

great delight, and what a coincidence, there was a South African girl from Johannesburg waiting to buy and she gave us some of her coupons as they were leaving for South Africa on the following day so she had no further need for them. We actually saw three pieces. The first was the second act of 'Le Lac Des Cygmes' and it was the most graceful and beautiful of the three and I always think Swan dances always are lovely. The second was 'Rakes Progress'. Very clever and humorous till the end when the madhouse scene and dancing sent shudders down my spine. What dancing super. The third and last was the 'Ballet Imperial' which was very nice but not nearly as spectacular as the other two. The evening was grand and we returned to the hotel feeling the world was a lovely place, I think it was the 15/6d seats. I think.

The next day we phoned the tailor and were told Geoff's suit was ready. We got there and to our surprise the suit needed very little altering and though the cloth is not of the best, one cannot expect the earth for 16 guineas when they cost in South Africa £25 and more. The cost of men's clothing is exorbitant and out of all proportion to the salaries. It costs so much to be clothed but there is nothing one can do about it.

We then went along to Bourne and Hollingworths where I bought a very nice tailored velour hat. It does not look so nice but it is very comfortable and comfort at my age counts a lot and is why I refuse to wear boned corsets though surely to goodness I need them I should very much like to buy a Gossard Cousette before we go back but the six guineas is a bit much. Now do you realise why I moan and groan that Geoff and I are so large. It costs so much to be clothed as I have mentioned but there is nothing we can do about it. I am glad that Geoff is large too as I should hate to walk about with a short skinny man.

In the afternoon we visited the Royal Academy which opened at the beginning of the month. Here we saw many paintings and models of great beauty but I must admit that there were a number of monstrosities. The place was packed, masses of people in every room and one was not able to see really well. We only saw one portrait by Augustus John but it was not as nice as many of his I have seen. Russell's work I always admire and he had some outstanding water colours on view. The modelling to me was outstandingly good, as were the miniatures. I love Gerald Brookhurst's portraits but there were none. The prices on the whole were moderate and reasonable but we could not hope to buy anything, though I'd love to have a Madonna and child and a reclining female, both modelled in clay or something similar, beauty in very curve and line. The landscapes on the whole I did not appreciate though a couple caught my breath. Flower pictures seemed to sell well as so many of them carried the little red tab and indication of a sale. We are hoping to come again but as we are only here till Saturday time is running out.

We are back at the hotel and it is supper time and the street musicians are playing to the theatre queues. 5th May. We have done very little today but walk around and look at shop windows though we did go into Lilly and Skinners for shoes but as they had nothing suitable I shall have to go into Stratford where I may get what I want. The streets as usual were crowded but what else can one expect when you consider that the population of London is well over eight million.

Last night we dined with Zennie and Jean and spent a very pleasant evening and Jean who does all the house work had cooked a most delicious meal. Nothing like a good home cooked meal. They are going for a Paris holiday and she showed me some of the dresses she had made. It is a conference that Zennie is to attend in Paris and when the men meet the wives are taken for auto outings to places of interest all day and luncheon parties and the husbands and wives are entertained right royally at nights. Must be great fun and Jean will I am sure be the smartest as she has a very fine figure and is most amusing.

On the way back/