

**Bell, Ethel**

**Publication/Creation**

1912-1912

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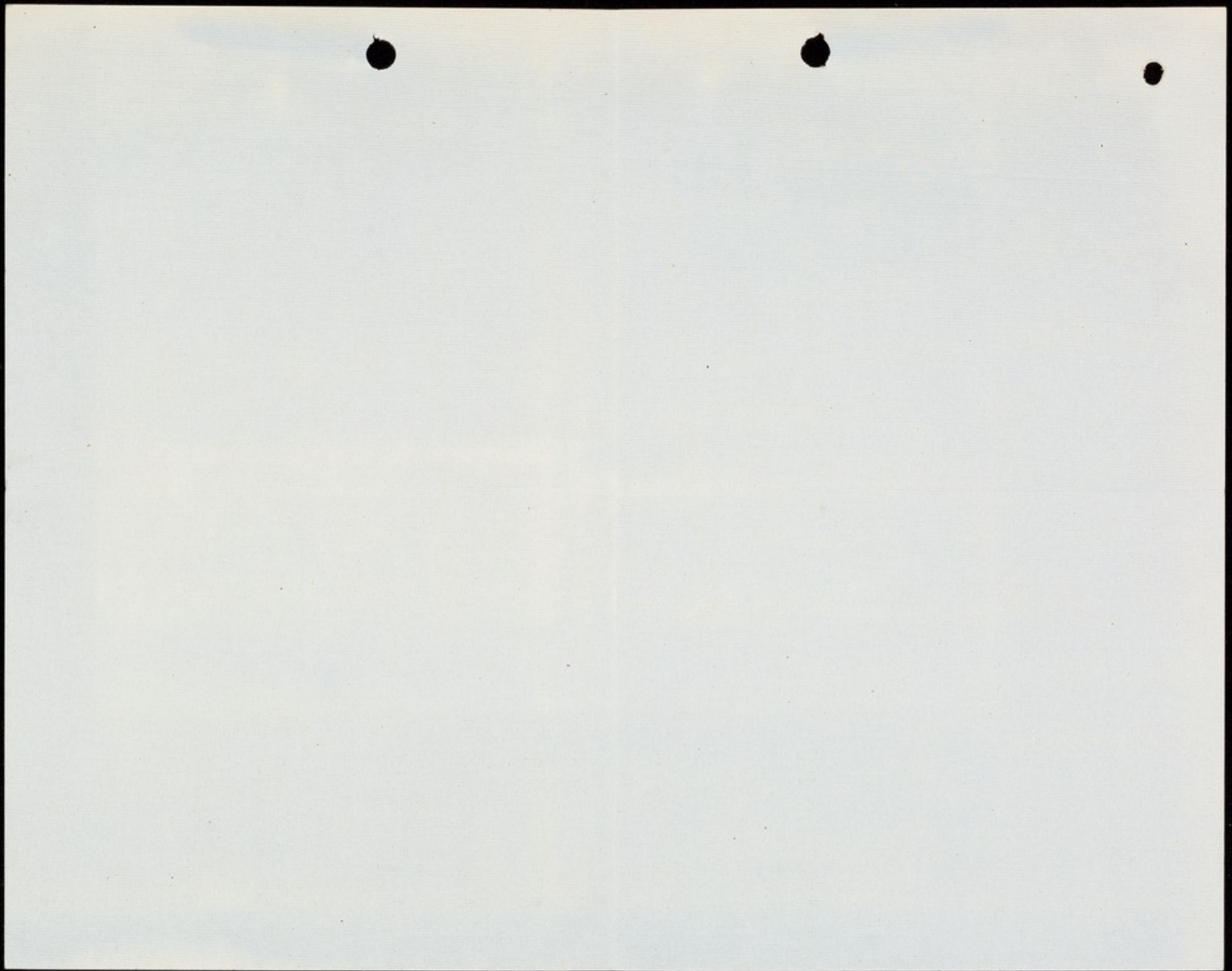
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56 Riverdale Road <sup>821</sup>

Sheffield

24 July 1912

Dear Sir Replying to  
Your letter of yesterday's  
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 month 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 he saw  
her quite recently & then seemed  
satisfied with her

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

55 Riverside Ave

St. Paul, Minn

July 27, 1912

Dear Mr. [Name]

I have your letter of the 25th and am glad to hear

from you and that you are still in the city.

I am sorry that I cannot see you at the moment

but I will try to do so as soon as possible.

I am very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Address]

[City, State]

July 12, 1912

Dear Mr. Bell,

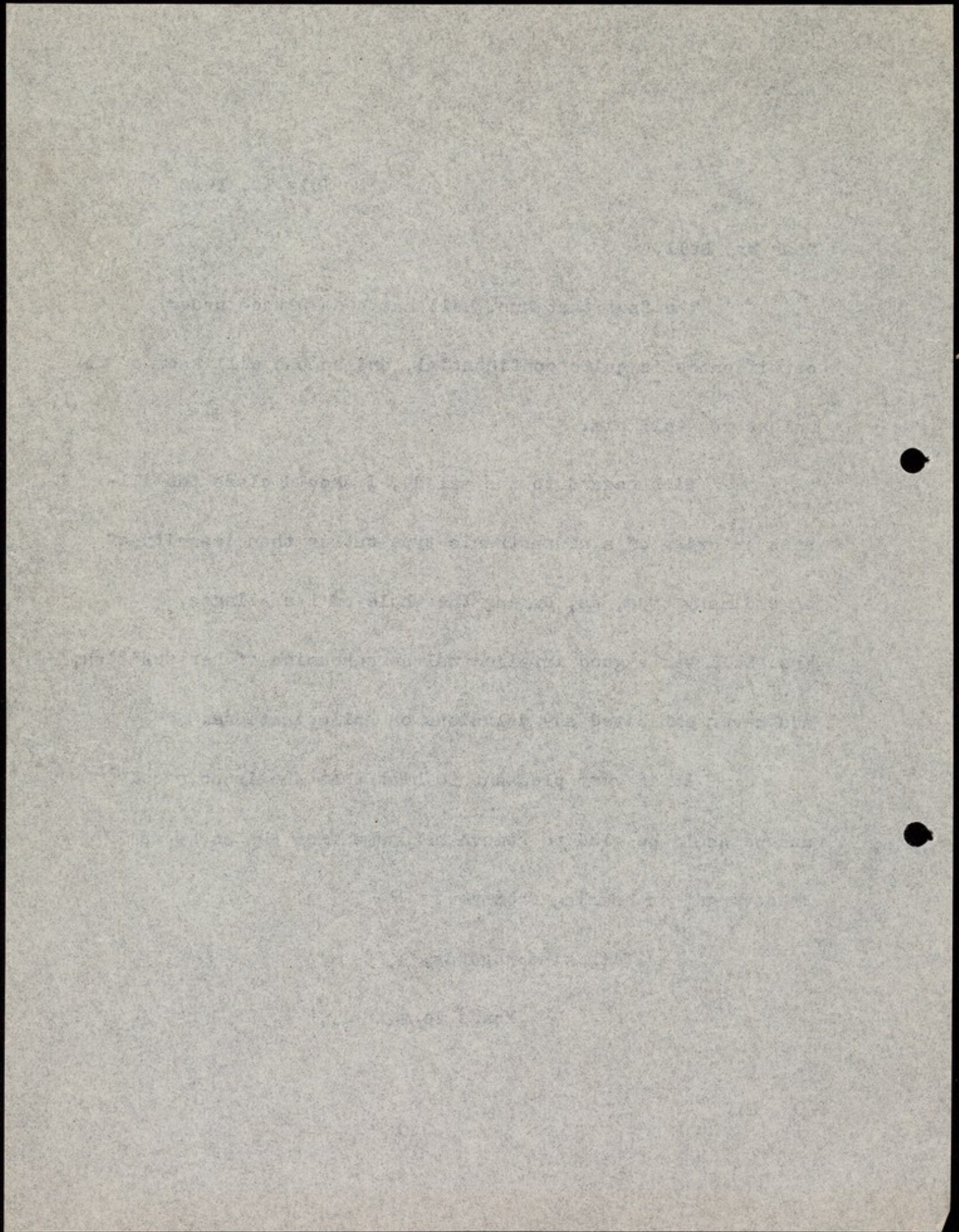
The fact that Mrs. Bell has been placed under certificates is quite confidential, and no one will know of it unless you tell him.

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 1912

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>784</sup> 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 step 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 way 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 Peice  
The Retreat  
York

56 Rivendale Road

Sheffield

30 June 1912

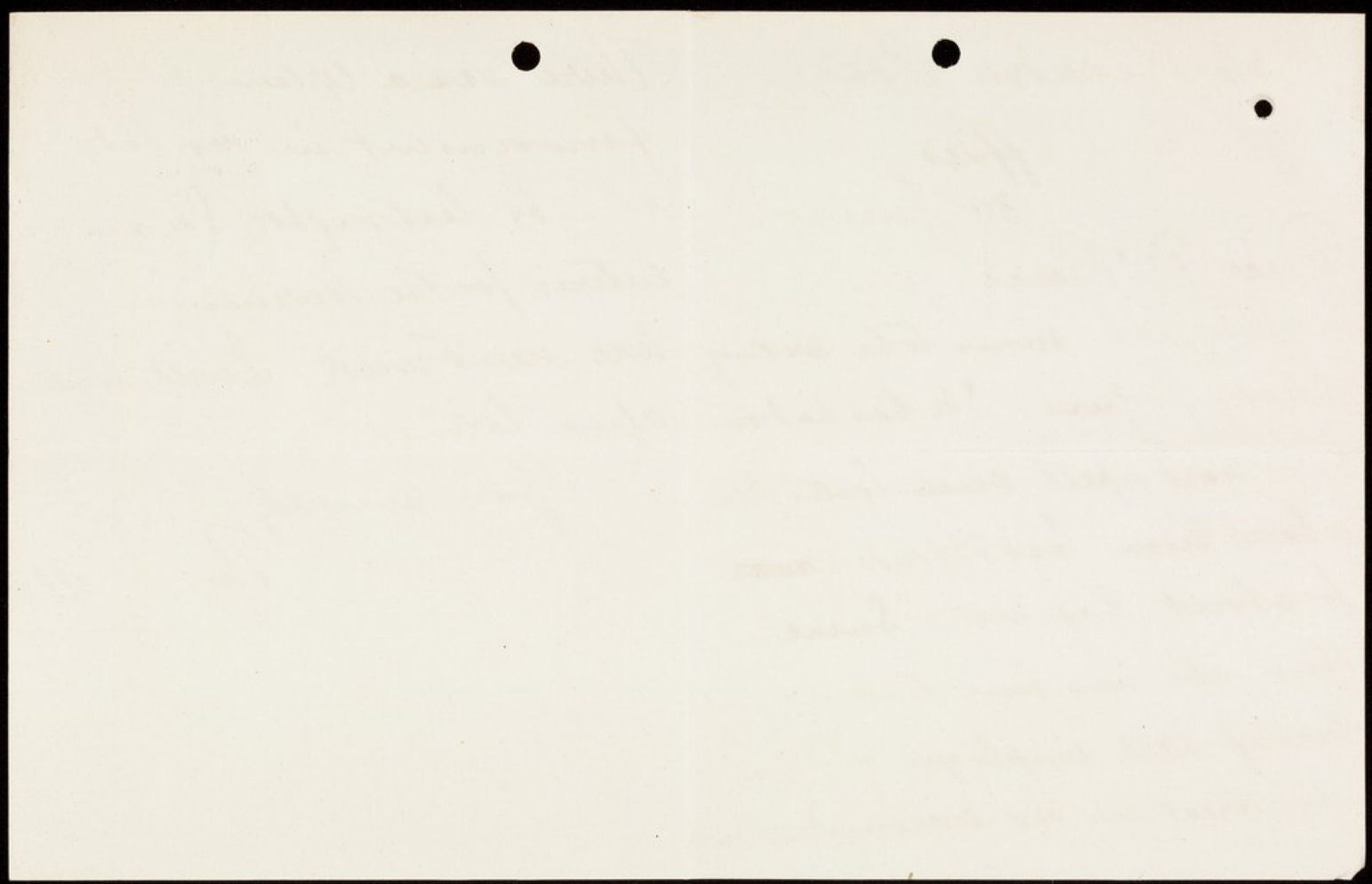
Dear D. Pierce

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 of interest in her surroundings.

There was a certain amount <sup>740</sup> of improvement 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 Rivedale Road  
Sheffield

17 June 1912

Dear Sir

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

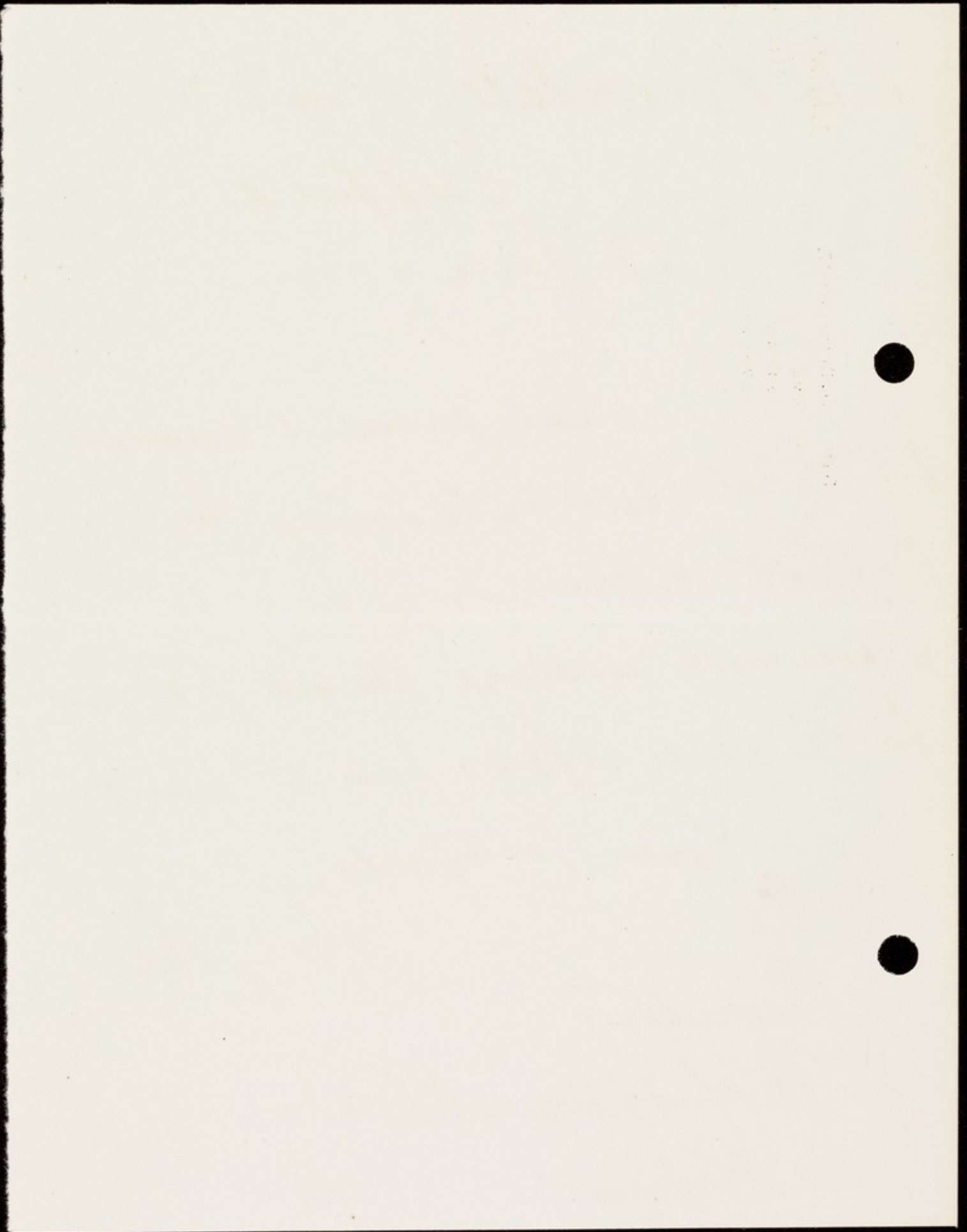
Yours faithfully

Thos. J. Bell

The Secretary

Dr Bedford Pierce M.D.

The Retreat York



+ I fancy it will make 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 1/2  
for the present.

Yours sincerely  
Horton Mather

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.  
AT HOME  
9 TO 10. A.M.  
6 TO 7.30. P.M.

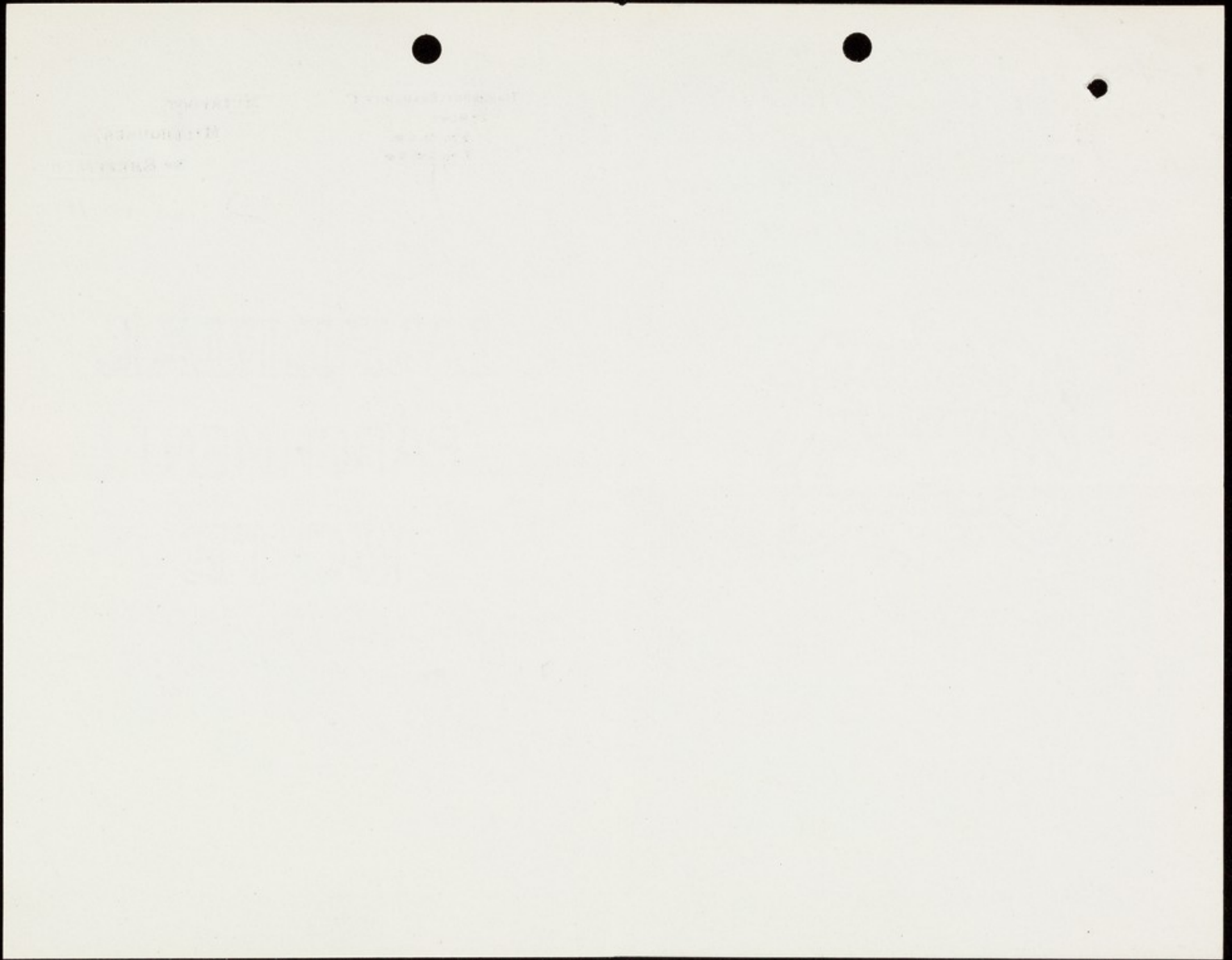
655  
MUIRFOOT  
MILLHOUSES,  
N<sup>o</sup> SHEFFIELD.

June 15. 12.

Dear Dr. Reine,

Thank you for your  
letter with its good news of  
Mrs. Bell.

I really don't know what to  
say about Hurst's payments.  
The father is a manager of  
Harrison & Cairns. Wagon builder  
& has a good berth, but of course  
a son to pay for instead of  
earning + his wife to keep  
in addition means a  
considerable extra expense



56 Rivendale Road

Sheffield

20 May 1912

Dear Dr Pierce

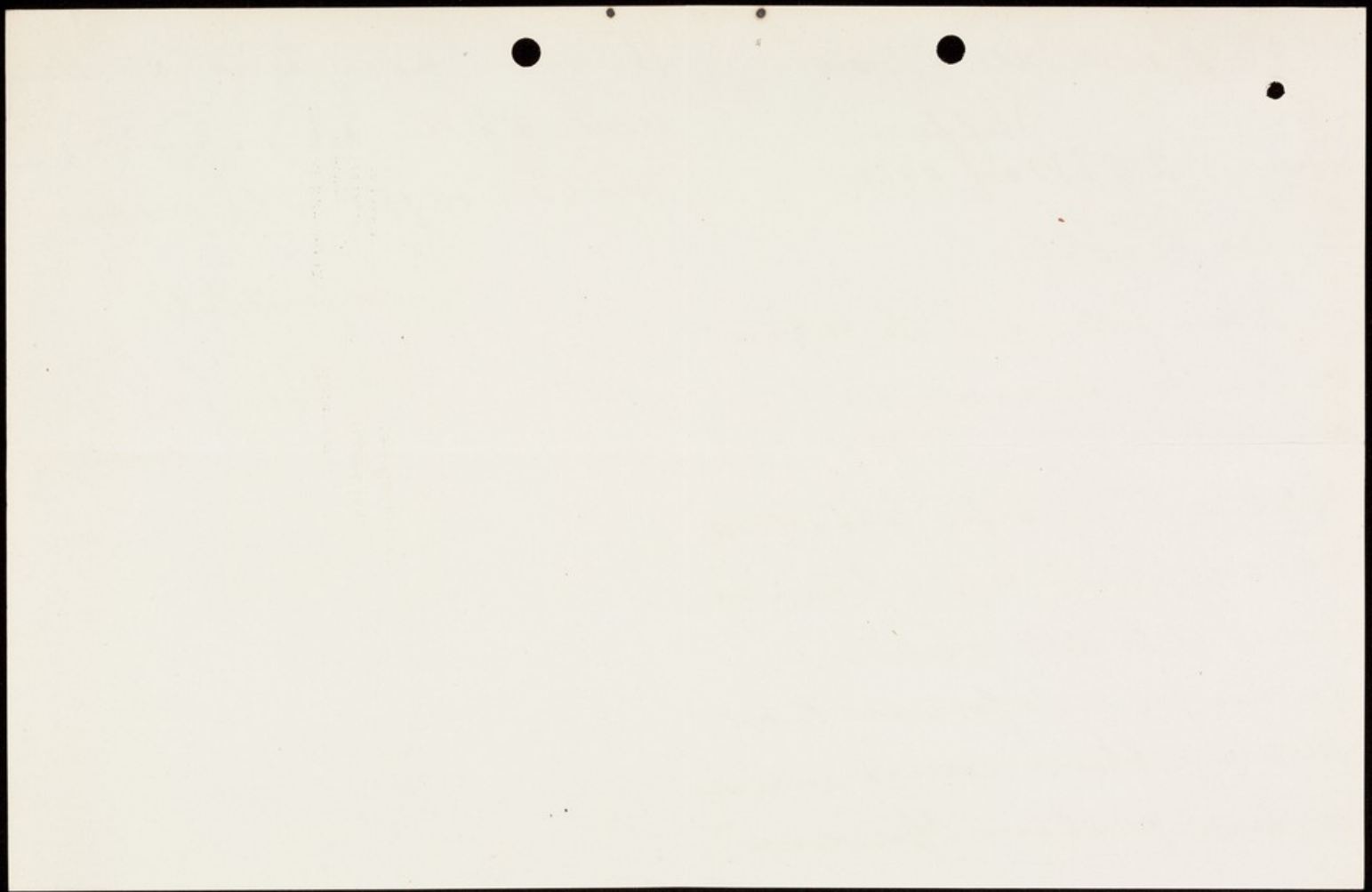
When filling in the petition on Saturday I was unable to give accurate answers to the questions relating to my wife's last attack as it happened before I knew her. Would it be well to send me another form to forward to her people & obtain correct answers to these questions. You could

Then compare them and <sup>588</sup> ~~then~~ decide whether an amended petition ought to be prepared

Yours faithfully

Thos J. Bell





559

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.

AT HOME

9 TO 10. A.M.

6 TO 7-30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT

MILLHOUSES,

NE SHEFFIELD.

May 17. 12.

Dear Dr. Peirce,

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

Yours sincerely  
Horton Hulbert

L. Hart

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56 Rivedale Road  
Sheffield  
15 May 1912

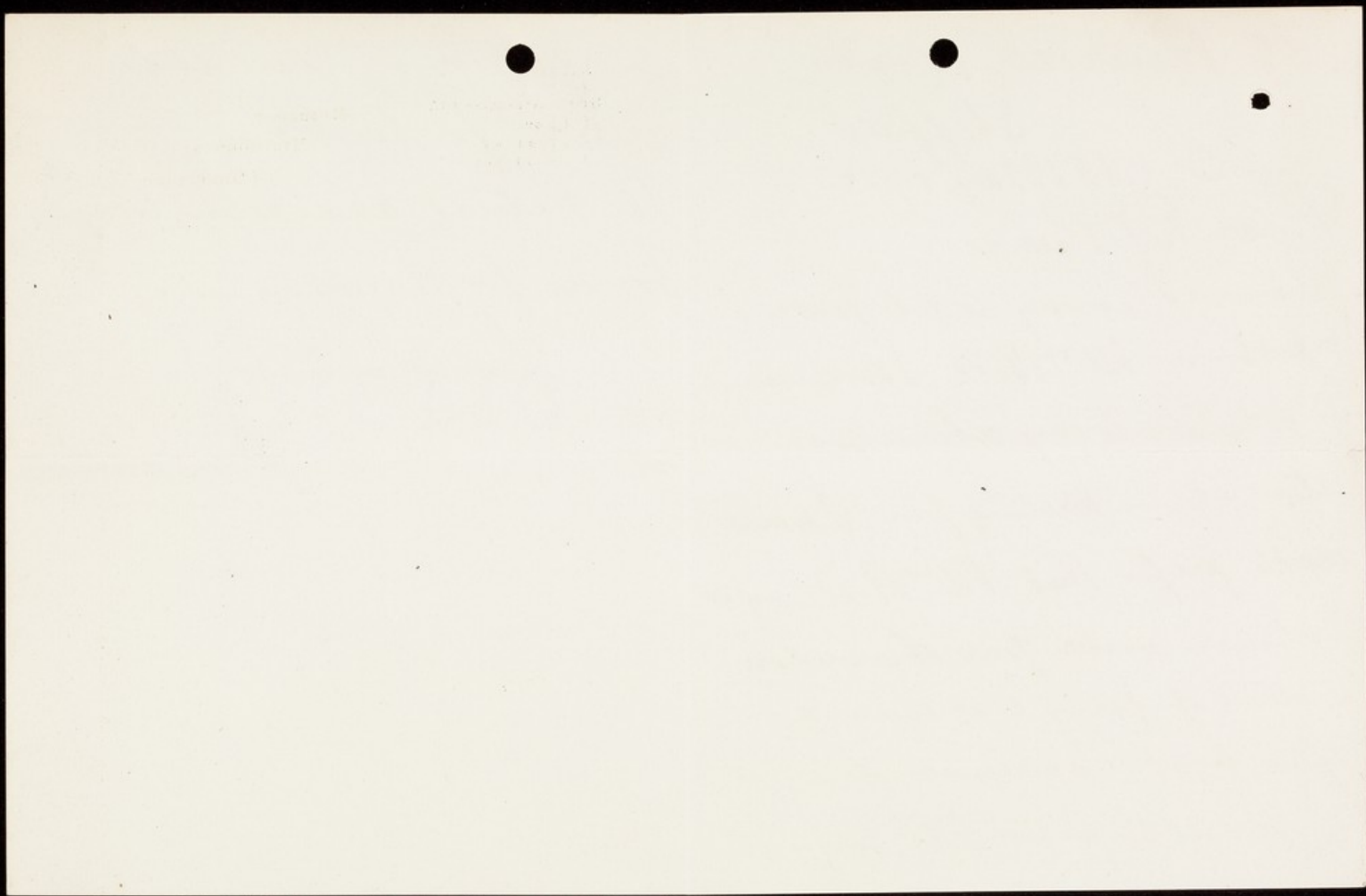
Dear Dr Pierce

I am so sorry to get your  
report on Mrs Bell. I have seen  
D 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



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 & 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  
Horton Hulbert

537  
TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.  
AT HOME  
9 TO 10. A.M.  
6 TO 7.30. P.M.

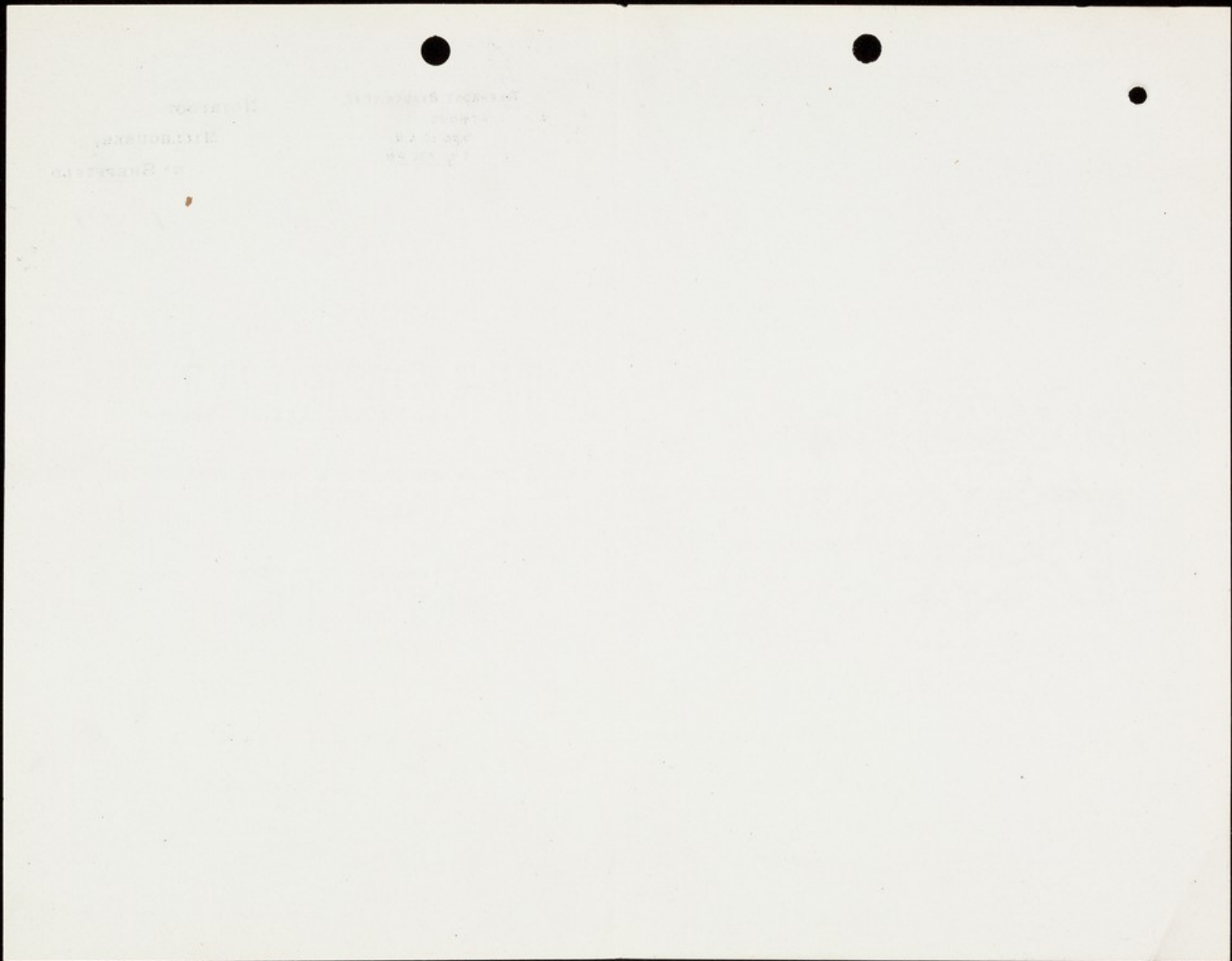
MUIRFOOT  
MILLHOUSES,  
SHEFFIELD.

✓ May 13. 1912

Dear Dr. Pieve,

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  
51  
20  

---

79  
9  

---

711

746  
758

Apr 2  
To Road to May 20 @ 1/11 = 21.12.0 }  
then to home 20 @ 3/10 = 16.5.6 }

To One Quarter's Board to

„ Disbursements (as below) to June 20

£	s.	d.
37	17	6
4	3	2
<b>£ 42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

	£	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 ... ..			
	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

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."



# Dr. to The Retreat York

To One Quarter's Rent to	Disbursements (as below to)	...
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	...	...

Ordered about the middle of the year 1791 to be printed by the Trustees of the Retreat for the Poor, at the Retreat, York.

56 Riverdale Road

Sheffield

11 July 1912

Dear Sir

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

2 April to

20 May

7 weeks at 24. 22.1.0

20 May to

20 June say 5 " - 3/36 18.7.6 40.8.6

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

paying at The Retreat

Please let me hear from you

Yours truly

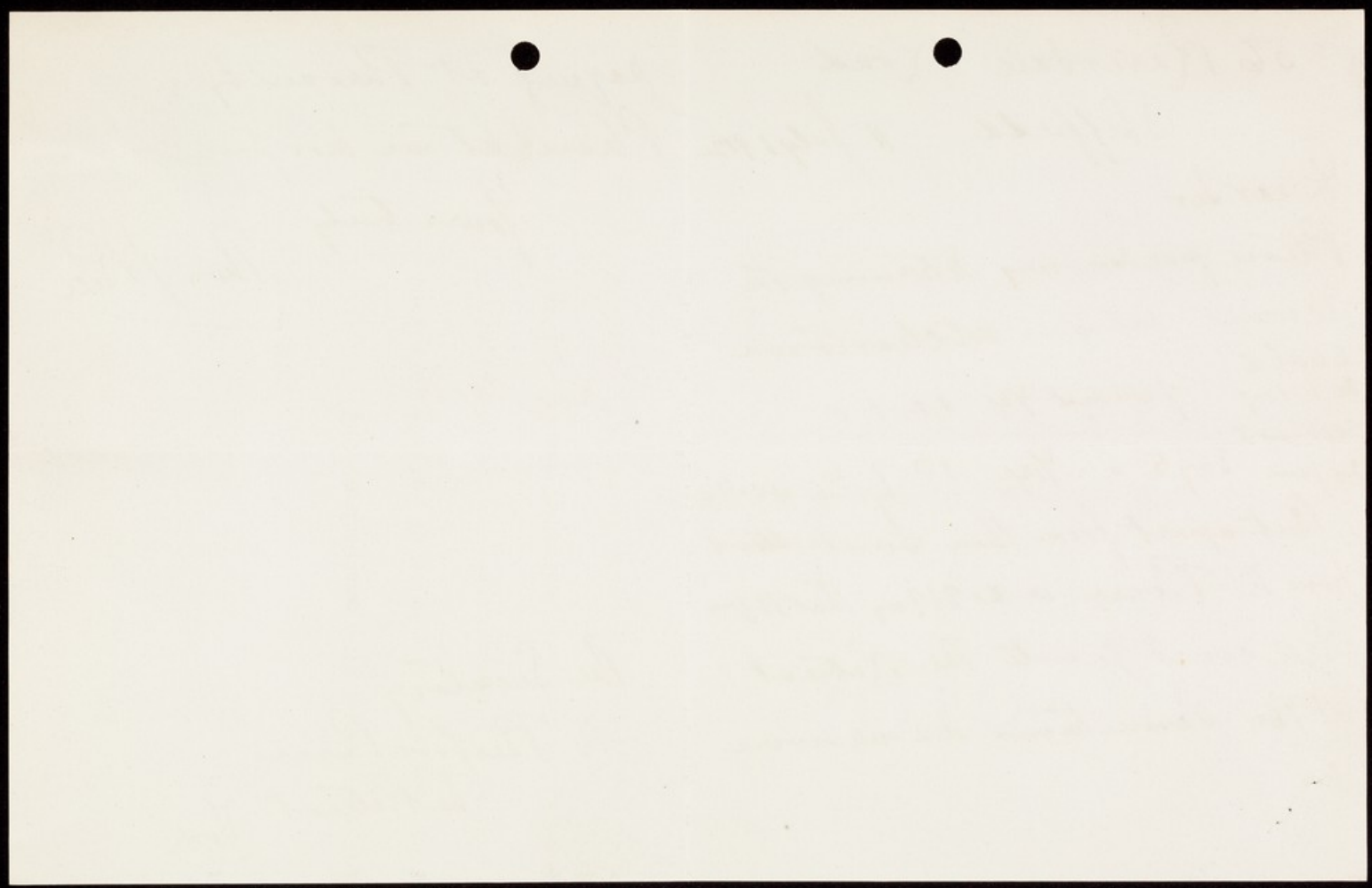
Thos. J. Bell

Aug 22 1912

The Secretary

D. Bedford Pierce

The Retreat York



May 24, 1912

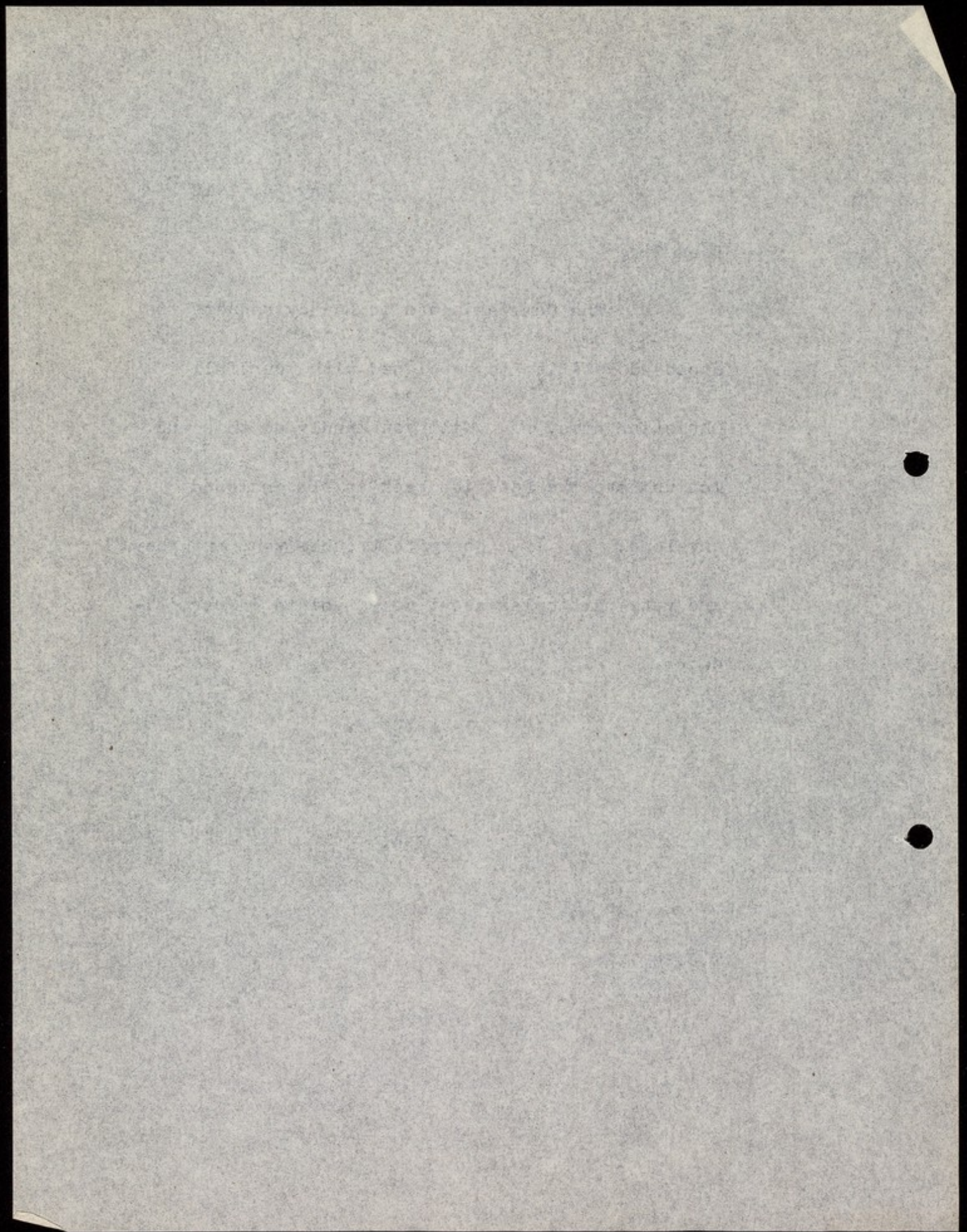
Dear Sir,

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

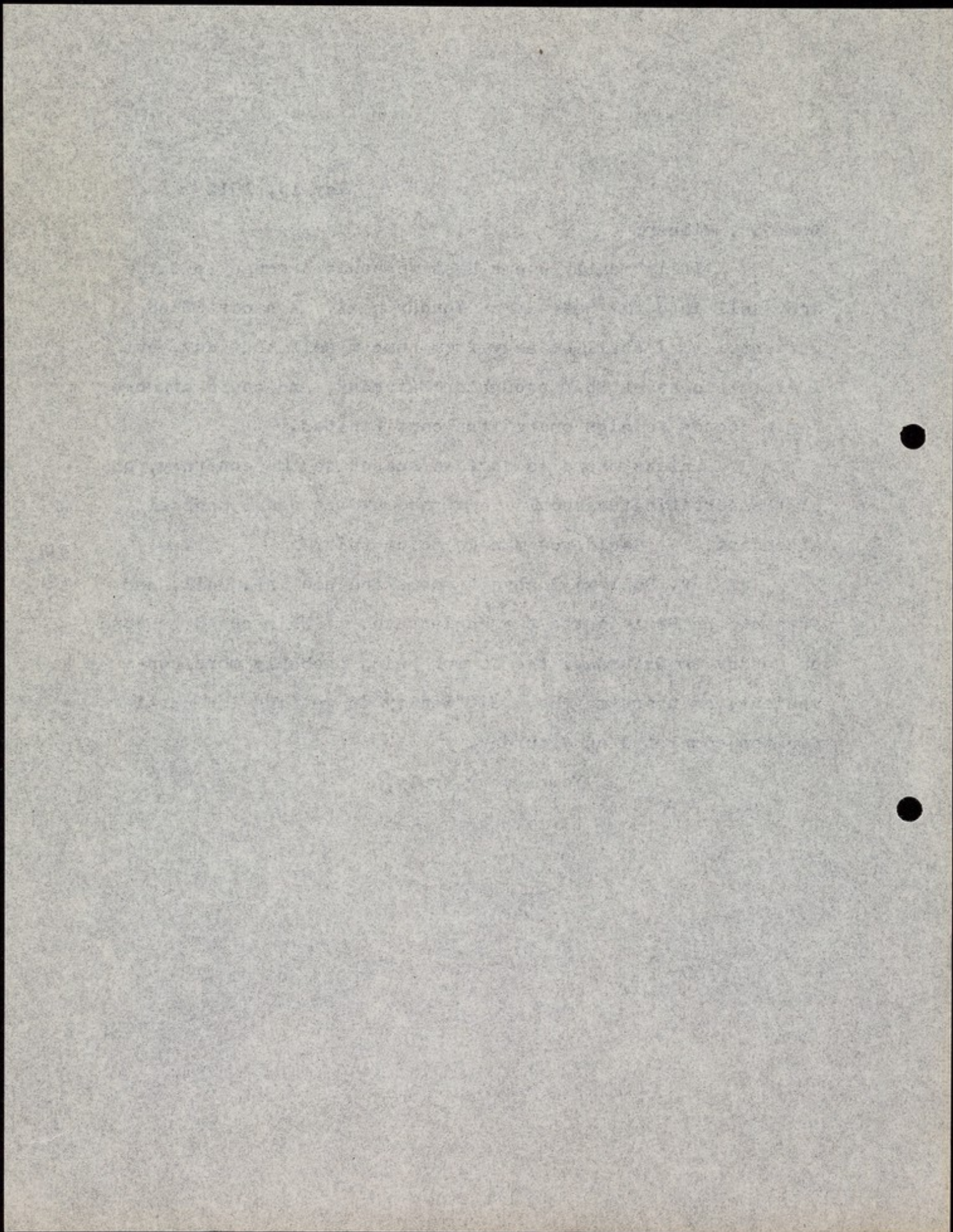
Dear Dr. Milner,

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,



Cleveland

Pierce

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce

I thank you very much for your letter & particulars of the Hour.

I do hope Mr. 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

Y<sup>rs</sup> very truly

Wm. J. Ginton

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,

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Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Cleveland  
Pinner  
Middlesex

April 10. 1912

Dear Madam,

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

state. as Mr. Bell has  
not given me any partic-  
ulars of how she is, or  
what condition she was  
in when he brought her  
like 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. J. Ginnison

56 Rivedale Road  
Sheffield  
9 April 1912

Dear Dr. Preece

I was sorry to have missed you when bringing Mr. Bell to York last Tuesday but Dr. Kemp went thoroughly into all details & we went on to Throssenby 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 try

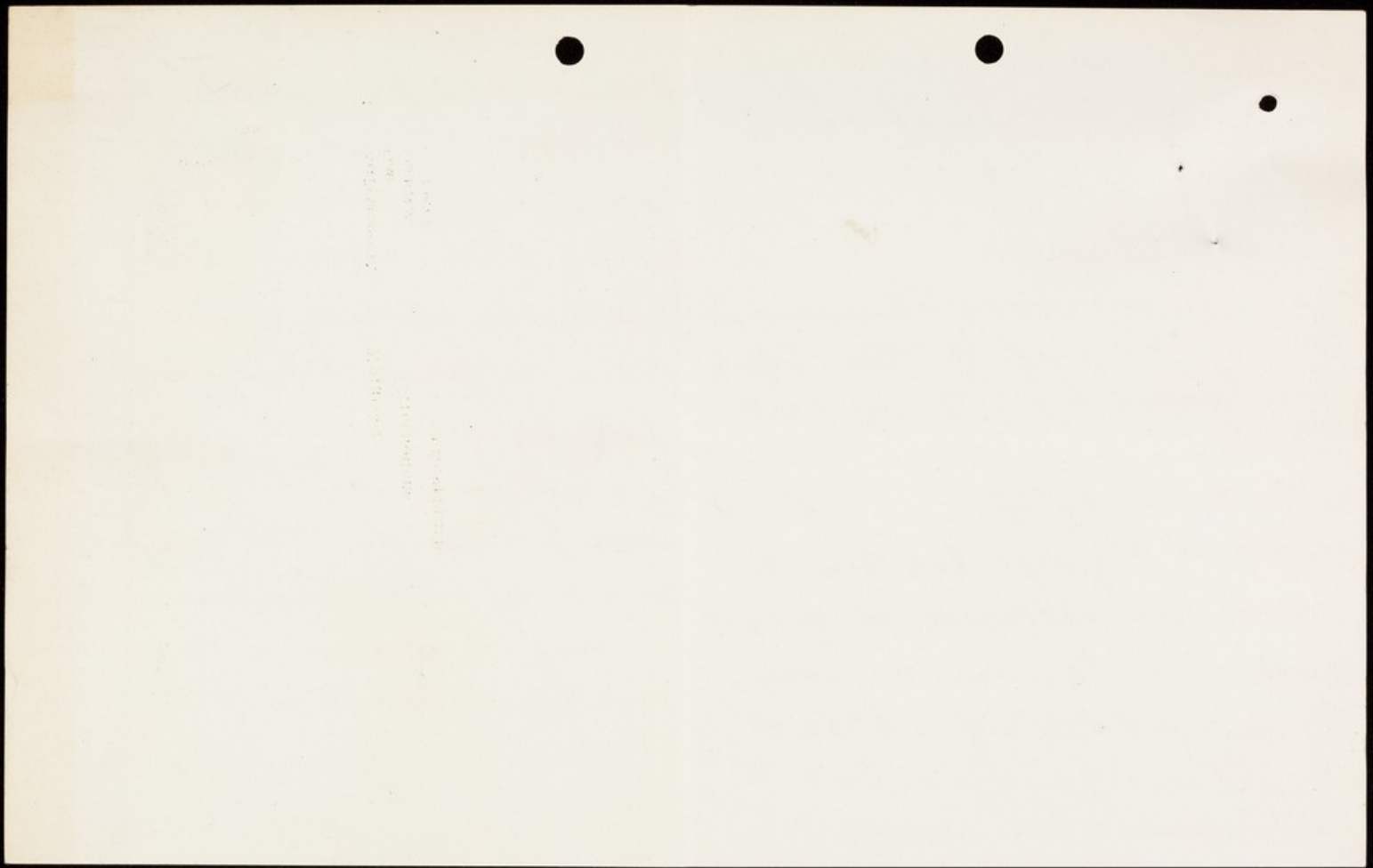
& as it as her condition has a <sup>367</sup> very serious effect upon the children, especially the elder age 4½

I should be glad if your opinion on her when next you visit Throssenby & 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 notes showing the various methods which have been adopted with her.

Believe me Yours faithfully

Thos. J. Bell



367

Early in last June I took  
her & her sister for 4 weeks trip  
to Lisbon by steamer & back  
Then she went to Haven 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 come home  
A month later a housekeeper  
came to live with us to look after  
the children & household affairs  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> April went to Thoxeuby





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 Do. 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 alright when she  
once gets away - We are

causing you a lot of trouble  
for which I am sorry.

Yours sincerely  
Horton Milnes

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

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 suit is not the case, & I think you could put it over now suitably than we can.

If you don't let me know or if you don't hear from us we shall conclude the case on Monday with suit. I shall be in at 1.30 to 2.6 tomorrow if you should wish to telephone.

yours sincerely  
P.T.O. Walter Bulmer

TELEPHONE-BEAUCHIEF 17.  
AT HOME  
9 TO 10. A.M.  
6 TO 7.30. P.M.

MUIRFOOT  
MILLHOUSES,  
NE SHEFFIELD.

✓ 339  
Mar 30. 12

Dear Dr. Peirce,

Thank you 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 & would like 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. N.

March 29, 1912

Dear Dr. Milner,

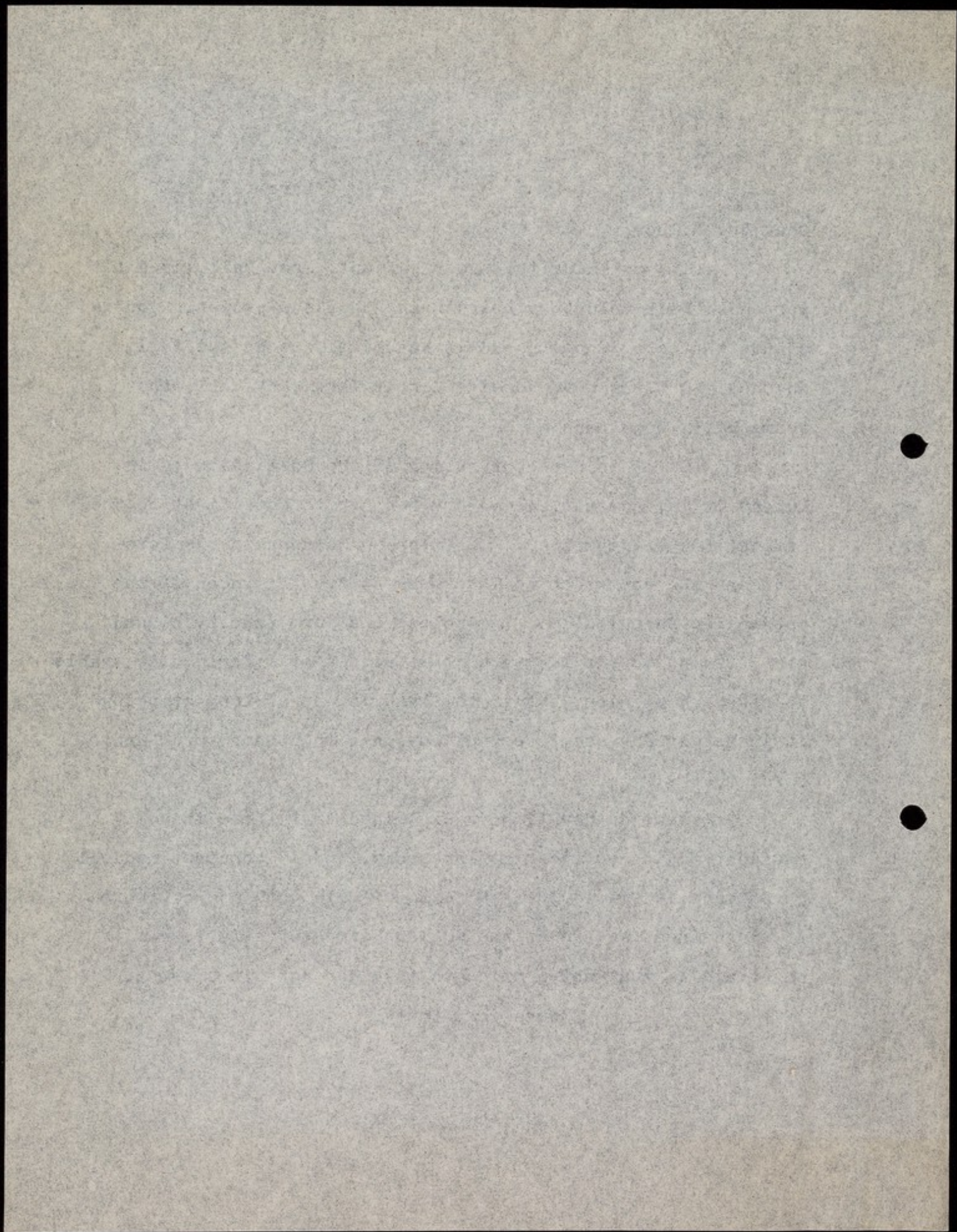
If you think that your patient, Mrs. Bell, is a fit person to be a voluntary boarder and that she properly understands what she is doing and is not likely to be suicidal, we shall be pleased to receive her at Throxenby Hall, the terms being 3 guineas a week.

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  
Lorou Milnes

TELEPHONE: BEAUCHIEF 17.  
AT HOME  
9 TO 10. A.M.  
6 TO 7.30 P.M.

MUIRFOOT  
MILLHOUSES,  
SHEFFIELD.

331  
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.



