

SHCJ ARCHIVES MAYFIELD [Copied from Book M. 2.]

The Convent
St Leonards-on-Sea
Nover 8th [/66]

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JMJ

My dear Sir,

I received your letter this morning & very much regret that illness should have prevented my seeing Mr Hall when he called to see the children. However I hope you will make yourself happy about the children when I tell you that you have been misinformed on the various heads of complaints & I have no doubt they will before long become attached to the Sisters & to their companions. Of course it is impossible to keep a school at the small pension of £20 per an: as select as the Upper School which is £50 per an: But I assure you we have had & always have children at the lower school of the highest reputability such as daughters of officers, Architects, Solicitors etc., and one of the children 4 years here & not long left the School, is a niece of a judge who is her guardian. The children are not mixed with the charity children, who are but few in number, & wholly occupied in the Laundry & other offices, save the time employed in evening class at the poor day school. 2nd Regarding the education they receive, it is of the very highest being in all respects the same as that of the Highest School & certainly you could find none better throughout England or the Continent.

3rd. Regarding the living, the good health of the children will prove the good living – The food is excellent in quality,

[continued below]

but not luxurious nor choice food. But they have unlimited bread, meat, vegetables & milk etc. The same butcher serves the two Schools, & the same Baker - If exceptions are necessary for the sick, such as extra tea, Porter, or wine the Parents send it to their children, or it is charged to them if they prefer it – however if you will have patience with the children & prove for yourself whether the diet agrees with them and whether they improve in their studies & behaviour or not you will then feel better satisfied as to their true interest.

The children shall not know that you have any complaints & I hope your satisfaction & experience when you see them again will induce you to leave them where they are. Our children generally are so much attached to the School that they return joyfully after the holidays & if [~~the on~~] your dear ones are not like the others at the end of a year I shall be surprised and disappointed.

I hope you will communicate the contents of this letter to Mr Hall and,

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

Sup.