

[M 18 Sep 1916]

Dearest George

Its a horrid wet Monday morning, it began to rain yesterday evening just as we left Prions Field, luckily it did not rain very hard because we had cotton dresses and not coats or umbrellas but Bice lent us one.

I'm afraid it wasnt a very successful tea party. There was Bice & a very nice friend of her about 30 who had lately married & whose husband is in the RGA. She & Bice wanted to play with Clare. Then there was Doratha Fox and a friend of hers, they were not baby people, and I have not known Doratha since school so really we are almost strangers but feel we ought to be friends. We could not talk shool because there were too many people there who could take no interest in it; finally there were the Boston Brown boys. At tea time I stuck Clare down behind my chair and let her play alone and talked to the boys about those scotch holiday and fishing and every one else more or less joined into that. Presently Clare bumped her head & began to cry so I had to pick her up and comfort her. Then Bice & her friend took her and played with her for the rest of the time which was not long. Its Clare's birthday today you know. I expect you will enjoy it more than this day last year. We have been lucky with her you know to have got through the whole first year without an illness or any nt back at all, why she has not once ever dropped weight. She now weighs 22½

which according to my book is just a wee scrap over average but not to count. I am not sure if its average I think its what a good baby should weigh. She is also just the right measurement round the chest 19in and we made her length $30\frac{1}{2}$ & they say it should be 30. Isnt she extraordinarily near.

Yesterday Mr Fanshawe preached a sermon on ~~the~~ 'who is my neighbour' He said in it that there is a big hospital in a camp which takes 800 patients and they are all ill through immorality. And he said we ought to try to look upon those people as our neighbours and help them. I talked to Father about it and he said & I quite agree with him, that there is not so rather harm in a lot of people blundering in and trying to interfere in such a terribly difficult question. He says on the who he thinks the church had better leave it alone unless they are being scientifically helped by doctors.

Just lately a law had been made saying that people may have those diseases ~~for~~ treated at hospitals without anyone being let to know why they are there & whats the matter. I should think that is a good thing but I do wish it could all stop & I am afraid it has been worse since the war.

Dearest its now a quarter past seven in the evening & I have not had one spare moment all day to finish this letter to you till now. This fearful business has been partly owing to Clare's birthday & having party for her without any servants. I have had

a most lovely letter from you by the evening post. I am quite cheerful again now and undepressed. Your letters are happy and all they say news is good. When you see me again you will see me looking happier than I ever have before to have you back again. I even look very happy I am now when I think of it.

Little Clare has enjoyed her birthday very much I think. I wish you could have seen her this morning having her new toys. As she took each one she smiled with it delightfully.

Well dearest I will write you a long letter tomorrow in answer to the dear one I had today.

Oh darling I am so bursting full of love for you that it is a bad pain not to have you here to hug and kiss. But when I do have you —

My dearest I do want that leave to come badly. I wish you could get it regularly every three or four months it would make a difference. But we shan't have such a long gap next time I expect.

Your very very loving
Ruth.

I have sent the cake I made off today. I cut a slice to see if it was all right & it looks to have baked well. I hope the packing will be better this time.