56 Riverdale Road 84
Sheffield
24 July 1912

Dear Sir Replying to your letter of yesterdays date. Will you please thank Dr Bedford Pierce for his kind message and I think Mrs Bell can now be reported as recovered Yours faithfully

Thos. J. Bell

ans. July 23/12

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield
22 July 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

The mouth has expired since Wm Bell left you and I am glad to say she is going on very well indeed. Dr Milner is away just now but has saw her quite recently & then seemed satisfied with her

With kind regards Believe me
Sincerely Yours
Thos. W. Bell

July 12, 1912

Dear Mr. Bell,

The fact that Mrs. Bell has been placed under certificates is quite confidential, and no one will know of it unless you tell him.

With regard to the malady, I should class the illness as being of a neurasthenic type rather than insanity of an ordinary type, as, during the whole of the illness, Mrs. Bell had a good intellectual apprehension of her position, and never exhibited any delusions or hallucinations.

It is very pleasant to hear that she is so nicely, and we shall be glad to remove her name from the books as "recovered" on hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield
11 July 1917

Dear Dr Pierce

I am very glad to report that my wife continues to go on well & no relapse has occurred since ~~my~~ the first one which I mentioned in my last letter. As promised I will write again on the 20th inst when the full month will have expired. During our last conversation I understood that you did not think Mrs Bell's condition was due to any mental deficiency or that her children could be affected by it. The fact however is on record that she has been certified & detained. At the present time the details of her case are fresh in mind to be easily recalled & explained but in years to come when things are forgotten only the bare record will remain and it is on this point I ask your advice as to what steps should be taken now in order to prevent the possibility of this fact being used in the future to the prejudice of her children. Would you approve of a statement from yourself

Which I would look upon to be produced in case of need?
A bill is at present before Parliament which appears to have a strong bearing on this point & I would be very grateful for your advice on this

Yours very truly

Thos J. Bell

To
Doctor Bedford Pierce
The Retreat
York

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield
30 June 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

My wife seems to be making steady progress. She has had one backward spell which lasted from about noon last Monday ~~until~~ for about 24 hours. Since then she has been keeping herself well employed & full interest in her surroundings

740

There was a certain amount of movement in her body & limbs last night. She has entered for the tournament here next week. I will write again later on

Yours sincerely

Thos. A. Bell

56 Rivordale Road
Sheffield
17 June 1912

Dear Sir

As at present arranged Mrs Ethel Bell is leaving The Retreat on Thursday next 20th inst I herewith enclose cheque £37.16.0 for 12 Weeks at £3.3.0 from 2nd April

Yours faithfully

Thos J. Bell

The Secretary
Dr Bedford Pierce M.D.
The Retreat York

+ I fancy it will take a somewhat heavy difference — tho' I have no doubt of their ability to pay — + it does not seem as though it will be only for a short time —
I think I should suggest 4/- for the present.

Yours sincerely

Horton Nelson

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10. A.M.
6 TO 7-30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
NR SHEFFIELD.

June 15. 12.

Dear Dr Pierce,

Thanks for your letter with the good news of Mrs. Bell.

I really don't know what to says about Hurst's payments. The Father is a manager of Harrison & Cammes. Wagon builders & has a good berth, but of course a son to pay for instead of earning & his wife to keep & addition means a considerable extra expense —

N.P.

56 Rivendale Road
Sheffield
20 May 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

When filling in the petition on Saturday I was unable to give accurate answers to the questions relating to my wife's last attack as it happened before I knew her. Would it be well to send me another form to forward to her people to obtain correct answers to these questions. You could then compare them and ~~then~~ decide whether an amended petition ought to be prepared

Yours faithfully

Thos J. Bell

588

559

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10 A.M.
6 TO 7-30 P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
~~NR~~ SHEFFIELD.

May 17 12.

Dear Dr Price,

Thanks for letter. If necessary I could come over but it would be very inconvenient just now. Mr. Bell & his brother in law will communicate with you. & I am wanted they will write.

Yours sincerely
Walter Hurlow

L Harlet

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield
15 May 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

I am so sorry to get your report on Mrs Bell. I have seen Dr Milner today about your letter & he is writing you. I would much prefer that Mrs Bell might continue under your observation instead of going elsewhere as after past experience it is impossible for her to be here with the children. Could it be arranged for her to move into The Retreat as a voluntary boarder for the meantime?

Yours very truly

Thos J. Bell

545

I don't think he can afford more than 3 guineas & really not that for a lengthened period. It does not seem to be any good her coming home, & one does not wish him to be at expense without reasonable expectations of success. What do you advise?

I gave a certificate for Mr Hurst in a hurry this morning but have not seen him within the required time so am afraid it was no good. I am afraid in his case there is an alcoholic history – Will you let me know what you think.

Yours sincerely

Norton Milner

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10. A.M.
6 TO 7-30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
~~NR~~ SHEFFIELD.

May 13. 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I am sorry to hear Mrs. Bell is making such poor progress. The condition does not appear to have varied at all since the commencement.

I should like to hear your opinion as regards prognosis. as I know Mr. Bell is somewhat handicapped financially & finds the expense a considerable drain on his resources.

Ethel Bell

July 13 1912

Dr. to The Retreat, York.

The Rules of the Institution require that each Quarter be paid IN ADVANCE.

Overdue Accounts will be charged with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

It is particularly requested that a printed receipt, on the Official receipt form of the Institution, be obtained for each remittance

28
31
20
79
9
711

	£	s.	d.
To Board at May 20 @ 31/- 21. 12. 0 then at June 20 @ 31/6/- 16. 5. 6 (Cap 2)	37	17	6
To One Quarter's Board to			
,, Disbursements (as below) to June 20th	4	3	2
£	42	0	8

	£	s.	d.
Washing and Mending	1	13	
Stimulants			
Tobacconist			
Stationery and Stamps			6
Tailor			
Hosier			
Shoemaker			
Millinery and Dressmaking			
Amusements, Excursions, and Sundries per Head Attendant ...			
Sundries per the Matron	1	16	11
Extra Carriage Drives		12	9
Extra Nursing			
	4	3	2

Less Cash 37. 16 0

£ 4 . 4 . 8

Cheques should be made payable to "BEDFORD PIERCE, M.D., or order," and crossed "London Joint Stock Bank, F. R. Account."

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield 11 July 1912

Dear Sir

Please pardon my returning the account but it is not clear to me

2 Apl to 20 May	7 weeks at	3/3/	22.1.0	
20 May to 20 June	say 5 "	3/13/6	18.7.6	40.8.6

But apart from this I understood from Dr Pierce on 20 May that Mrs Bell could go into The Retreat at the same terms as we were paying at Throxenby

Please let me hear from you

Yours truly

Thos. J. Bell

Aug 22 1912

The Secretary
Dr Bedford Pierce
The Retreat
York

May 24, 1912

Dear Sir,

The Commissioners in Lunacy require the enclosed Petition to be signed with your full Christian name. Will you kindly do this and let us have the Petition back in the enclosed envelope. I am sorry to trouble you, but they are very particular about some points in Certificates.

Yours very truly,

Asst Sec.

T.J.Bell Esq.

May 16, 1912

Dear Dr. Milner,

If it really seems best we could arrange to take Mrs. Bell into the Retreat on Monday next, as a certified patient. I shall be away from home myself that day, but I expect to be at Scarborough on Saturday, and could arrange for a doctor to sign one of the certificates.

Unless there is decided reason to the contrary, one of the certificates should be signed by the usual medical attendant. Could you manage to do this?

Mr. Bell will have to come and see Mrs. Bell, and present the Petition to the Magistrate. This could be done on Monday or Saturday, the former being probably more convenient, as there may be a difficulty in getting the certificates completed on Saturday.

Yours very truly,

416

Clevelands
Pinner
April 18th 1912

Dear Dr. Pierson

Thank you very much for your letter & particulars of Mrs Stone.

I do hope Mrs Bell will improve under your care. I cannot imagine what has upset her nerves so much: it is a mystery.

When I saw her last which was for a few hours in January she was as you describe her.

I remain with many thanks

Yrs very truly

Rly. F. Jinson

April 12, 1912

Dear Madam,

Miss Elkins has forwarded me your letter respecting Mrs. Bell. I enclose you a prospectus, which will give you some idea of what Throxenby Hall is like.

I saw Mrs. Bell on Wednesday last. She seemed somewhat better, and spoke very pleasantly of the house and staff; and if she can only settle down for a reasonable length of time I quite expect she will gradually benefit by being there. At present she seems quite unable to realise her incapacity: or rather she understands that she has been quite unable to look after things at home, but though there has been no material change, she now thinks that she could do so at any time. Unfortunately she is unable to employ herself properly, cannot settle to anything, and is hesitating and undecided.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

371

Clevelands
Pinner
Middlesex

April 10. 1912

Dear Madam,

This morning I received a letter from my son-in-law saying he had brought his wife to your house & I could know all particulars by writing to you, so will you please give me particulars, also what you think of my daughters

state. as Mr. Bell has
not given me any parti-
culars of how she is, or
what condition she was
in when he brought her.
Will you kindly tell me
for I have a right to
know being her Mother.
& I am afraid I shall
not know only through you

I remain
yrs truly
Eliz. T. Gunion

56 Riverdale Road
Sheffield
9 April 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

I was sorry to have missed you when bringing Mrs Bell to York last Tuesday but Dr Kemp went thoroughly into all details & we went on to Throxenby after our interview with her. My wife has been there a week now & although she has not written she telephoned me today. She was not very definite but seemed unhappy & anxious to return home. This we ought to be & avoid as her condition has a very serious effect upon the children, especially the elder age 4½

I should be glad of your opinion on her when next you visit Throxenby & to hear whether you think the present treatment suitable, or an alternative. I write frequently giving home news but this could be regulated to your advice. I enclose dates shewing the various methods which have been adopted with her.

Believe me Yours faithfully
Thos. N. Bell

367

Earlyein last June I took
her & her sister for 4 weeks trip
to Lisbon by steamer & back
Then she went to Herne Bay
for 3 months with a nurse
The following 4½ months she
was at home with various
nurses & the children were away
all that time. At the end of
January the children came home
A month later a housekeeper
came to live with us to look after
the children & house hold affairs
On 2nd April went to Thoxenby

345

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10. A.M.
6 TO 7-30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
NR SHEFFIELD.

Apr. 1. 12

Dear Dr. Pierce,

Sorry my patient did not get off to-day. She has signed the paper & knows quite well what she is doing but resents change. She will be delight when she once gets away — We are causing you a lot of trouble for which I am sorry.

Yours sincerely
Norton Milner

there need be any fear of self violence - or violence to others. There has been no sign of suicide.

Mr Bell is intending to bring his wife to see you on Monday morning arriving York 12.33. She thinks she will be going away for good but we have tried to explain that is not the case, & I think you could put it even more suitably than we can.

If you don't let me know or if you don't hear from us we shall conclude the time on Monday will suit. I shall be in at 1.30 to 2. to morrow if you should wish to telephone.

yours sincerely

Helen Bulmer

P.T.O

TELEPHONE:-BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10. A.M.
6 TO 7-30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
~~NR~~ SHEFFIELD.

Mar 30. 12

Dear Dr. Pierce,

Thanks for your letter. I have seen Mr. Bell & he has told his wife she is going on Monday. She is very much against the scheme but has been against every one we have tried & wanted to revert to the last one.

I personally do not think Mrs. Bell is certifiable. I should not like to certify her but I think she requires suitable treatment away from home, & I do not think

If when you see her you
should not think her suitable
or she should refuse could you
suggest an alternative as
we do not want her to come
back home again at present
if it can be avoided

N. M

March 29, 1912

Dear Dr. Milner,

If you think that your patient, Mrs. Bell, is a fit person to be a voluntary boarder and that she properly understands what she is doing and is not likely to be suicidal, we shall be pleased to receive her at Throxenby Hall, the terms being 3 guineas a week.

Owing to a recent ruling of the Commissioners in Lunacy it is, however, necessary for her to come first to the Retreat for examination. This can be done in the forenoon and she can go on to Throxenby in the afternoon if the case be found suitable. I enclose the form usually signed.

As to the length of time necessary I feel quite unable to offer an opinion, but if the case is one of long standing it is hardly any use to expect any good to be done much under three months.

You, no doubt, have explained that there is no resident medical officer at Throxenby, and if constant medical care is needed it would be hardly suitable to send her there. At the Retreat we are at the present time quite full, so I am afraid we must not promise to take her here at present.

Yours very truly,

I know he is not financially well off & I suggested if he could not pay for any lengthened period, she might go to Throxenby at any rate for a time & you could perhaps give some idea as to the period required for a cure & if it would take a long time some further change might be necessary — He is now anxious to get her there as soon as possible. Will you please let me know the method of procedure & when she could come. There may be some little difficulty in getting Mrs Bell's consent but I think that can be easily got over with a little diplomacy —

Yours very sincerely

Lorton Milne

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.
AT HOME
9 TO 10. A.M.
6 TO 7-30 P.M.

MUIRFOOT
MILLHOUSES,
SHEFFIELD.

Mar 28. 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce,

You may remember I wrote to you the beginning of Nov. last about a patient. Mrs. Bell, & you kindly sent me particulars of Throxenby Hall. The husband then was not inclined to any institution treatment, so we have been pottering along at home with no result. He is now willing to try it for a time, but would like if possible a reduced fee.