



Page from Harriette Chick's Diary, 9 October 1921.

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International Networks

This is an entry from Harriette Chick's diary, written during October 1921. It records a rare break from her time in **Professor Pirquet's** Kinderklinik in Vienna, with a lunch outside, a 'wonderful drive' and time spent in 'charming' company, on a day when she met with **Professor Hopkins** (Head of Biochemistry, Cambridge) and his wife.

The same professional sociability is evident from the following extract from the *British Medical Journal* (1920):

'She [Chick] has been very successful in establishing friendly relations with members of the medical profession in Vienna. She has in consequence... been able to enlist many keen collaborators from amongst some of the prominent physicians of Vienna.'¹

This was a return to Austria for Chick, who had spent part of her first research between 1899 and 1902 in Vienna, at a time when it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Despite her previous connection to the city, however, Chick's diaries also suggest she missed the company of her existing London-based colleagues. Later in the same diaries (1922), Chick confided that she had felt alone and sad during the twilight walk to Vienna's Belvedere Gardens that recalled an earlier visit with her Lister Institute contemporary **Charles Martin**.

Chick spent four years in famine-stricken post-war Austria, where she helped establish the importance of vitamins to human nutrition.² Never parochial in her outlook, Chick later conducted a lecture tour of the US in 1932 and, in 1949, (aged 74) petitioned for the donation of scientific journals to aid the reconstruction of post-war Germany.³

¹ 'The Stewart Prize', *British Medical Journal* (29 May 1920), p. 748.

² 'Post-War Vienna', *British Medical Journal* (15 December 1945), p. 853; Harriette Chick, 'Cure of Rickets: Pioneer Work in Vienna, World-Wide Research', *The Times* (Tuesday 22 May 1928), p. 30.

³ 'Back Numbers', *Lancet* (19 February 1949), p. 327.