

19 April '97

Dear Frances,

I haste to reply to your letter which arrived yesterday. Our doctor is very attentive, but it was Marion who put me onto this "We Care" home help agency, & I think it will work very well. The lady (an RN) came to assess our needs & on Tuesday (+ weekly) we will have a person - Patrice is her name - to do cleaning, the same duties that Szylve did, ^{(but only come every 2 weeks).} The advantage of this agency - "We Care" - is that they have a much more graduated range of support services to offer than the James Bay outfit. The RN who assessed our needs seemed to think the place looked quite clean & tidy! Which pleased me because since Jan. 23 we have only had 3 visits from a cleaning lady. Today, our rugs & mats came back to the carpet cleaners, & were so apologetic for being so slow they threw in the Scotch Guard process for free. Haven't minded having no rug.

or make in our present state, but
now they are all back it really
improves the general appearance.

I cannot really say Maurice is
improving, but he is just holding his
own & we are keeping on with pea
soup & are full of hope. Yes, 1
sleep all right, but he doesn't, so his
life is mostly getting up, wandering
around, & the back to bed & snoozing.

Maria came & visited us today
& was just the right sort of
visitor to cheer Maurice, & she
didn't stay too long. She has
now got Ed into an intermediate
Care establishment (very grand &
pricey) & thinks it will be good
for her to have to be spruced
up & shined & appear for all
meals in a dining room.

The Gaelic group have sent us
a beautiful blown arrangement
which may not last very well
being a lily & a cineraria
& a bird, but I am so touched
by the kind thought, & it is

a very well-chosen floral gift
for an overheated woman.

Maurice too has awful itchy things
& "bitten feet" & I spend lots of
time applying Aloe Vera which
we find is the best & most
soothing. Betadone (or some such
name) was not much use & made
everything go yellow. I don't know
what causes the itching & fiery
feet - & I do hope you will get
over your rash.

I thought Pat Buck was over her
operation some time ago - was it a
knee? It sounds as though she
broke something if there had to be
pins.

No, I don't get groceries sent in -
I do believe in a daily walk
& can leave Maurice for a short
time - so I get small quantities
at a time, carry them in my
pack, & I love going through the
park which has such gorgeous blooms
just now. We really are well

placed for groceries & all our
needs either through the park or
up at the James Bay Village Square,
& every now & then I get down
to the library & get something really
good to read. I have already

mentioned Dick Francis who
writes awfully good mysteries.

I've just been reading his one
called "Proof" which has a very
good plot indeed. I'm sure
they're in your library.

Sandy phoned to know how we
are coping. I know you talk
on the phone to them, so please
relay our news along. I'm not
expecting speedy results for
Maurice, but he is a good
optimist & most uncomplaining.

Much love L

Gene