

Transcription of letter from Elizabeth Gauld to Dr James Devon, 24 February
1914

Inaros
Colinton Road
Edinburgh
24th Feb[ruary] 1914

Dr Devon,

Sir

Let me congratulate you! You have kept your word to send out this woman “in such a condition as to be unable to do anything” either for herself or others.

You have “done your duty” and quickly too. Not all the expert skill you spoke of has availed to keep her under torture very long. You have had it proved to you that Sir Victor Horsley and Mr Mansel Moullin are right about forcible feeding when they say there is great risk to the victim. You have proved this even when the operation is performed by the most skilled operators. Yet you have your ‘Duty’. So did those who drove in the nails in Calvary. So did those who let loose the lions in ancient Rome. So did those who lit the faggots round Joan of Arc. So did those who torture or slaughtered our convenanting forefathers. So did the tools and sycophants of every tyrant since the world began.

This may seem very extravagant language . It fits the circumstances. A woman came into your hands. She was in normal health and vigour. In one short week she is carried out – how? As the victims of old were carried out of the rack-chamber broken & helpless. Yes you have kept your word. You have done your duty well.

Are you satisfied?
Elizabeth Gauld

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