

Acworth, Henry

Publication/Creation

1915-1915

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Scalebo Baylum
Burlington - Wharfedale
Date same as receipt
1915

Sir,

About the end of February of this year I gave myself unreservedly into your hands, suffering from severe mental depression, & indigestion consequent on overfeeding.

You have "treated" the case by one long course of ill-treatment. First of all you gave me long doses of bed, accompanied by cruel continuance of overfeeding. You made it worse by hiding the facts of the case from my relatives, & sending me bogus visitors dressed as my brothers. Later you transferred me here. The ill-treatment is accentuated rather than lessened. The bogus visits continue - Bogus newspapers

magazines are circulated, & books
patients please the house & foot together.
I am greatly weakened in body &
mind by your cruelty - for there
is no doubt you replicate the
policy here.

I cannot hope that you would
dare to restore me to my
relatives, tho' unless your conscience
were absolutely dead you would
adopt that course. All I ask
is that you will take me
away from here & put me
into normal surroundings - some
place where I can have
proper medical & dental treatment.
Or, failing that, honor me with
a speedy death. This long-drawn
out agony is insupportable.
I remember your truly devilish
remark that it was interesting to
note how much pain could be
caused to a human being ere
death brought release.

Not one syllable of affection has reached my
ear since February, & every letter has been
at the same time; Nature's death's appeal at

before me - the manner to have increased the
bitterness. Better, too, is the thought that my income &
all my private property will be lost to the vilest
of uses.

May God send you the report of a successful
life as it is to be.

Wm. Stewart

If you would write me to my brother
Lester take a packet with letters
sent to me that has transpired. Since then
between to a representative man in Seattle.

1, Fairfield Road,

Toller Lane,

Bradford.

15 June 1915

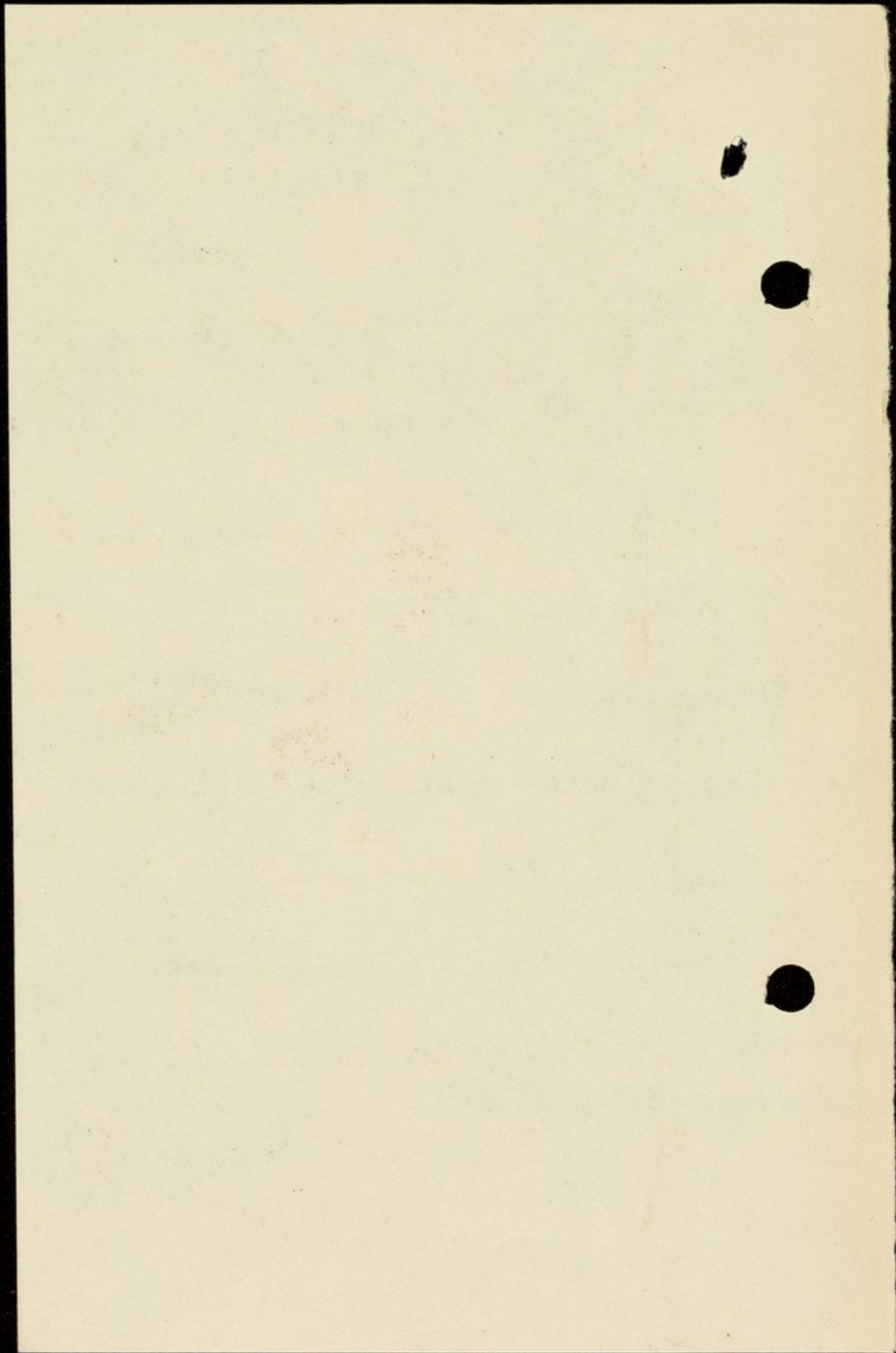
Dear Mr. Pierce,

Inclosed please find
all papers authorising
transfer of my brother
Henry Neworth to Sealeton.

Please send him there
by your motor as you suggested
as soon as convenient. They
are ready for him.

Yours very truly

J. H. Neworth



129 Scally Rd
Scarboro'

22.6.1915

Dear Dr Mackenzie

Thank you for letter
saying you had transferred my
brother. No doubt you will send
financial statement in due course.

Meanwhile may I thank you
(with Dr Pierce) for the care you
have taken of my brother when
we could not care for him &
he could not care for himself.

I received two letters from him
on ~~Sunday~~ ^{Monday}, one dated 16th. Is
there any explanation of why
this letter did not arrive earlier?

Yours truly
J. H. Acworth

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129 Scalby Road
Scarborough

21 June 1915

Dear Dr. Peace

When are you sending Henry
to Hurley? I was rather sur-
prised to receive a letter
from him from York this morning.

Dr. Gilmore told me on
Tuesday that they could take
him any time, & I expected the
transfer wd. have been made
last week.

Yours truly

J. H. Acworth

I have did not write to him last
week, not knowing where to
address.

My dear Mr. [illegible]
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst.

and am glad to hear that you are well and
hope to hear from you again soon.

I am very sorry to hear that you are
ill and hope you will soon be well.

I am very sorry to hear that you are
ill and hope you will soon be well.

I am very sorry to hear that you are
ill and hope you will soon be well.

I am very sorry to hear that you are
ill and hope you will soon be well.

I am very sorry to hear that you are
ill and hope you will soon be well.

18th June, 1915.

Dear Gilmour,

I am afraid we cannot very well wait until Wednesday. I have just admitted another troublesome patient, and we are at the far end as regards staff.

I am, therefore, proposing to send Mr. Acworth on Monday, and I hope that you will be able to manage.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

1911, 1912

1911, 1912

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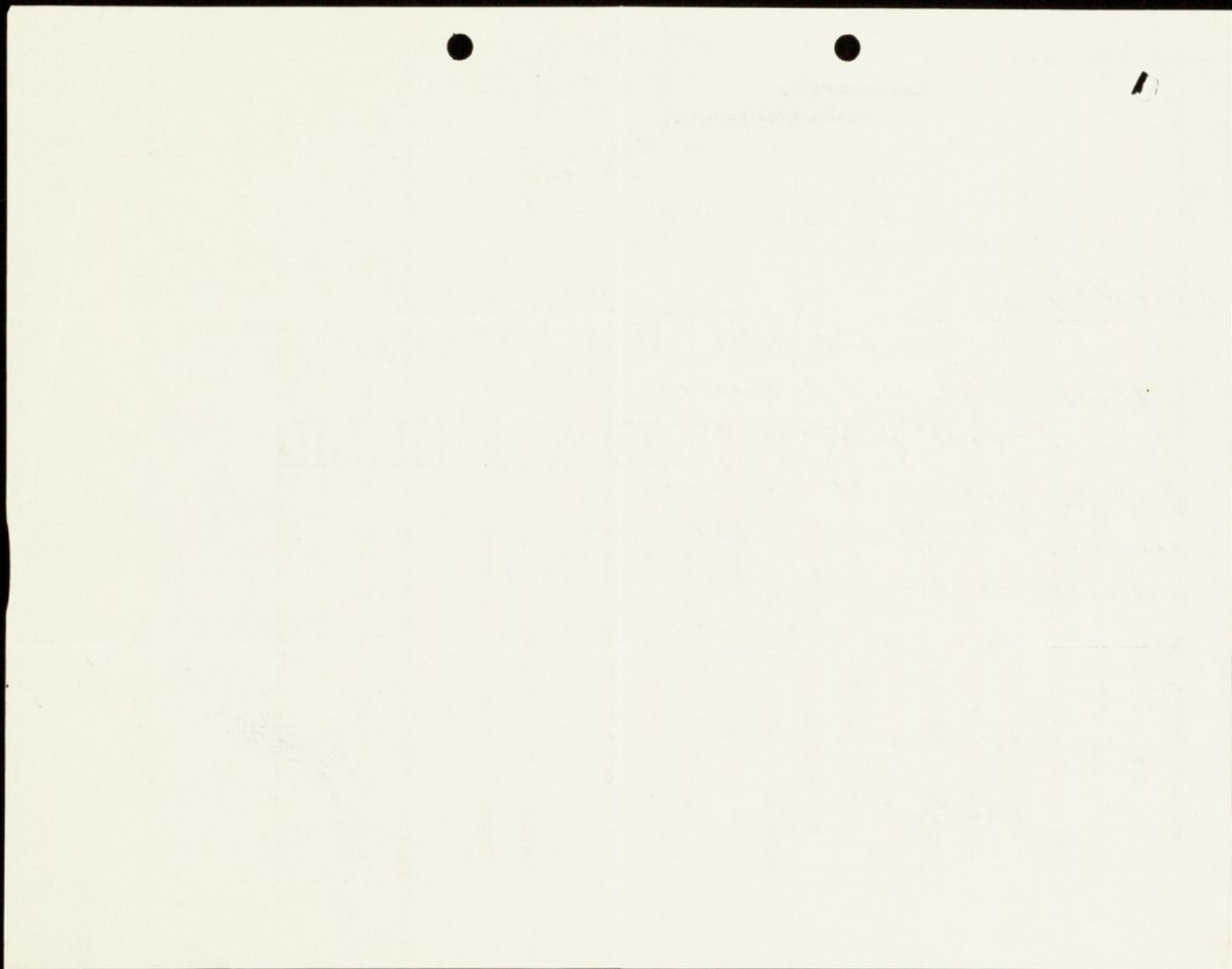
17 June 1915

Dear Pierce

Can you keep your
patient until next Wednesday
23rd - I shall be obliged
if not then we must manage
earlier. Staff is the great
difficulty at present &
our numbers are high over
250 now.

Best regards & thanks for notes

Yours faithfully
J. R. Gibson



16th June, 1915.

Dear Gilmour,

The patient, Henry Acworth, whose transfer to your care has now been arranged, is rather an unusual type of case. He came in the first place voluntarily on February 26th 1915. The next day he swallowed some buttons and pins and was none the worse for it. He attributed his illness entirely to having been overfed in the nursing home and since at the Retreat, and he tells me that I have ruined and destroyed him, and that his sight has been affected. Latterly he has gradually developed more definite delusions, saying that he has been placed in a death trap, and that we are experimenting upon him and are on the point of dismembering him and that we are gloating over his sufferings. He has been under continuous supervision and has made some rather theatrical attempts at self injury, - thus he sat down under a motor going at about three miles per hour and he has tried to get out of a window in a obviously impossible way. In many respects he is an intelligent man and there is no mental depression of an ordinary type. I may say that we have nursed him in bed in the open air for a long time but to no definite advantage. Throughout the time he has been at the Retreat he has taken food well, and there has never been any occasion to put pressure on him though he states that he

has been overfed all the time. The staff say that he enjoys his food.

As you will have heard he has been under care once before, and I do not think he ever thoroughly recovered, at least he did not recover sufficiently to be able to take up active continuous work.

If you will let me know when it will be convenient I can send him over in a motor unless you would prefer to send for him.

With kind regards.

Yours very truly,

16th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Burnie,

You may have heard that Mr. Acworth is to be transferred to Scalebor Park. I think it is probably desirable to make a change as he is developing delusions against us which limits the influence I can exercise over him, - thus he thinks he is going to be cut up and that we are going to torture and experiment upon him. Although he says that his body and soul have been destroyed by overfeeding he, nevertheless, has taken his food well, and appears thoroughly to enjoy it. In spite of treatment in bed and in the open air he still remains thin.

I am disappointed that the results of treatment have not been more satisfactory. I should expect that after a time he will again improve, but it looks like being a somewhat tedious case.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

1871, 1872, 1873

All communications should be
addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,

The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

Communications relating to different
subjects should be made in separate
Letters.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

12th. June, 1915

SIR,

I am directed by the Commissioners of the Board of Control
to inform you that their consent to the transfer of Mr. H. Acworth
from your care to Scalebor Park Asylum has been given on
condition that the Patient be accompanied, during the removal, by
at least two efficient and responsible persons.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. S. Rose

For the Secretary.

To the Medical Officer,

The Retreat,

York.

11-11-1964

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11-11-1964

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11-11-1964

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11-11-1964

11th June, 1915.

The Secretary,
The Board of Control.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th of
June I beg to state that Mr. Henry Acworth is
suicidal but not dangerous.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

11th June, 1915.

The Secretary,
The Board of Control.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th of

June I beg to state that Mr. Henry Bennett is

married but not dangerous.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

All communications should be
addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,

The Board of Control,

66, Victoria Street,

LONDON, S.W.

Communications relating to different
subjects should be made in separate
letters.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

10th June, 1915 .

Sir,

I write, on behalf of the Commissioners of the Board of Control, to
inquire whether Mr. Henry Acworth
is still insane, and in a fit mental and bodily condition for transfer to another
Institution.

Is this patient either suicidal or dangerous, or inclined to be so?

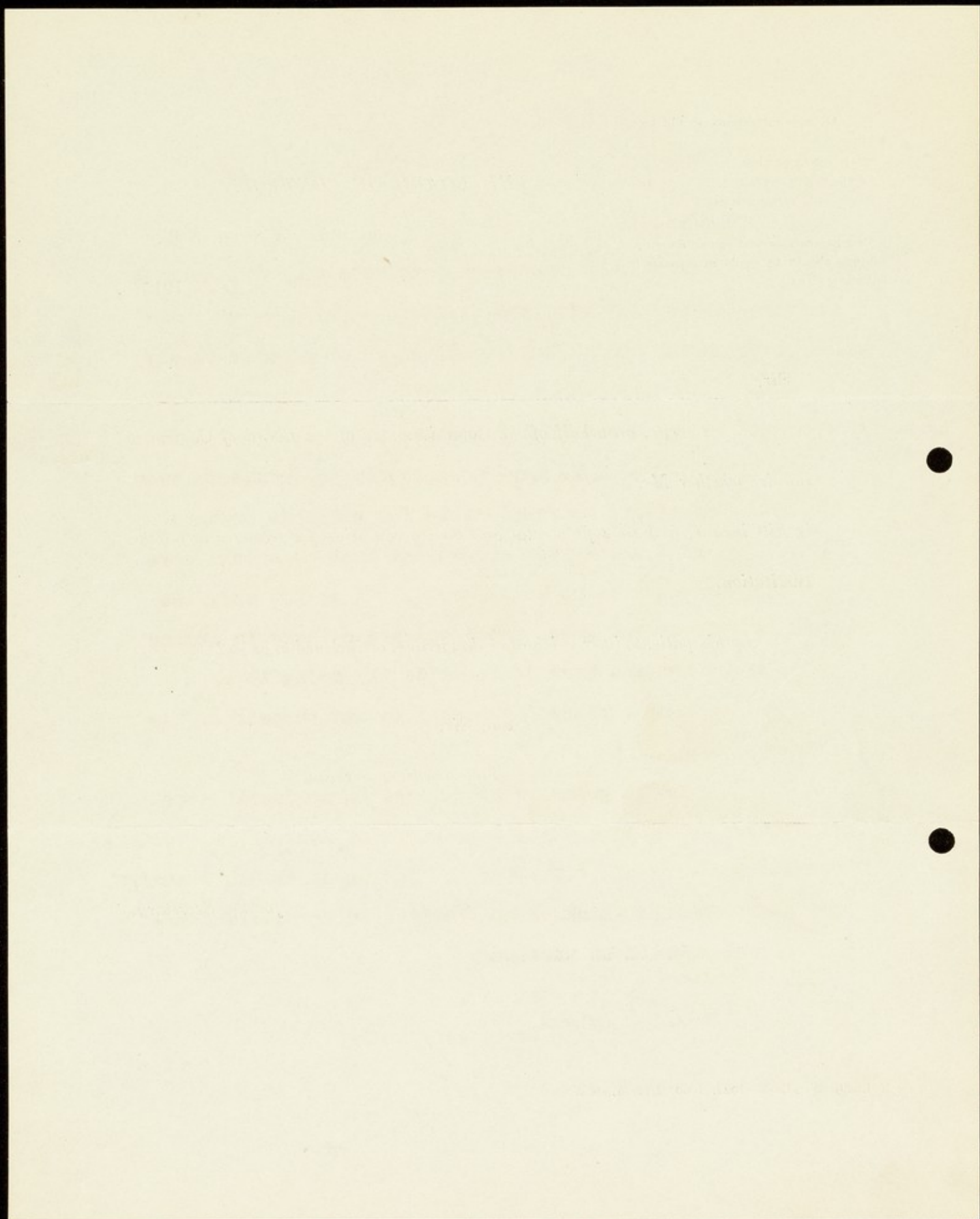
I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

B.D. James.

for the Secretary.

The Medical Officer,
York Retreat,



7th June, 1915.

Dear Mr. Acworth,

There is no improvement to record. Mr. Acworth has been struggling with the staff in an aimless way, and it would appear that a delusional state of mind is slowly developing, - namely that he is going to be experimented upon and tortured and that I and the staff are in league to do this. I seem to have practically no influence over him as he considers me responsible for all this cruelty. This being so I think your suggestion that he should have a change has much to be said for it. I am not sanguine that it will do any good, but I can see no harm in trying it. If he remains here it is evidently going to be a long and tedious business, though I do not despair of his recovery.

If he is going to be removed to an Institution in England you must apply to the Board of Control, 66 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., for their consent to his transfer, and if you should think of an Institution in Scotland new certificates would be necessary.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

7th June 1917.

Dear Mr. Asquith,

There is no agreement in regard to the
the Board of Directors with the staff in an attempt to
to would mean that a definite state of mind is already
have reached - namely that we are going to be expected
you and I and the staff and the Board of Directors
to do this. I want to have absolutely no doubt as to
to be no doubt as to the responsibility for all this
this - and I think your suggestion that we should have
a change has been made in regard to it. It is not
that it will be any good and I can see no harm in trying
it. If the result here is it is evidently going to be a
new and better business, though I do not despair of his
sincerely,

If he is going to be removed to an institution
in England you must apply to the Board of Directors, to Victoria
Street, Westminster, S.W., for their consent to his transfer,
and if you should think of an institution in Scotland new
arrangements would be necessary.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

129 Scalby Road
Scarborough

6 June 1915

Dear Dr Pierce

I am sorry to have so poor an account of my brother, but not surprised, as he was worse when I saw him on the 11th ulto & his letters since then have got worse.

I was coming over this week, but will not do so, as you think it useless.

- (1) You speak of 'going back' to the bed treatment. I had not heard that you had discontinued it, i.e. bed till 4 p.m.
- (2) Has forcible feeding been necessary? Henry wrote last that he had been fed, but he has not reported any of the other matters you mention.
- (3) As he is getting worse at York, the question arises whether removal to

1844

some other institution would give him a fresh point of departure, & a chance to break from his delusions.

Curiously enough, my brother writes from Bradford to this effect by the same post as your letter comes.

Have you any opinion about it? of course if he were in some other institution at present, & in the same state as now, a removal to York might benefit.

I shall send your letter on to Bradford, & you will hear from me yes.

Yours very truly
J. H. Acworth

5th June, 1915.

Dear Mr. Acworth,

I am sorry to have to give a poor report of your brother. He has been slowly getting worse mentally and his conduct is becoming steadily more troublesome and unreasonable. There seems to be no change in his fundamental ideas. He still thinks that the food is ruining him, body and soul, and that I am the cause of his destruction, that coming here has been the worst thing he ever did, and that I am rejoicing at having got him into a "death trap." Whenever he speaks it is always to the same effect - that the food has quite ruined his eyesight and all his senses.

The practical difficulties of management are becoming serious as he has repeatedly made attempts at self-injury in a silly kind of way. He asked me to be allowed to go a walk outside with an attendant, and on returning he slipped aside and sat down under a motor car, but he selected a car which was going at about three miles an hour, and the attempt was clearly intended to gain sympathy rather than to commit suicide. Since then he has done all kinds of silly things, struggling to get his head through windows when attendants are watching, aimlessly trying

to get away, and he causes the staff a great deal of trouble, especially at night.

I think you ought to know of this increased trouble and difficulty, but I should not recommend your coming over to see him, as I do not think that it could do any good. There is an artificial air about all his conduct quite other than is found in persons who are seriously suicidal and his depression is not of the same type, and yet we feel that we are quite unable to trust him as he does not respond to any appeal.

He is thin and is sleeping badly, and I think we shall have to go back to the bed treatment again.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

20th August, 1915.

Dear Sir,

We are very sorry for the mistake in the name. I have been to the Registrar, who says that he cannot alter it unless he has documentary evidence as to the name and suggests either a Birth Certificate or a Marriage Certificate. If either of these can be sent the Registrar will get the necessary leave to alter the name.

Yours very truly,

W. F. Alden, Esq.

1 Winfield Villas,

Gosforth,

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

1913, April 20th

Dear Sir,

I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and
I have been thinking of you for some time, and

Yours faithfully,
W. F. Adams, Esq.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

129 Scally Rd
Scarborough
2 Apr 1915

Dear Dr Pierce

Thank you for letter. I am
sorry Henry is sleeping so badly.

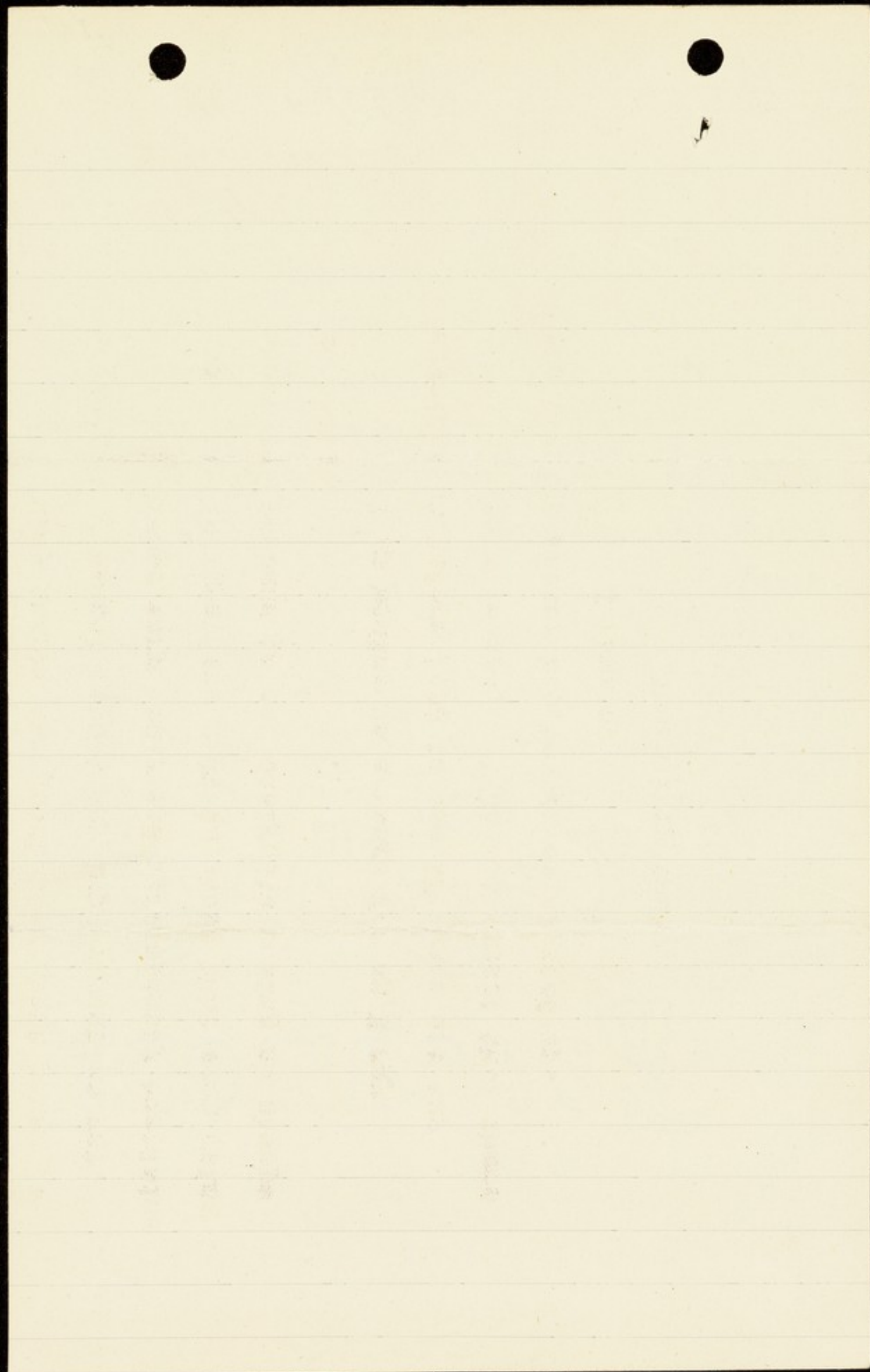
I share your opinion that any indigestion
he suffers from is not caused by foreign
bodies, but it will be well to clear the
matter up.

I don't think the indigestion has been
serious in itself. The serious thing is
that the patient thinks it is serious.

I may be over next Wednesday.

Yours truly

J. H. Neworth



1st April, 1915.

Dear Mr. Acworth,

Many thanks for your letter about your brother. I cannot report any improvement as yet. He still sleeps very badly and persistently complains about his indigestion. It is clear that even going about the grounds is not desirable seeing he sleeps so badly.

I am hoping to arrange for an X ray examination before long to see if there are any foreign bodies inside. I do not expect that there are but the matter had better be cleared up.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

578
129 Scabby Road
Scarborough

29 Nov 1915

Dear Dr. Fierce

I have a letter from my brother Henry, in which he says "I write to ask if you could send me a bottle of Eno's Fruit Salt. Dr. Mackenzie said I could take a little before break-fast to relieve indigestion, he would prefer it came via a relative - suggested I should like it better thro' that channel".

I am sending a bottle addressed to my brother at The Lodge, & notify you in case my brother should have imagined Dr. Mackenzie's permission.

I have asked Mr. Thursfield about his visit to York & he replies that he has not been in York since my brother has been in the Retreat, so that my brother's statement that he had not been allowed to see Mr. Thursfield when he called is imaginary. The letter I & from which

the above is quoted is on the whole
more cheerful than the one we
had a week ago.

Yours faithfully
J. H. Neworth

1, Fairfield Road,

Toller Lane,

Bradford.

3 Nov 1912

Dear Sir,

Inclosed please find
cheque £12, receipt for which
please send here. We shall
be glad to know when the
committee has met, what are
the ~~the~~ terms on which you
have decided.

Do you open patients'
letters, either in ward or
outward, or is their cor-

responsiveness correct?

I have been thinking over the question you asked, & should think there is a substratum of fact in the alleged ~~the~~ swallowing of buttons & pins. This is consistent with the story of deceiving the Australian authorities having no foundation in fact, for in that case a thought was in question, & a thought is a very elusive thing. It might enter the mind without being harboured, & a hyper

sensitive ~~temperament~~ might persuade itself that it had been harboured.

Possibly by now you will have been able to verify the button story.

Yours faithfully
J. H. Acworth

Dr Bedford Stence
York

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

2689



WILLIAM POTTISWOOD & CO. LTD., LONDON.

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Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Bradford A

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to pay

s. d.



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in at

7 of

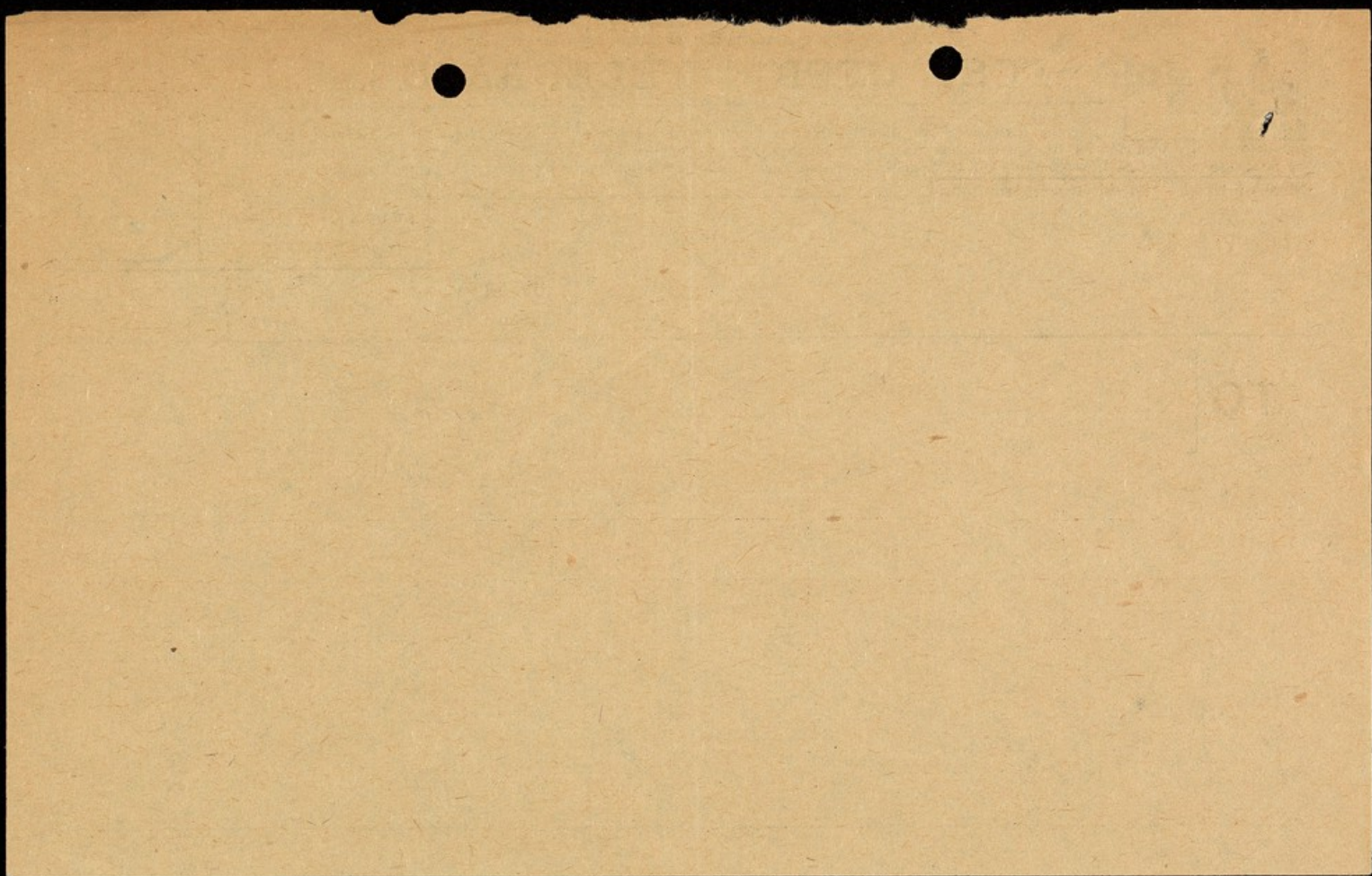
Received
here at

7 1/2

TO

Superintendent Retreat York

If I dont get signed
Second Certificate in morning my
own will be out of
date Burnie 2689 Bradford



Telegrams
Penny 2688 Bradford

Feb. 20 1915 404.

ROSSE DUNE,
HEATON,
BRADFORD.

Dear Mr. Bradford Rector

Thank you for your letter.
I quite agree that certification
now seems the only course.

If you could get a York man
to fill up the 2nd cert. I will
attend to the other matters.

The certificate should reach
me not later than Tuesday
morning so that mine may
be within the statutory limits.
My relative has seen him

Later than 4 weeks ago - will
this matter? - Please address
your reply to my chambers
1 Grenville St.

Yours sincerely
W. J. David Brownie

Please let me know when
you could be consulted in
Leeds, & when in York,
also please say what the
pecuniary charges at the
Retreat will be if my
brother remains there.

You may of course look
to us for any charges
incurred for the present -
Thanking you in anticipation
of your kind reply

I am

Yours faithfully

J. W. Aeworth

465.

1, Fairfield Road,
Toller Lane,
Bradford.

Feb 27 / 15

Dear Sir

I was informed by
Dr. Burnie this morning
that my brother Henry had
last night entered your
institution as a voluntary
patient - I am glad he
has done so, as I had
practically arranged with
Dr. Burnie to consult you
about him next week -
I am more than satisfied
that he requires careful
oversight, if not restraint,

for the present, and I think I should have selected the Retreat for him if he had not taken the step himself -

I may say that in this matter I share responsibility with my eldest brother

J. H. Acworth

129 Scalby Road
Scarbro'

I have not had an opportunity of consulting him, as I am sorry to say he is in feeble health, and this trouble will probably affect him adversely, as he is suffering from heart affection -

I should like you to keep my brother Henry under close observation for a few days, & then advise us as to whether he requires definite restraint, or whether he may continue as a voluntary patient -

I understand you visit Leeds, & I would try to meet you there one day next week, or possibly my ^{eldest} brother may be able to travel from Scarbro to York to see you, or perhaps you also visit Scarbro'?



—The Secretary is instructed to obtain the necessary signatures to the accompanying form of guarantee before the care of any patient is undertaken by The Retreat.

YORK RETREAT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In consideration of the Directors of the York Retreat Hospital for the Insane agreeing to receive Henry Acworth of

as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dring St., The Mount, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson as such Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall from time to time be or become due and payable for the Lodging, Maintenance, and care of the said patient in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid or disbursed by or on behalf of the said Institution for any articles of Wearing Apparel, or other necessities, or extras supplied to, or provided for the said Patient, or the repairing or mending and washing of the articles of Wearing Apparel of the said Patient, so long as the said Patient shall continue in the said Hospital, or be under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and also to pay or cause to be paid the expenses in respect of the Funeral of the said Patient, in case the said Patient shall die in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital. AND I FURTHER AGREE to pay interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on any accounts due from me as above, which shall not have been discharged within Twenty-eight days from the receipt of such account from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk of the said Hospital. AND I ALSO UNDERTAKE AND AGREE, at my own expense, to remove the said Patient from the said Hospital within Fourteen days after receiving Notice in writing from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk for the time being of the said Hospital, requiring such removal.

WITNESS my hand the 19th day of March 1915.

Name James Hubert Acworth
Residence 129 Seabrook Road Scarborough
Occupation Gentleman

SIGNED by the said James Hubert Acworth
in the presence of

Witness's Signature,

Address, and

Profession.

Charles Herbert Duke
138 Victoria Road Scarborough
Decorator

N.B.—The charge for Board, Lodging and Medical care is payable quarterly, in advance. Disbursements by the Institution on behalf of patients, and other exceptional expenses, are charged in the following quarter's account. A residence of less than a month is charged as a month.

In the event of the death, removal, or discharge of a patient before the expiry of the quarter covered by the last payment, the surplus amount is returned by the Retreat.



No. 287

The Retreat,

Work,

Feb 17

1915

Received from

H. Amth E

the sum of

Five

Pounds

Shillings and

Pence

on account of

Board



Waller

Secretary.

L 5. 0. 0

BOLTON
ALB. BERTIE
VOLUME



The Secretary is instructed to obtain the necessary signatures to the accompanying form of guarantee before the care of any patient is undertaken by The Retreat.

YORK RETREAT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In consideration of the Directors of the York Retreat Hospital for the Insane agreeing to receive Henry Acworth of

as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson

of Bringington, The Mount, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson

as such Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall from time to time be or become due and payable for the Lodging, Maintenance, and care of the said patient in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid or disbursed by or on behalf of the said Institution for any articles of Wearing Apparel, or other necessities, or extras supplied to, or provided for the said Patient, or the repairing or mending and washing of the articles of Wearing Apparel of the said Patient, so long as the said Patient shall continue in the said Hospital, or be under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and also to pay or cause to be paid the expenses in respect of the Funeral of the said Patient, in case the said Patient shall die in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital. AND I FURTHER AGREE to pay interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on any accounts due from me as above, which shall not have been discharged within Twenty-eight days from the receipt of such account from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk of the said Hospital. AND I ALSO UNDERTAKE AND AGREE, at my own expense, to remove the said Patient from the said Hospital within Fourteen days after receiving Notice in writing from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk for the time being of the said Hospital, requiring such removal.

WITNESS my hand the Fifth day of March 1915

Name

Residence

Occupation

SIGNED by the said

in the presence of

Witness's Signature,

Address, and

Profession.

Eily M. Town

1 Fairfield Road Bradford

Spinster

N.B.—The charge for Board, Lodging and Medical care is payable quarterly, in advance. Disbursements by the Institution on behalf of patients, and other exceptional expenses, are charged in the following quarter's account. A residence of less than a month is charged as a month.

In the event of the death, removal, or discharge of a patient before the expiry of the quarter covered by the last payment, the surplus amount is returned by the Retreat.

