

Nov 19

My dearest One

I have had a letter from you this morning telling me of your joy ride to Lille. I'm afraid it was not a great joy. I do hope you will get back very soon, you are not doing anything of importance there & we should both be so much happier if you were here. If I could be in France with you we could very much enjoy going to see different places together & you would talk to the French peasants. I can imagine it being very pleasant. I hope you will succeed in seeing Beauvais with Trafford. I am still in bed and I expect I shall be most of the week because I don't think the doctor will hurry himself to let me get up. But I am really quite well now I have hardly any cough left even. I have been very lucky to get over it so quickly.

I had a very nice friendly letter from Jelly last night, very difficult to read, but I think I managed most of it. She says she has never

been very ill with influenza but that she cannot throw it off entirely. Apparently their household is very disorganized by influenza and so now she & Madame are going back to the Facchini household. I do think its a most uncomfortable arrangement for them.

I have been reading this morning accounts of our fight against the submarine warfare of the Hun written by 'Bastimeus'. They are wonderful stories of courage, they came out in the Times last week. I wonder if you read them there. I have not read the last one yet which looks exciting. I have been busying to knit garters for Clara which she badly needs. It has turned so cold every one says though of course I dont feel much of it in bed. I am specially anxious not to let the children have a chance of getting a chill while this influenza is about. I am told that Berry can stand alone

quite well now and is very proud of it and laughs with delight. It's a week now since I seen the mites but I shall be able to again very soon now

The doctor came this afternoon just after I had settled down to have a snooze. He says I am the best pneumonia patient he has had. Of course I never really had it. I may get up on Thursday & go down stairs on Saturday and out on Monday if its a nice day. I may see the children to morrow. So altogether its not so bad is it? He gave the most hideous account of the influenza in Guildford. A house with four people lying dead in it; two more of the inhabitants had been taken to another house very seriously ill. He says he believes its a little better in Godalming but not in Guildford yet. Do be very careful if you get it dear because I imagine it is raging in France. One so often hears of

people coming back on leave & dying of it. Even if you are just coming home when you get it, don't come but go to bed & keep quite warm till you can be taken to hospital.

By the end of next week I ought not to have even to be careful any more. I have had a lucky bit off I think. I think I get well so quickly partly because I go on sleeping till I am better.

I have been reading about the mutiny in the German navy. It was a blessing they did mutiny, they would certainly have had a great defeat but also they would certainly have succeeded in sinking some of our ships and many lives would have been lost. Still I think it must be a bit disappointing to our navy that they have never had a really big war at them.

Dearest I'm afraid these letters from bed are dull but being in bed & ill makes one dull. I have not had much food for thought nor until today very much energy to think. Oh but I do love you & want you back. Your very very loving
Ruth.