

March 30th, 1949.

ROSE LAWN,
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,
KENT.

Dear Frank Snell,

I am quite ashamed not to have written sooner, especially after you so kindly sent me the cuttings--which have been read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested, generally over meals! I could wish I knew a little more about the great game of bowls; but my education was rather neglected in that direction. One of my uncles was quite fervid about it, but I was too young at that time to sit up and take notice, as it were. But I like reading about it, as I like reading about any game now that the playing period is long past. And perhaps it will amuse you to hear that you are responsible for one of Monty Lowther's puns in Tom Merry's Christmas Annual. Our old friend Arthur Augustus refers to the period when knights were bold: and Lowther asks him whether it is a cricket story!--when knights were bowled!!!! The word "bowls" humming in my mind did it!

I like your style of writing. I get an impression, as I think I have remarked before, that you have the whole thing clear in your mind when you write. This may seem a matter of course to you: but I can assure you that a good many writers are deleteriously otherwise. Indeed, there are some who never get it clear at all, and leave their readers in a fog.

It has always seemed to me that any writer's first business is to get his subject clear to himself, and then make it clear to his readers. If you listen-in to a play by Louis Macneice, for example, you will see how some writers get all mixed up, and don't know what they want to say, and leave their readers in the same doubt. Such writers have to depend wholly on "atmosphere", not being able to express themselves plainly.

Speaking of radio, I hear that E.S. Turner's book is to be broadcast shortly, "Boys will be Boys", and I am rather curious to hear what may be said about my unimportant self. If you take the Radio Times you may see an article on the subject soon.

This old typewriter is now fairly overflowing. The paperposit on has eased a great deal: and this year there are to be three Bunter books, and--according to programme--five Tom Merry! You may like to see the "News" issued by Mandeville Publications, which I enclose. Actually there are now two more T.M. books to be added to the list. Do you think that Frank Richards and Martin Clifford are enjoying life? As Damon Runyon would say, more than somewhat!

Did you ever hear of "P.L."? It is a half-crown poetry magazine. Frank Richards has contributed verses to the January-February number--it is a two-monthly affair. But the same is not out yet--at the end of March! By the way, I just enjoyed the "Misty Corridors", and I shall not give away that number of the C.D.

Always yours,

Frank Richards