ROSE LAWN,

KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,

BROADSTAIRS,

KENT

Octobemer 6th. 1951

Dear John Stokes,

A very cheery letter, which shows that you are undoubtedly mending; and I am very glad to hear that the plaster is going into the discard. In fact I think you may say now, in the words of M.Coue, Tous les jours, a tous points de vue, je vais de mieux en mieux. And it is a real pleasure to me, my dearb boy, to know that it is so.

I fear that I cannot lay claim to wizard the in timing the arrival of the Rook wood book so fortunately. But I am very glad that it arrived when it did. By the way, a short Grayfriars story has just appeared in a magazine called "Pand-wagon", and I am enclosing a copy for that Corner of yours.

So you have been reading a Cliveden story from the old 'Herald'. It is a long, long time ince 1909: F.R.was quite a young fellow then, not yet out of his thirties. I remember at that time looking upon my a proaching fortheth borthday with distasts. New I am expecting my eithtieth, and it doesn't bother me

at all. I was living in London, near Baker Street, when that story was written: and wasn't I glad, when time permitted, to get out into country places among the fields and the trees! Yes you have guessed in I always loved long tramps on tainy days: I think there is hardly a greater pleasure in life than to feel the wind and rain inone's face. when one is young and full of beans, and the miles slip unheeded under one's feet. I am afraid that all my life I have walked people off their legs: though now alas! Father Time has walked me off my own! But I had a good innings and I won-t grouse about that. Reany Every no and then itis is rather a jolt to realise that the staircase is steeper in these days than the Mattergorn used to be! But if I ever feel like grumbling I shall think of your patience in plaster of Paris. and like the old fellow in Kingsley'snovel feel very small indeed!"

I shall be very glad to hear when you are up and walking again: though you must take it easily: and don-t try 50 m.p.h. at first! Keep on getting better, laddie.

Always yours sincerely,

Frank Richards