

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS.

SIR,

May I be permitted to correct a number of inaccuracies that occur in Fr. Jarrett's article in your March issue? He states that a part of my novel *The Loom of Youth* was written while I was still at school. This is not so. I left school in July, 1915, to join the army, and wrote *The Loom of Youth* between January and March, 1916. He also states that after its publication, '*The Morning Post* opened its select columns to the perennial controversy of the Public School system . . . *The Nation* applauded, the *Spectator* deplored.' None of this is true. There was no correspondence in *The Morning Post*. The book was reviewed in a very friendly manner in the *Spectator*, while the *Nation* was on the whole unsympathetic, though at a later date Mr. Massingham himself wrote kindly of the book.

At an earlier point in his article Fr. Jarrett writes of *The Hill*, *The Harrovians* and *The Bending of a Twig* as 'the three finest (school stories) of that older school of Romanticism, throwing its touching veil of fights, friendship and laughter over the hardened formalities and dreary littlenesses of normal school-life.' Such a description is applicable to *The Hill*; but to neither of the other books. *The Bending of a Twig* is a skit on *The Hill* and makes fun of *The Hill* throughout, while *The Harrovians* is the purest realism, the finest realistic school novel.

Incidentally I may remark that the title of my book is *The Loom of Youth* and not *Loom of Youth*, and of Mr. Coke's *The Bending of a Twig* and not *The Bending of the Twig*.

ALEC WAUGH.