

[F 13 Oct 1916]

Yesterday: London [Thursday]
Today: Clare better; Ruth
not quite fit yet

My own dearest

First about baby. I have not seen her yet this morning but last night she was certainly better. Her temperature was lower and she was much less hot in the head and more peaceful. She has a good long sleep in the middle of the day and the rest of the time she spent on Violet's lap and Violet says she sang to her most of the day. I got back from London and raced up the hill in time to have her for a little before she went to bed. I am now hoping that she and Violet will have had a good night.

We went to London by the 10.30 and went with Father to the exhibition.

Its most interesting. My greatest feeling about it is that its so full of life and energy. You know the academy rooms and their hateful chocolate walls well there is nothing left of it. Its all covered in cream painted canvas. They have big decorative pictures put up to fit spaces under arches and in one small central room which has four corner arches which

leave a huge sort of nich they have put four
altars or at least they will have put them
when but at present the exhibition is not
nearly complete they are still working at it
and have all sorts of building mess about.
One altar was nearly complete and we all
thought it very fine. I cant possibly describe
it to you nor say its like any thing because
the joy of it is that its like nothing you
have seen before. Its painted chiefly blue and
stands against a black & silver nich. It
gives you the feeling of beauty and magnificence
that Byzantine work gives.

There were lovely illuminations. I think the
book binding is apt to be over ornate.

The needlework is on the whole the least
good show they have crunched into too small
cases and one thing hides another in a most
irritating manner. They have crunched the
embroidary out for the sake of the weaving
I think. There were some embroidered frocks,
I would have liked one for Clara.

I shall be bitterly disappointed if you dont

get you leave in time to see it. Its to go on
nearly up to christmas I think. I was
wanting you to be there so much all yesterday.

More than half the fun is gone without you.
I try to imagine what you will like and
think and say but I want you there. We
have never been to an exhibition of this
sort together. The only modern ones have
been rather poor impressions and you know
that is always rather an effort for me

I am so longing to know how you will
like these. I am partly more its the sort of
art I am most in sympathy with.

Mr Shultz and Father both seem to think that
the judging of what should be accepted and
what rejected was not done very wisely in all
cases. Still I am sure you will be interested
even if you do not altogether approve & I dont
much think you will.

Wesley joined us there in the afternoon which
was very nice, but in many ways for that
show I would rather have had Bice who
should have come only she has had too bad

a cold to want to go to London.

I think I would rather have Bice than Rosula because she is more enthusiastic and gently sympathetic. Does that describe what I want to say I wonder.

I have had another letter from you this morning my own dear; I do love having them. You say you are going to Amiens. Can you go there and back in the day?

Baby's temperature is now normal so she is almost well, she had a perfect night. I have not seen her today because I am not well myself. I don't quite know what's the matter some sort of chill I think. I just ache all over. No head ache but then I never do have one when I ache like this. But I have not temperature and no sore throat or cold so it can't last long but I am not going to baby in case it's infectious. I am just staying in and keeping quiet. My mind feels happy and cheerful so the body does not matter much.

Your very loving
Ruth.