

Magdalen Hospital

Oct. 15 [1917]

My dearest Ruth, You have omitted to notice the most suitable colour for your frock. I expect you are being tired of being told about purple (I don't mean violet). Of course I don't know what fur you have or whether you intend to buy some - but in the latter case you could very easily get fur to make a beautiful combination - a good dark brown is the obvious thing but perhaps even more wonderful, black - or even, if you can wear it, ermine. In any case fur ^{trimming} should be rectangular rather than circular in section & firm rather than fluffy - it mustn't look, I mean like so many hairs on a string; nor on the other hand must it look too flat & silky, as though it were mere muleskin. Grey I think won't do for a winter dress; your previous experiment - grey ermine was not really a success; it has got to be so absolutely clean to look well & it is not likely to be that for long. I notice that the grey I have masked ^{possibly} makes a curiously lovely combination with the purple I like - I don't suppose it will be possible to make use of that fact - but there it is in ^{any} case as an alternative to fur perhaps. The greens seem to me poor - about the one you have masked I think one would come to ~~have~~ feel much as one would feel about a repetition dress of tinned pears - a cheerless dish: but the fur might do the trick. I think there's much to be said for the pattern you have masked next to the purple. I am happier about my foot to-day. The wound has almost healed & the doctor thinks the weakness & soreness of the muscle

is due only to the bruise & will quickly get better. At my suggestion I am to have a prolonged dose of hot water to-day - that is apparently what the M.O. first intended before but these stupid nurses merely put on a little pad 5 or 6 times in the 24 hrs.

These last two days have really been not unpleasant. I have been little troubled by either nurses or other patients & have been sitting quite happily by myself not too far away from a warm stove and looking out upon a pretty view of sunlit hills on the far side of Winchester. As a result of deep thought yesterday inspired by the loom of youth I am now in full swing with a series of articles about education. When I have completed the first to-night I shall send it to the Daily Telegraph and ask if they will have anything to do with me. So you see I am full of congenial occupation & therefore in the main happy.

I rejoice greatly in this fine weather even though I can't walk the Downs - it means just everything for the men in Flanders & for our chances there. And I rejoiced greatly in your letter this morning. Wonderful my dear? No thing is to be wonderfuller & wonderfuller & so we will be by God's grace.

Great love to you & all the kindest due to you during the week-end.

Your loving

George