C

AG-8/8/52-29. Charlbury Road
Oxford.
August 5th. 1952

CAIRNES

Dear Dr. Gregg.

Thank you for writing to me. But for you, would Hugo have ever succeeded in rising to the place he has occupied? You know, we had not the means of paying our weekly food bills when the Rockefeller Trust, through you, came to our rescue, & enabled him to stick to his neurosurgery in spite of every kind of initial difficulty (& opposition). Neither of us have ever forgotten this.

I know I ought not to wish those weeks of increasing weakness & distress (but thank God, extraordinarily little pain) to be still going on, but I cannot help this sometimes coming into my mind; they were peaceful, & time stood still, & he was still here, & we could be quietly together, for more hours really than our ordinary life has given us over years. He always drove himself

so very hard, as you know,
& I think I was occasionally
thrown to the wolves too!
During these last weeks we
had peaceful companionship.
I know it will relieve you
mind if I tell you, I assume
you, he never had the desolation
of lost hope. He fought his
own enemy with the same
courageous confidence that
had made him so wonderful
to his patients (whom he
thought & spoke of to the end);
& when hope had really gone
for the watchers, he had
slipped away into unreality
He didn't always remember even
who was ill.
He had a good life, didn't he,
& didn't waste it.
Thank you again for your letter.
Yours v. sincerely
Barbara Cairns.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

OXFORD 4 45PM AUG 1952

POSTAGE 6d

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