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Red Hill School
East Sutton
Nr. Maidstone
Kent
Dec. 29th 41.

Dear Fred,

This morning Shaw (our Head) gave me your letter which I was very surprised to get. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago I had a letter from you in which you invited me to come to London for a day and I replied to it but didn't get an answer, so I thought you had gone to America. My mother once told me that you had left for America and were married but she didn't know anything else.

I was very surprised to see that you are in Manchester now. Have you got a job and what sort of a job is it? Do you stay at a boarding-house or

Have² you got a home of your own now? How are you getting on?
I've been here at school for $1\frac{3}{4}$ years now and like it very much.

It isn't an ordinary boarding-school it's a psychological school especially for children who can't stay at home for some reason or other.

You see the difference is that a psychological school is run by a psychologist (in this case two) and that there are boys and girls from any age (5 to 18). One of the pupils, a Jewish boy from Czechoslovakia called Paul Rollak is doing staff duties although he is only 17.

There are only a few other "overgrown seniors" ~~for~~ the senior group consists of about 10 boys aged 13-15.

Then there are two other pupils worth mentioning: Madge (my best friend, a girl of 17) and Leslie who

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appears very grown up but is only 15. (He is Jewish and Paul's friend) All the other girls are much younger and still play with dolls. One of them Vera (aged 5) is Madge's and my sort of "fosterchild". We look after her and even when one of the staff tells her to do something she always asks either Madge or me whether it's right to do it or not.

By the way how I want to ask you to plank on the nearest chair before going on reading.

There are some very modern and queer to me habits. Bathrooms and W.C.s have no keys !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! that means: Entrance free!

Well you can imagine me: its so terribly amusing: I creep out in the dark run into the bathroom

after⁽⁴⁾ everybody is in bed and take some chairs and other pieces of furniture and put them against the door. ~~So~~ You have no idea what fire it is.

Besides there is a pond here where people go swimming in the summer but without bathing costumes.

I'm the only person who doesn't go in partly because I don't like swimming and partly because of my mother's morals. ~~I~~ I often used to watch boys of 18, and Paul Leslie and Midge going in the pond to have a swimming race or games.

I have already started doing staff-duties and I take children for walks and sometimes prepare tea and supper for the whole school. Everybody calls staff including the

(5)

Head by their Christian names
You see, Redtill is a sort of private
school which is run by two couples
consisting of two very brainy
psychologists, their wives extremely
dull but pretty and their babies.

One family has got a baby girl
of 16 months the other family a
baby boy of 7 months. Then there
is an old nurse Marion who has
a baby boy of 20 months and
whose husband is employed in
a school in London.

Then there are gardeners, cooks
and charwomen who are all terribly
decent.

By the way Mudge with whom
I'm very intimate wants me to tell
you that she considers the naked
bathing in the pond as very good
thing and as very pure.

It is always hard to make an "outsider" clear that these sides of "A.H. life" are not all shocking as one always thinks. (6)

At the moment we are having a holiday but Nudge and I will start working to-morrow.

I've chosen the following subjects for Matric. : English, Maths, French, German, Heat, Light & Sound.

Please excuse my writing, but it's rather late and I've got a lot more to do some letters have to be answered to-night and I want to play Bridge with Paul and Nudge. We share a very nice room and often invite people to our suppers. By the way we had a marvellous Xmas and parties. Only twenty of us stayed here and it was ever so nice. We got marvellous stockings

With tinestuff. Many people gave us ⑦
joined presents consisting of lots of
tin food and sweets and other things
like soap, books, toasting fork and
crankies.

Did you know that Dr. Kirsch and
his family have left for America
more than a year ago and that
a certain Mrs. Asch is looking after
his affairs?

By the way how long will it be
with your waiting number for U.S.A.

Have you heard anything from
Hse and Hanny and do you
know whether they are still at
home and what they are doing?
It's funny to think that Hse is
nearly 21 and Hanny 19.

Well, I've to close now.
Best wishes for the New Year!
Please let me know how you're

getting on. I'm extremely glad ^{to}
to be in touch with you again.

By the way have you got a swap
of you which you could let me
have?

Love from

Hilde-Edith.

P.S. My nickname here is

"Madame Bug"

for ^{some} unknown reason.