

the firing line dull by contrast. It's like living in an oxygenated chamber.' A pause. 'How quiet it seems here!' Another pause. 'I've been invited to visit the trenches again, the Italian front this time; but I hesitate to go, it's so demoralising.' He never did go.

Writers' Gathering

ARNOLD BENNETT

From *The Journal of Arnold Bennett* (New York: The Literary Guild, 1933) p. 633. On 24 July 1917 Bennett went to dine with J. M. Barrie, Shaw's neighbour in Adelphi Terrace. Thomas Hardy, then seventy-seven, was staying with his wife at Barrie's flat, and at dinner Bennett found him 'very lively; talked like anything'.

Later in the evening Barrie brought along both Shaw and the Wellses by phone. Barrie was consistently very quiet, but told a few A1 stories. At dusk we viewed the view and the searchlights. Hardy, standing outside one of the windows, had to put a handkerchief on his head. I sneezed. Soon after Shaw and the Wellses came Hardy seemed to curl up. He had travelled to town that day and was evidently fatigued. He became quite silent. I then departed and told Barrie that Hardy ought to go to bed. He agreed. The spectacle of Wells and GBS talking firmly and strongly about the war, in their comparative youth, in front of this aged, fatigued and silent man – incomparably their superior as a creative artist – was very striking.

The War in Retrospect

From Archibald Henderson, *Table-talk of GBS: Conversations on Things in General between Bernard Shaw and his Biographer* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1925) pp. 147–50, 154–8, 163–5. Archibald Henderson (1877–1963), sometime student of Einstein, taught mathematics at the University of North Carolina for nearly fifty years. He 'discovered' Shaw in 1903 and wrote to him a year later proposing to undertake a biography. Eventually he produced three – in 1911, 1932 and 1956 – as well as a large number of articles on Shavian topics. *Table-talk*, despite its title