor) my Technical Instruction duties enable me to speak with knowledge & confidence. But can I get make it interesting or even intelligible? It is an awful job and E.V.L. can only criticise – he has no knowledge for constructive criticism. He has the journalistic sense which is helpful. But he rather increases than lessens the work.</p> <p>Mrs. Houlder called & took him off to tea & supper. I am always glad to spare him to his friends.</p>
[BARC – Brooklands Automobile Racing Club]	16 Dec, Mon	Took a fly with Jones – two takes off and landings. Also discussed future of School with him & Davis. Went to tea with Dame Ethel & discussed the same subject from her (the BARC)

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		point of view. Wrote a Memorandum on the situation so far.
	17 Dec, Tue	To town. Chief event a talk with Pickthorn who is in hot pursuit of Norman & Muntz over the Heston-Brooklands merger we are trying to bring about. Wrote many letters. Invited Ada & Robin for Xmas.
	18 Dec, Wed	A most interesting talk with Gerald & worked at the articles. I had better put it on record that the attempt to treat aviation in an effective, arresting and new way is a public service in which I believe and has the further purpose of winning influence on my forthcoming (if I live) book on Agriculture. This will explain my facing the task of writing on a subject on which I knew nothing last summer & know little now. The ignorance of the public is abysmal.
	19 Dec, Thu	A Marley Hill and Pelton SS Co meeting. Then back to Crest House which was throughout below 45° Fahr. Central heating must be conceded to my low vitality.
	20 Dec, Fri	The house was 45° with a fire in the drawing room and another in my bedroom at 8 A.M. I had the Central Heating started for the first time this winter & it gave great comfort.
	21 Dec, Sat	Horrid cramps in legs and neck with very subnormal temperature at 4 A.M. told the tale of my over strain. (The first sentence opposite belongs here it continues). See opposite page. Got Jones to come and talk aviation generally and the Brooklands-Heston scheme in particular. In the result, I almost decided entirely to change the scheme of my articles. The job is worth any trouble – <u>if I can do it</u> . Sacrifice of life – and worse, crippling of fine young people – is involved!
	22 Dec, Sun	Today I determined to change the whole structure of my aviation articles. I did so because I recognised after my talk with Jones last night that the Brooklands scheme cannot work out as I had anticipated. It will take much more time. There is no hurry about the articles; but the book is being held up by them and I must get them off my chest.
	23 Dec, Mon	To town. Saw Pickthorn who told me that his flying brother is a don at Corpus Cambridge and is taking a great interest in the flying work there. They are against N[ational].Flying].S[ervices]. and take generally my view on the whole subject. Called on Sheila & heard a lot of the Byrne family.
[prob. H. Leigh-Bennett]	24 Dec, Tue	Called on Gertrude Price but she was with her son-in-law.
	25 Dec, Wed	A quiet Xmas, Ernest & I going to lunch with the Houlders & no callers coming to Crest House. A post came with a request from Daisy for £1000 to enable her to buy a house in Dublin. I shall anticipate my will in her case, but she is quite unfit to make permanent plans.
	26 Dec, Thu	Not well and fruitlessly tried to work. I fear there is little work left in me – but the zest is there. The worst of it is that I have not the energy to re plan my remaining days so as to measure the effort by the declining capacity. This must be done or I shall drift into utter uselessness. Phoned to Betty Balfour – a nurse answered that she was

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		suffering severely from arthritis. She is a saint and I am quite sure working for others ceaselessly is the cause of the trouble. The nurse added that A.J.B. was better but upset by Betty's illness. If anything happened to incapacitate her, God knows how that family would face all its troubles.
	27 Dec, Fri	Not at all well. Digestion troubling.
	28 Dec, Sat	Miss Marks came. She sung two excellent Irish street ballads. Ernest took her over to the Houlders. I stayed & moped.
	29 Dec, Sun	Gogarty came to fly at Brooklands. It blew a gale all day. I took him twice to the School but it was impossible to go up. The machines would blow over on the ground. He talked brilliantly. He gave a melancholy picture of the Irish Free State – that is of the people. He is not impartial but his analysis of the situation was extraordinarily interesting.
	30 Dec, Mon	The storm abated and Gogarty got 20 minutes in the air. I went up for 10 minutes with Davis. It was good practice keeping level in the roughest weather I have yet experienced. Miss Marks & Gogarty both left, the latter phoned that he would bring Beaverbrook to lunch tomorrow!
To House, E.M.	31 Dec, Tue	The end of the year was celebrated by 3 take offs and 3 landings at Brooklands with Jones, entertaining Beaverbrook whom Gogarty brought over from Leatherhead, at lunch, after they had left (taking Longworth to London), I called on Dame Ethel and had a long talk with her on the future of Brooklands Track and Aerodrome. She read me the list of a large Committee of the Brooklands Automobile Racing Club on which I am to serve. This committee will have subcommittees, one of which will be charged with matters relating to the aerodrome. An so to bed 1929.
	Year-end Summary	1929 began in serious illness. In the most glorious summer of my three score & fifteen years I picked up. The book which was to have been my last public effort was held up first by the utter incompetence of my secretaries until Longworth came and then by the strangest interruption of my life work through studying aviation and learning to fly. The rough experience brought on a fresh attack of broncho-pneumonia. This I survived and struggled back to health.