

June 27th, 1949.

ROSE LAWN,

KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,

KENT.

Dear Mr. Gander,

I am very culpable in not having acknowledged your letter and the S.P.C. earlier. But many thanks for both. I hope you did get your copy of "Boys will be Boys". It is a most amusing book. No doubt you know that it was radio'd a couple of months ago by the BBC with Frank Richards saying his piece.

I do hope that you are keeping well, and shall be very glad to hear from you again. Since [^] wrote last, Tom Merry has appeared in book form: and Tom Merry's Annual will be out this year, entirely written by Frank Richards, Martin Clifford, and Owen Conquest, --rather on the lines of the old Greyfriars Holiday Annual. It may be interesting news to you that Frank Richards has added yet another school to the list, "Felgate", which will be published by World Film Publications in the Grays Inn Road London.

The article in the S.P.C. about Gunby Hadath interested me rather curiously. I never see the B.O.P. and had never heard of the "Wizard Insurance Company". But your description of it recalls very forcibly the story called "The Punishment Policies" in Magnet No. 381, published in 1915. And another title "The fattest Head in the

Fifth' does seem to recall Coker to my mind. I have never read any of Gunby Hadath's stories, but I like his lyrics, especially "Down the Vale", which seems to me very good stuff.

I was still more interested in the reproduction of the cover of No. 1 'School and Sport'. Hinton was a very curious chap. I don't think anyone could have helped liking him, and yet he did things that must have exasperated an archangel. Not only did he put my name on other writers work, which I called by its plain name of forgery, but he would sometimes even put my work under another writer's name to give the man a leg-up! How the dickens could one deal with an editor like that? And yet when one went to him raging, he would grin his schoolboy grin, and all one's wrath would fade away. I never could forget that he was the original of Figgins in the Gem, and I always liked Figgins, and so always liked Hinton--- though at times he made me see the reddest of red. As a business man he was a real shriek. When "Clifford Clive" wrote for School and Sport, Hinton offered him fees which a brief calculation showed could never be paid by the most ~~prosperous~~ prosperous paper. He ended up by paying nothing at all!! It was very entertaining.

I should be very glad to hear that you are in good health.

With kindest regards,

Frank Richards