

Magdalen Hospital

Oct. 4. 1917

My dearest Ruth, I had your letter by this morning's post all right. I don't think you need assume that Oct. 28 will be our last week end. There'll be my overseas leave to come & almost certainly some delay.

I've been hoping to get out of hospital on Tuesday; but some experiments yesterday & to-day in putting weight on my foot are not very encouraging. The muscles under the mistep seem sore & weak. However I have done with fomentations to-day and have a dry dressing so there's a step.

I've been reading 'The Loom of Youth' which David sent me - a school story about Sherborne; it makes it out a very unspiritual atmosphere & still very much under the sway of athleticism. I can't read such a book without experiencing a multitude of thoughts; sometimes the whole idea of boarding schools seems unworkable. The prevailing idea I have after reading this book is that the Sherborne staff must be abysmally inefficient - there is a hopeless lack of touch between masters & boys from beginning to end. But what comes upon me most strongly is the difficulty of either judging or dealing with the herd - it's so different from the individuals who compose it. Ah well that's an endless subject - I've been thinking about it all the afternoon - working out for myself the exact place athletics ought to have & wondering

how the scale of values could ever be got right -  
o I come back where I've so often landed before;  
it's a question more than anything else of the  
individuals composing the staff.

I wish I had been with you today; it has been so lonely.  
I have now sitting in another ward to-day where  
the stove burns well without smoking & where  
I can see the hills beyond Winchester through the  
window - It's a very pleasant change & I've  
been left entirely to myself.

I'm fairly pleased with today's paper. At all events  
the Hun can't be feeling very cheerful after this last  
show if he hasn't launched any counter attack.  
Von Capelle's resignation is a good thing & Tripitz has  
definitely climbed down in his estimate of the  
prospects of submarines - I think the Pan-Germans  
feel they are playing a desperate game now & there  
will surely be a crisis before the postponed Reichstag  
meets in December.

Farewell dear love.

Your loving  
George.

