

Letters to George Hanby De'Ath (c. 1862-1901), Medical Officer of Health for Buckingham

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5473/1

Jan 4/91

67831

Claydon House,
Winslow,
Bucks.

My dear Sir

I kept Dr. Wilson's valuable letter till I was able to write a letter with it, which, alas! I cannot do yet.

It is so encouraging to find that he considers the lessons must be conveyed to the cottagers' wives in their own homes - & that it is essential to effective technical teaching a firm object lesson too in the closet, pig-stye & well.

Does he live at Warwick now?

He is not one who will
be recommending great
expensive works, in Village
& Cottages

Thank you very much
for the information on your
post card. Please to
send the Acct. of the
books to me, if the
Co. Co. money is exhausted

I have ordered the ^{little} book
published by Churchill

Dr Wilson must be the
right sort of man - & will
be a great assistance

Excuse pencil.

Hoping to hear of your
first lecture

Ever faithfully yours

F. Nightingale

Dr. De'Alto

5473/2

Telegraph,
Steeple Claydon, Bucks.

Claydon House,
Winslow,
Bucks.

2/1/92

67831

Thank you very much,
my dear Sir, for your
two notes & Dr. Wilson's
most encouraging one
which I will return.

I am afraid you are not
able to see him ~~Sat~~-day
or "Monday". Perhaps you
have sent him a Syllabus -
I wish he had added to it.

Thank you too for the
charming little book -

The highest blessing of

the New Year to you
yours-
And good cheer for
the beginning of the lectures
They will work their
work

I am writing to you but
have no time to finish

Sincerely yours

F. Nightingale

I think the way Mrs. Verney told
me you were beginning your
lectures by touching upon the
differences between health &
sickness quite the best

F.N.

5473/3

Claydon Jan 3/92 ⁶⁷³¹

My dear Sir

I have not been able
to write to you to-day
as I intended but it is
only put off.

I am sure to-morrow's
destruction will be a success.
But we cannot build
Rome in a day, much
less build up an education
in a day, as you observe.

The more sure is ultimate
Success. I shall be

anxious to hear from
you kindly - I will carefully
return Dr. Wilson - Sincerely
Dr. De'Alth' Wilson's Friend, H. J. A.

5473/4

Telegraph,
Steeple Claydon, Bucks.

10 South St. Park Lane W

Claydon House,
Winslow,
Bucks.

Jan 12/92

My dear Sir

I hope your 2nd Lecture
was usefully brilliant & successful
And I know it was. The Anatomical Models
we use for our Probationer-Nurses
at St. Thomas' were procured
for us from Leipzig by one
of ~~the~~ Medical Staff.

The Card enclosed contains
the address of the man at
Leipzig from whom the
models were obtained.

The Medical Officer
thinks that, if you would
write to Franz Josef Steger

He would send you a
circular of his models &
their prices.

I am obliged to ask you
for the card back for our
Medical Officers.

Success to your great work.

I am sorry that I am
going ^{back} to 10 South St.
Park Lane W.

Tomorrow

Ever yours Sincerely

Dr. Deltte Florence Nightingale

The National Health Soc^y
Berners St
is also recommended for its
models & Diagrams.

F.N.

- the rural domestic life -

Just as the District Nurse goes into the cottage to nurse & to teach to nurse the patient by the family with her own head & hands - so would the Health Nurse (Missioner) teach what to do in the cottage for health with her own head & hands.

It remains to be seen how it is to be worked out - say a meeting in a willing cottage - visits to each cottage - and when she is in touch with the cottage's wife, sent for by the wife-mother herself.

Of course it will take a long time before prejudice & ignorance are overcome.

Ever yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale.

Geo. H. De'Ath Esq M.D.

5473/5

67831

May 20/92

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir

Most heartily do I give you joy on the success of your "Health at Home" Education Mission - the enthusiastic attendance on your lectures of rural educated women from all over the County allowed to attend for their own profit - your lifting & re-lifting till you obtained a Class of 12, who appeared willing & able to become instructresses or missioners of Health to the uneducated rural women at their own homes - the object of the whole course being the new one

Not simply to give Sanitary
information but to
teach how to teach
- the examination by an
independent well-known
Sanitary Authority - both
in writing & by word of mouth
(to test their power of speaking
& the uneducated) And six
of them passing the Examⁿ
with the utmost success -
three indeed above what had
been expected.

The main object of the Examⁿ
being to see not only if their
book knowledge or theory
were competent but if they
could give in the most
practical & plainest, in

the most lively & dramatic
manner their knowledge
& uneducated women in
their own houses - translate
in fact the object-lessons they
had received from your skill
& kindness in the worst
houses of the worst villages
- into the cottage life with
their own hands & tongue.

Your object was to teach
practical work & the class-
just as we teach practical
wood work at the bed-side
& the Nurse Probationer in
Hospital - the object-lesson
of the latter being the Ward
& the Patient - the object-lesson
of the former being the
Cottage's home & its inmates

5473/6

67831
June 25/92

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir

I was exceedingly glad
to receive your letter -
Indeed Mr. Verney's illness
was a terrible misfortune
to us all. [I heard how
kind & skilful you had
been, of course. I have
good reports of him. But
I am afraid he will not
be careful.]

Miss Deane, of
Chichester, Hon. Sec. for the
Ladies' Committee for
Technical Education in
West Sussex under the
County Council, has written
to me to know if her

Committee can have
one of the "teachers" loaned
"in Bucks as Nursing Cottage
"lecturers" "for 6 months
"to commence on Oct. 1"
"and what salary" they
"will have to give".

She speaks of a London
"Soc." as having too "high
"charges" - & not an "entirely
"satisfactory course".

I understand that only
one of the "Dr. De'Ath
"lecture ladies" has
"definitely been engaged"
could you tell me at what
salary? & where?

& that Bucks would be

glad if the Swiss plan
"comes off for another".
I have written & Miss Deane
(Whom I do not know)
explaining the difference
between Health & Nursing
lectures - also saying why
a definite answer cannot
be sent her directly, if
she still wishes for a
Health lectures - &c. &c.

But I should be very
grateful if you could
tell me all you can
as to engagements & salary.

Success to the Cottagers

May believe me
Yours sincerely

Dr. De'Ath

J. Nightingale

5473/7

10/10/92

67831.

My dear Sir

I will if you will allow me return
your Draft "Miponer's Diary" by post
to-day with my suggestions.

God bless your work

Yrs

F. Nightingale

5473/8

Claydon 11/11/92 ⁶⁷¹³¹

My dear Sir

We shall be very
glad to see you on
"Tuesday afternoon", as
you kindly propose.

[And I will stay till
Wednesday on purpose
to see you on Tuesday]

Would 4 o'clock or 5
suit you best? Please

say by post-card - or any
other ^{how}

I think we may be
joyful thro' all trials
if only we are fighting

Such a valiant battle
for the greatest work
on earth, man's health
of body & Soul, as you
are.

God bless you
Yours faithfully
F. Nightingale

Thanks many for your
Cholera pamphlet.
Please send me your
account for printing
Fn.

5473/9

I venture to send you a copy of a letter I had to address to Ponna in Bombay, where I recommend the Lecturer, after having gained the confidence of the people, to take them round to their water supply, &c &c - & to show them on the spot:

It is notorious that you may legislate for ever to Hindoor, District Officials conscientiously believe all the legislation obeyed - Not a bit of it]

Dr. Ord does not appear to know Pidgin Seale's book, but, as you have it, that does not matter. With every best, for the New Year, sincerely yours
Dr. De'Alth Florence Nightingale

I hope
your books
have
arrived

New Year's Eve of
1892
Claydon House,
Winslow,
Bucks.

My dear Sir
Many thanks for your letter & the valuable printed papers you have been so kind as to lend me.

Dr. Ord of St. Thomas' & whom I wrote says that after first mentioning that he will "enquire for any process of hiring out Diagrams" he suggests that, as "regards internal organs, demonstration of the heart,"
G. H. De'Alth Esq M.D

"lungs &c, freshly taken
"from a sheep would be,
"in good hands, infinitely
"more useful than
"diagram or model.
"We use," he says, "diagrams
"for large classes, but, for
"practical teaching, the
"specimen." Do you agree?

Dr. Ord, more than
20 years ago, "gave
"voluntary lectures at
"Brixton to poor women,
"dealing with sanitation,
"cooking &c. But the
"ladies at whose instance

"he did this told him
"that the women, while
"fully understanding
"what was taught, would
"not alter their ways. The
"ladies did their best,
"& distributed large
"printed sheets, but
"poor people couldn't
"take so much trouble."

Dr. Ord wishes us
"better success".

I think it is clear
why he had none -
As well "distribute
"large printed sheets"
to school boys & expect
them to learn Greek from these

Understand any thing
about it further
than Country Lecturer
by trained Hospital
Nurses!!

Yours Sincerely.

F. Nightingale

I don't think any
"discussion" by a
"Meeting" of any use,
unless there is a knot
of people of experience
& conviction to lead ^{& lecture} them
G. H. De Albi by Mr. } F. N.

5473/10

Sept 26/94

10, SOUTH STREET, 67131
PARK LANE. W.

Private

My dear Sir

Thank you very
much for your note.
I am very glad you
read a paper at
Liverpool.

But pray proceed with
caution. This is the
age of Associations
& Lectures.

An Assocⁿ generally
does not succeed, unless
it is worked from a
Centre (by one person like

yourself. but who can
give his or her whole
time & experience -
to the circumference.

If it is looked from
the circumference by
persons necessarily of
~~little circumference~~
experience, that is fatal.

However, let me hear.
Please, as you kindly
propose, the "details" of
your Scheme -

Some Associations are.

(between ourselves,) such
humbugs -

As to its bearing my
name, as I could not
give ^{all} my work, that is
out of the question.

I wish every possible
success to your Scheme.

I need hardly say - I hope

But every District
will not have a M.D. of
Health like yourself.

Very, very few people

"myself is preparing to
 "give some little help
 "to those in our villages".
 Kindly tell me what you
 would recommend; for
 these are the sort of people
 from whom we might
 ultimately receive "Healers"
 "Missioners".

"Manuals"

no ~~work~~

I know of none - the
 Gentlemen's "works" too
 heavy - the ladies' too little
 intelligent. Though my
 allowance of books sent
 me to "criticize" and
"recommend" is

2 from America

1 " India

1 " Home

G. H. Deane Esq. M.D.

PM.

5473/11

Oct. 1/94

6731

10, SOUTH STREET,
 PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir

Pray excuse me: I
 regret exceedingly that it
 is quite impossible for me
 to see you this week on
 this ^{plan} subject of unequalled
 difficulty which has been
 sprung upon me - viz.
 the forming "an Association"
 "all over England" of persons
 ignorant of the subject
 to embrace "towns" and
 "districts".

But I am sincerely
 anxious to hear what
 you really propose - &
 to give any help I can, if

that be possible. [I hope it
won't be only Punch's "Doubt."]
And I may be able to see
you next week, or more
likely, the week after, for
which I am your servant,
"to do thoroughly the duty
"that immediately lies
"before me," that is, to
give ^{serious} considered thought,
to a purpose so sudden,
which cannot be done in
an hour or a day by one
so overworked & so ill.
I have taken some advice
I may believe me
Ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale
Geo. H. D. Esq. M.D.

II
Might I ask you in return
a comparatively easy
question? A sensible
young lady (apparently)
has been reading the
pamphlet "Rural Hygiene"
I ask for some "fairly
"simple Manual for
"carrying out the study"
of "so many points &
"subjects named (in the
"Rural Hygiene") upon which
she "would gladly have
"fuller information" - "some
"work - not too learned -
"which she may study with
"a view to learning more

5473|12|1

6781

Nov 26/94

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir

I am sorry to be
unable to see you
to-day. But I
hope that you will
be coming this way
again some afternoon.
- Not Thursday -

(I give no telegraphic
notice the day before)

I give me the
pleasure of seeing you
Yours sincerely

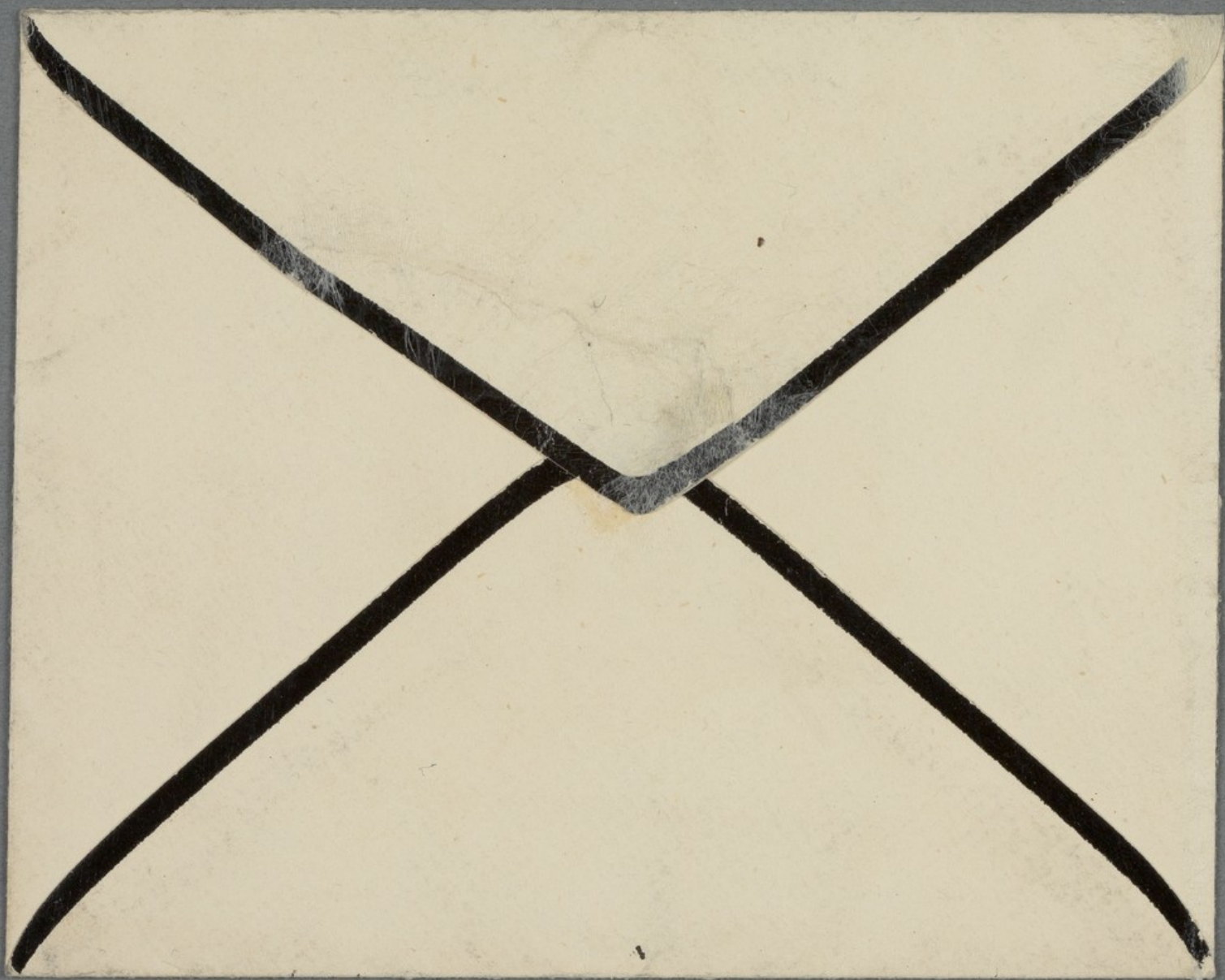
Dr. De Rth F. Nightingale

Miss Highleyale

5473/12/2 67831

G. D. De'Alte Eng

23/11/94



Your 2nd Course of lectures in which
you taught, I believe, in your own
striking way what you wished
included of Nursing.

Perhaps we might improve this
or rather hear what the two ladies
have to say. about this.

Claydon Dec 13/94

67931
5473/131

My dear Sir

I am sorry you are so much
disappointed about the lecturer on
"Sick Nursing" by Miss Deyne & Miss
Bartlett. because cannot the evil
be averted? if any?

1. In Miss Deyne's two Hand bills
it is only put "Nursing": not Sick
Nursing.

In the other Handbill which you
kindly sent me it is put

Health Officers and Sick Nursing
as if Sick Nursing were a part of the
Mission.

But you have taught us that it may
be & is a part of the Health at Home,
2 After all it is not the name but
the substance of the thing that signifies
And no doubt you have told these
ladies what they may touch upon
of Sick Nursing in Health at Home
& what not.

3. It is no use trying to do anything
for December now. But we have
from "January to June" before us.
And we might see the two ladies
I had not the advantage of hearing

2

5473/13/2

I hope to see you this next week,
tho' probably not on Monday?

Yours most faithfully
F Nightingale

Geo. H. De'Alth & MD

Claydon Dec 17

67831

My dear Sir

I am so very, very much
obliged to you for your kind & full
information - I was so very anxious -
I don't ask you to see you to-day -
because I think Lady Verney & Sir
Edmund must be so very anxious
to see all they can of you to-day
God bless you - Yours sincerely F. Nightingale
Dr. De Alton

But we know but
too well how over-
occupied you are.

We hope you are not
overdoing it.

Lady Verney
prescribes a dent
abstinence from
overwork.

Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

Dr. De Cille

Claydon Feb 26, '95

67831
5473/15/1

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir

We are very anxious to
know that you were not
the worse for your kind
visit here last week.

Also: whether your
"Text" is completed - that
would make a sort of
Revolution -

Thank you for your ^{critique} Nurse
Report. Does your Nurse
or will your Nurses keep
a Diary? And do they
always serve under Doctors?
Otherwise they are so liable

to become a sort of Quack.

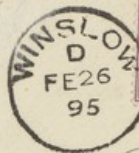
We find it always
desirable to print in
our Reports of District
Nursing a few type cases.
It makes them ^{Reports} interesting
& what is more it makes
them instructive to others.

The Report gives in a few
lines the beginning of the
case - what the Nurse has
done for the Patient
(and, if necessary, for the
room) - the treatment, very
briefly - the end of the
case. [The Nurse does
generally teach a friend
or kind neighbour of the

Patient some simple
sanitary & practical
things to do. Very often
she, the Nurse, has to
clean the whole room
& utensils. [Gentlemen
always do this best]

2. We have not yet
received from you
the Syllabus you so kindly
undertook to ship by us
& Lady Kene's criticism
3. - nor the eye-cleaning
& prevent Infantile
Skindnefs re the unsatisfactory
printed leaflets you were
so good as to look at.

5473/15/2



Geo: H. De'Alth Esq M.D.
Buckingham

26/2/95

Immediate



Geo: H De'Ath Esq
M.D.

Buckingham

9/3/95

5473/16



5473/17/1

67831

Oct 9/93

10, SOUTH STREET,

PARK LANE, W.

My dear Sir
Thank you for
your note.

I could see you
on Monday next
at 5.30 p.m., as you
kindly wish - But
unless you are going
to stay the night
in London, that
will be an inconvenient
hour for you - I could

make it 4 o'clock
if I knew - but I
am afraid not
earlier - I do not
know what your
trains to Buckingham
are

I think your Milk =
- test, if complete,
would be what is
most wanted now
in London - There
are such just complaints
And the poor people
get no milk at all,
good or bad

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Rev. H. De'Alth Esq.

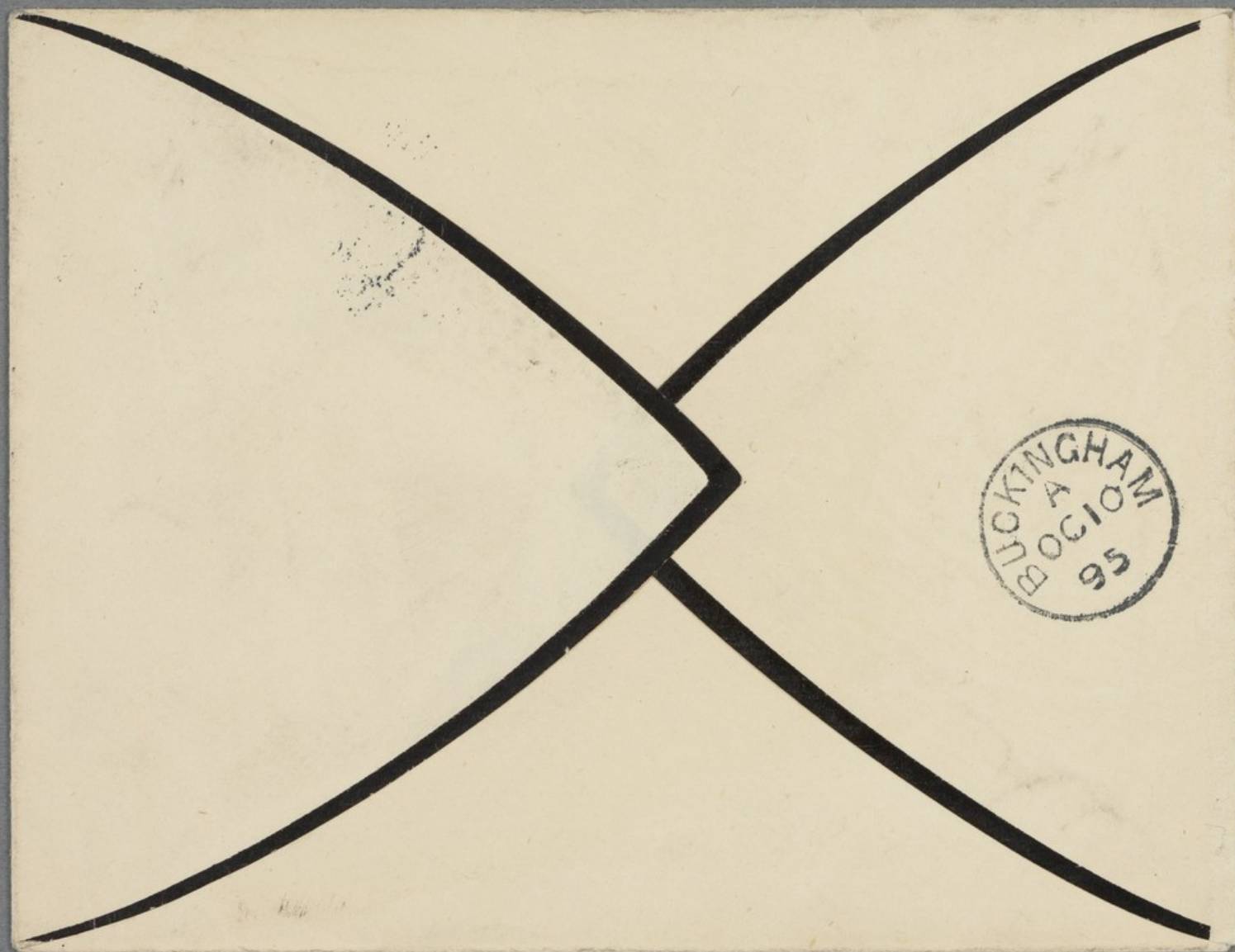
5473/17/2



67831

Geor. H. De'Alth Esq
MD

Buckingham



BUCKINGHAM
A
BOCIOM
95

5473/18

67831
May 18/96

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Sir

Thank you for your
note of Saturday -

I could gladly see
you on ^{Monday} June 9, 5.30 ^{p.m.},
if that suits you. But
if it does not, I could,
if I knew directly (you
say you wish to settle
your plans) appoint
some other afternoon
that does suit you.

You kindly ask after

my health - I have
not been up since
before Xmas, except
- & that rarely - I sit
up in my chair for
an hour or two, in my
room. But I am
full of work -

I hope you make
holiday sometimes.

Yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

Geo. H. De' Althay
M.D.

Telegraph,
Steeple Claydon, Bucks.

5473/19

Claydon House,
Winslow,
Bucks.

Dec. 21. 91

My dear D^r De'ette,

May I ask you to tell me,
either by note, or where
you come to see Miss
Nightingale again, whether
you can give me any
advice as to this note
from Miss Boll -

I do not wish to do any
thing with Middle, East,
& Botolph Claydon:
They are not in Bush or
Poor Law Union.

I only desire advice
as to Steeple Claydon

I believe that more than a
third of the cottages there
are mine. I should
like to go there with Mr
Robertson, and meet the
person whom Miss Bell
would send to look at
some of my cottages, and
tell me the faults generally
that I ought to remedy.

A few hours one day
or two would, I think, be enough
for that; and the days
now are so short that
it might be well to wait
until they are longer.

I hope that you are

so good as to pardon
me for asking this.

I am Very faithfully

Harry Verney
Esq Le Cotte Rd
Buckingham

I look forward to deal-
ing with the three
Claydons in future.