Wandsworth Union.

COMPRISING THE PARISHES OF BATTERSEA AND WANDSWORTH BOROUGH.

Wm HAGGIS,
GENERAL R.O.&
SETTLEMENT CLERK.

TELEPHONE
No 1758.
BATTERSEA.

O.R. 14/94.

Union Offices.
St John's Hill.
Wandsworth. S.W.
NEAREST RAILWAY STATION CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

18th November 1916

Dear Sir,

re Mrs Ann Bennett (70)

I am much obliged for your letter of 15th inst, giving extracts from correspondence etc. respecting the above-named patient, and herewith enclose cheque for one guinea your fee for same.

Kindly sign and return the enclosed form of receipt in the stamped cover herewith.

Yours faithfully
Wm Haggis
Settlement Clerk

Dr Bedford Pierce
"The Retreat"
York

Wandsworth Union.

COMPRISING THE PARISHES OF BATTERSEA AND WANDSWORTH BOROUGH.

WM HAGGIS,
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TELEPHONE
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BATTERSEA.

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Union Offices.
St. John's Hill.
Wandsworth. S.W.
NEAREST RAILWAY STATION CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

13th November 1916

Dear Sir,

re Mrs Ann Bennett (70)

I am much obliged for your reply of 8th inst. to my memorandum of 7th inst. respecting the patient abovenamed.

It would be of great assistance to me if you would kindly let me have the actual circumstances under which she ~~received~~ obtained her discharge from "The Retreat" on 13th January 1910, and will you kindly say whether you have any record of her writing letters to His Majesty the King respecting yourself, after that date.

I shall be glad to remit fee for information, and for your trouble in looking back at your correspondence at the time of her discharge &c.

Yours faithfully
Wm Haggis
Settlement Clerk.

Dr Bedford Pierce
Medical Superintendent
"The Retreat"
(Mental Hospital)
York City, E.R.

Copy.

Wandsworth Union

From William Haggis
Settlement Clerk
Union Offices
St. Johns Hill,
Wandsworth. S.W.

To Dr. Bedford Pierce
York City Mental Hospital,
"The Retreat"
York. (E.R.)

re Mrs. Ann Bennett (70) now in Surrey County Asylum, Netherne.

Dear Sir,

I am informed that the above named patient left your Hospital about October 1909 on probation, and was conveyed direct to 7 West Side, Wandsworth Common, and after being there 6 weeks she moved with her son Mr. Oswald Edward Bennett to 2 Louvaine Road, Battersea, and was there until about 10 Dec. 1910, when she wandered away and was found by the Police on Wimbledon Common, and was afterwards taken to Kingston Union Infirmary, and thence to Asylum on 13th Dec. 1910, and has since been continuously under detention. Will you kindly give the exact date that she last entered "The Retreat", and say how long she was "on probation", and on what date she was ultimately discharged, and whether as "Relieved" or "Recovered"? Will you also

say whether in your opinion she had so far recovered her sanity at the date of her final discharge from "The Retreat" as to be capable of deciding for herself as to her future place of residence - or whether you have any reason to conclude that she never really recovered her sanity up to the time she was found wandering on 10 Dec. 1910 -

I understand that during 1910 she was writing letters to His Majesty the King respecting yourself.

The matter has reference to an Order of Adjudication received from Kingston Union on an alleged "Status of irremorability" in the (Wandsworth) Union.

An early reply will oblige,

Wm. Haggis.

information should be a guinea.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mr. Wm. Maggis,

Union Offices,

St. John's Hill,

Wandsworth, S.W.

1889

Sep. 23rd. I wrote to Mr Arnold Bennett to the effect that his mother was better but certainly not recovered. I encouraged him to remove her on trial.

She left on trial. 28th Sep.

~~Sep~~

Nov. 23. Mr Bennett wrote to the Magistrate who signed the Order asking him to write to me for her artificial teeth. [Some wrong mes had been sent in mistake & the right mes could not be found]

Nov 25th. Com. offered 21/- towards expenses but did not accept responsibility

Nov 26th. Son declined the offer.

1890 Jan 10th. Son wrote to say "it is proposed to discharge Mr Bennett as relieved as she is not likely to return to the Pr. and arrears are better not kept indefinitely on the books."

Jan 11th. Reply agreeing to this - giving no particulars of patient except that she had been kept in home for her own.

Feb. 26th. The Commissioners received a letter addressed to King Edward asking that the Commissioners should prosecute Dr Bedford Pierce for employing nurses who illtreated me &c &c. [the incident referred to happened a few years before] & also accusers her late husband of misappropriating her money - &c

Mar 3. Replied to the Commissioner ~~relating to the~~ as to the accusation of ill-treatment

Mar. ? Mr Bennett wrote to an under gardener asking him to send to her a number of plants.

Mar 6. Mr Bennett wrote ~~after~~ apologizing for this thing ~~for~~ after referring to the accusation against the nurses. concluding however with the hope her health is quite as good as expected & hope she will not again trouble you in this

Dec. 13. Mr Bennett wrote that after a year of fair mental health & cheerful activity in domestic affairs my mother has had a breakdown & is now at Brockwood. The extreme difficulty of getting up to Dole to see her prevents my making enquiries of the practicability of her returning to the Retreat.

Dear Sir -

I send some extracts from my correspondence and I infer that Mr. Bennett never really recovered ~~from the~~ after he left the Retreat

15th November, 1916.

Dear Sir,

I snnd some extracts from our correspondence, and I infer that Mrs. Bennett never really recovered after she left the Retreat.

1909. Sept. 23rd. I wrote to Mr. Oswald Bennett to the effect that his mother was better but certainly not recovered. I encouraged him to remove her on trial.

Sept. 28th. She left on trial.

Nov. 23rd. Mrs. Bennett wrote to the Magistrate who signed the Order asking him to write to me for her artificial teeth. (Some wrong ones had been sent in mistake and the right ones could not be traced.)

Nov. 25th. The Committee offered 30/- towards replacement, but did not accept responsibility.

Nov. 26th. Son declined the offer.

1910. Jan. 10th. Son written to saying it is proposed "to discharge Mrs. Bennett as relieved as she is not likely to return to the Retreat and names are better not kept indefinitely on the books."

Jan. 11th. Reply agreeing to this, giving no particulars of patient except that she has been keeping house for her son.

1910. Feb. 26th. The Commissioners received a letter adressed to King Edward asking that the Commissioners should prosecute Dr. Bedford Pierce "for employing nurses who illtreated me" etc, etc. (The incident referred to happened nine years before.). Also accusing her late husband of misappropiating her money, etc.

Mar. 3rd. Replied to the Commissioners as to the accusations of ill-treatment.

Mar. ? Mrs. Bennett wrote to an under gardener asking him to send her a number of plants.

Mar. 6th. Mr. Bennett wrote apologising for this, and also referring to the accusations against the nurses, concluding "however, I think her health is quite as good as either of us expected, and I hope she will not again trouble you in this way."

Dec. 13th. Mr. Bennett wrote that "after a year of fair general health and cheerful activity in domestic affairs my mother has had a breakdown and is now at Brookwood. The extreme difficulty of getting up to York to see her prevents my making enquiries of the possibility of her returning to the Retreat."

I suggest that the fee for supplying this

The Retreat,

York.

8th November, 1916.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Ann Bennett was admitted on February 10th 1899, and she came from 9 Triangle East, Clevedon, Somerset. She left on leave of absence on trial on September 28th, 1909, and she was discharged "relieved" (not recovered) on January 13th. 1910. I do not think this patient ever recovered her mental balance, and though I was not in any way consulted about her after she left the Retreat I heard incidentally that she had been very far from well and had had to be placed under care again.

From your letter it would appear that she was not really discharged ffom certificates here before she went to the Surrey County Asylum. No doubt we have correspondence dealing with this matter, but without looking back, which would take a good deal of trouble, I cannot tell you how the discharge eventually came about, but I expect it was due to the fact that we heard that she had relapsed and we could not allow the leave of absence to continue.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

The Matron,

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Lawyer, 1918.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Jim Bennett was admitted on Saturday 12th inst. and was seen from 9 Tilbury Road, Glyndon, Somerset. He has an hour of vomiting on Wed. or Saturday 13th, and was discharged relieved. Eyes respond on Saturday 13th inst. He has not taken action over recent months. Though I was not in any way consulted about his after and left the Rectory I heard incidentally that she had been very far from well and had to be placed under care again.

From your letter it would appear that she was not really discharged till certificates were before us went to the Surrey County Asylum. We don't we have correspondence dealing with this matter, but without looking more, which would take a good deal of trouble, I cannot tell you how the disorder eventually came about, but I expect it was due to the fact that we heard that she had relapsed and we could not allow the same of absence to continue.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Copy.

Wandsworth Union

From William Haggis.
Statement Clerk.
Union Offices
St. John's Hill,
Wandsworth. S.W.

To Dr. Bedford Pierce
York City Mental Hospital.
"The Retreat."
York (E.R.)

re Mrs. Ann Bennett, (70) Now in Surrey County Asylum.
Reference.

Dear Sir.

I am informed that the above named patient left your Hospital about October 1909 "on probation", and was conveyed direct to 7 West Lodge, Wandsworth Common, and after being there 6 weeks she moved with her son, Mr. Oswald Edward Bennett, to 2 Fourance Road, Battersea, and was there until about 10 Dec. 1910, when she wandered away and was found by the Police on Wimbledon Common, and was afterwards taken to Kingston Union Infirmary, and thence to Asylum on 13th Dec. 1910, and has since been continuously under detention. Will you kindly give the exact date that she last entered "The Retreat", and say how long she was "on probation", and on what date she was ultimately discharged, and whether as "Relieved" or "Recovered"? Will you also say whether in your opinion she had so far recovered her sanity at the date of her final discharge from "The Retreat" as to be capable of deciding for herself as to her present place of abode residence, or whether

you have any reason to conclude that she never really recovered her sanity up to the time she was found wandering on 10 Dec. 1910.

I understand that during 1910 she was writing letters to His Majesty the King respecting yourself.

The matter has reference to an order of Adjudication received from Kingston Union on an alleged "Status of irremorability" in this (Wandsworth) Union.

An early reply will oblige.

Wm Haggis.

Dec. 14, 1910

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am very sorry to hear that you have had renewed anxiety respecting your mother. It must be very disappointing to her to find herself again under care, and it certainly will be so for you, seeing all the trouble you have taken to make a home for her. I should think you were doing right to send her to Brookwood, at any rate in the first place, as Mrs. Bennett had such prejudices against the Retreat. You do not say the form of mental disorder from which she now suffers, but if she has become confused and depressed again, as I should think not unlikely, no doubt the prejudices respecting the Retreat would vanish, as they were merely the expression of her excitement.

Mr. Hunt joins with me in an expression of sympathy.

Yours very truly,

Le Lonvaine Rd.
St John's Hill
S.W.
13. XII. 1910.

Bedford Park W.

Dear Sir

I write to inform you that after a year of fair mental health, & cheerful activity in domestic affairs my mother has had a breakdown & is now at Bryanstwood.

The extreme difficulty of getting up to York to see her prevents my making enquiries of the possibility of her returning to the Retreat.

I am yours truly
Oswald Bennett

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*
4th March, 1910.

Sir,

Mrs Annie Bennett

The Commissioners in Lunacy direct me to thank you for your letter of the 3rd instant, but to point out that the occurrence in 1901 referred to in your letter related to a "fracture of the humerus", while the fracture referred to in Mrs Bennett's letter is that of a small bone near her wrist. They will be glad to hear from you with regard to this discrepancy.

Yours faithfully,

B. J. Hodgson

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

March 5, 1910

Sir,

Ann Bennett

We have no record of any injury to Mrs. Bennett's forearm or wrist. Neither of my medical colleagues nor I myself remember any complaint of any such injury, nor does the Matron. I may add that for some years before Mrs. Bennett left there was no resistiveness of any kind, but she was, as explained, obscene and indecent in conversation and behaviour and was not violent.

We have a note that in 1899 she went to our branch house at Scarborough on trial and became abusive and violent there, and there was great difficulty in bringing her back, but there was no evidence that she received any injury.

The first time, so far as I know, that Mrs. Bennett made any complaint of her treatment was in May 1909 when she became mildly excited and wrote great numbers of letters.

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary to the Lunacy Commission

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters.

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

7th January, 1909.

Sir,

Mrs Anne Bennett

The Commissioners in Lunacy presume that the "batch of other letters" referred to in Dr Kemp's letter of the 6th instant relate to letters written by Mrs Bennett and addressed to various persons not included in the provisions of section 41 of the Lunacy Act 1890. If so, the Commissioners desire me to point out that that section does not empower you to send such letters to any but the person to whom they are addressed, and they consider that in dealing with such letters you should limit your action to the discretion that is given to you by that section.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

B. T. Hodgson
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

Dear Sir:

May. 1899 – Dr Scantlebury –
Accident 1901
1909 –

Mrs Ann Bennett.

We have no record of any injuries to Mrs Bennett ~~frame~~ or wrist.

~~The Medical Officers~~ Neither of my medical colleagues nor myself remember any complaint of ~~this kind~~ any such injury, nor does the Matron. I may add that ~~for a~~ some years ~~In a long time before~~ ~~long time~~ before Mrs Bennett left there was no resistiveness of any kind but she was as explained obscene & indecent in conversation & behaviour – ~~but~~ it was not violent. ~~In 1909 she began to complain~~ ~~I was not~~ ~~until 1909 that she made any complaints~~. ~~& they all refer~~

We have a note that 1899 she ~~had a fire trial~~ ~~went to~~ ~~stayed at~~ went to the Branch house in Scantlebury on trial & became abusive & violent there & there was great difficulty in bringing her back. but there was no evidence ~~that~~ that she received any injury –

The first time of any complaint that Mrs. Bennett made of her treatment was in May ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ 1909 – when she became mildly excited & wrote great numbers of letters.

Today a letter from her to a gardener asking him privately to send her plants has been given to me and it would appear that her ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ sense of what is right ~~improper~~ ~~[illegible]~~ is still ~~lacking~~ deficient.

Mrs Ann Bennett

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge ~~In reply to~~ your letter of the ~~of enquiry~~ and in reply ~~I cannot do better~~ I quote a portion of my ~~reply~~ letter of the ~~Nov 1~~ July 8. 1904 which was written in reply to a ~~complaint~~ enquiry by the Commissioners upon the same matter. ~~I do not know that I have anything further to add, except to say, that some time ago a nurse here was found to have freely fed a patient contrary to our rules and was dismissed, which circumstance was reported to the C. of the Times. I do not think that this nurse had any special relationship duties in relation to Mrs Bennett.~~ I do not for one minute believe that ~~our~~ the nurses are unkind ~~or cruel~~ to the patients as Mrs Bennett supposes. As ~~Mrs Bennett~~ neither dates nor names given it is not ~~possible~~ easy for me to make further enquiries, the ~~same~~ same as ~~all~~ the incidents referred appeared to have happened fully nine years ago ~~or more~~.

~~In my~~

I may again ~~assure~~ explain that for many years Mr Bennet conversation was of a particularly obscene character ~~that I was~~ so much so that I felt very much for the ~~[illegible]~~ source who had ~~to consult~~ live with her. For a long time she hardly never spoke without ~~open~~ mentioning sexually ~~to~~ matters in a most indecent way.

I ~~have have today seem had passed a to~~ may mention gude security she wrote me a letter for her to a gardener here asking him to send her plants ~~, which certainly indicates a lack of~~ propriety — ~~I fear her present mental state accounts moreover~~ , which letter he very properly handed to me. —

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 1st inst & in reply I quote a portion of my letter of July 8th 1909 which was written in reply to an enquiry by the Commissioners upon the same subject. Extract

I do not for one moment believe that the nurses are unkind to the patients as Mrs Bennett suggests. As no dates are mentioned & no names given it is not easy for me to make further enquiries, the more so as the incidents referred to appeared to have happened fully nine years ago.

I may again explain that for many years Mrs Bennett's conversation was of a particularly obscene character, so much so that I felt very much for the nurses who had to live with her. For a long time she hardly never spoke without mentioning sexual matters in a most indecent way.

Today &

March 7, 1910

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am much obliged for your letter and quite understand the difficulty. If Mrs. Bennett had written to me and asked us to send any surplus plants I do not think there would have been any difficulty about sending some, but it certainly was not proper to send a message through a patient to a gardener. I do not for one moment think Mrs. Bennett meant any harm or that she wished to do anything underhand.

With reference to her complaints respecting her treatment, her arm was broken on Feb. 25, 1901, and at the time I made a careful enquiry into the cause of this. I interviewed 3 patients, 4 nurses, and a companion in the matter, several of them twice over, closely enquiring into it of every person likely to be able to give information. The result of the enquiry made it quite clear that there was no reason to doubt the statement of the two nurses who were present when the accident happened. Mrs. Bennett could hardly give me any help at this enquiry. I write this to make it clear that there was no failure to take pains on the part of the officers in respect to this unfortunate accident, and that nurses like anybody else must be treated as innocent until

Dear Dr. Pierce.

I was sorry to learn from your letter that my mother has been writing in the way she has. The sending of begging letters is naturally little pleasing to me, perhaps may not mean much to one who has not latterly had the use of money.

A formal letter stating that Bennett's gardeners have no authority to give away plants might meet the case. With the other more serious matter of her letter I do not feel at liberty to interfere. I did not do much good I fear but I passed her at once, I tased that it spare from a question have long since left, and the only course is to be taken if anything could have been done within a year or two of the accident, and Mrs. Bennett had ample opportunities to complain to myself, the Committee, or to the Commissioners. The latter are always most careful & exhaustively to enquire into charges of cruelty or ill treatment. I hope that this further letter of explanation you will be able to convince Mrs. Bennett that now the matter has been dropped.

Yours very truly,

Edward L. Bennett

Dr Lowrance A.

Patterson

6. III. 10.

this matter will be viewed in the right light. Of course I fear her health is quite unstrung & nervous as expected & I am in consequence very anxious that she will not again come in the way.

I am yours sincerely

Edward L. Bennett

March 3, 1910

Ann Bennett

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 1st inst, and in reply I quote a portion of my letter of July 8, 1909 which was written in reply to an enquiry by the Commissioners upon the same subject.

"With reference to her accusations, it is true that "her arm was broken on Feb. 24th, 1901 and there was an oblique "fracture of the humerus. Two nurses were present, and they "stated that the patient fell off the chair on to the floor, "that she had been resistive but not violent, and that when "the accident occurred neither of them was touching her.

"At the time I made a careful enquiry into all the "circumstances and separately examined all the persons who "might assist in throwing light upon the matter, and came to "the conclusion that there was no reason to doubt the state-"ments made by the nurses. Both these nurses have left the "service of the Retreat."

I do not for one moment believe that the nurses are unkind to the patients as Mrs. Bennett suggests. As no dates are mentioned and no names given it is not easy for me to make further enquiries; the more so as the incidents referred to appear to have happened fully nine years ago.

2.

I may again explain that for many years Mrs. Bennett's conversation was of a particularly obscene character; so much so that I felt very much for the nurses who had to live with her. For a long time she almost never spoke without mentioning sexual matters in a most indecent way.

Today a letter has come from her to an under gardener here, asking him privately to send her plants and has been given to me. It would appear that her sense of what is right and proper is still deficient.

All communications should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

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LUNACY COMMISSION,

66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

1st March, 1910.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to send you the enclosed letter from Mrs Ann Bennett, which has been forwarded to them from Buckingham Palace, and to request you, in returning it, to favour them with your observations on the parts marked in red.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

B. T. Hodgson

Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

March 3, 1910

Dear Mr. Bennett,

One of the under gardeners at the Retreat has received a letter from Mrs. Bennett asking him to send her some plants. This letter has very properly been handed to me. I must ask you to see that in future she does not write to any one at the Retreat.

Yours very truly,

2 Sonnaine Road
St John's Hill
Battersea
London S.W.

Dear Friend

My son whom I introduced to you last Easter would so like you to send him a few plants which live out-of-doors all the year round we will pay carriage of you will just

Mr Baker
Gardener
Stonds Lodge
Hatfield

put them into a
Box and foward
them could you
send us a Bergamot
one root of Astromania
some Everlasting
Sweet Pea a few
of the different Poly
anthus roots espec
ially of primrose colour
one that blossoms so
long and freely and
there is a red border
plant I would like

a little plant of ivy
leave a small garden
when we came it was
covered with weeds I
have planted crocuses crocus
and daffodils with a few
carnation roots some trees
one Rhododendron one Magnolia
Yours Truly Anne Bonnen

L.C.
Feb 26 - 1910

2 Louvaine Road
St. John's Hill
Battersea
London S.W.

To His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward.
I was present at the procession since have decided to write to you. I want to know if you can persuade The Commissioners in Lunacy address
66 Victoria St. London S.W.
To prosecute Dr. Bedford Pierce at The Friends Retreat York, Yorkshire for employing nurses who illtreated me & broke a small bone in my arm, and I wish to tell you Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward the Lynch law is the only law acknowledged in asylums.
The Judges & Commissioners are afraid of the Medical faculty. All employed in asylums depend upon calling persons Insane for a living.
My husband a Free Mason had me certified as Insane, just when I had placed a sum of money in the Wilts & Dorset Bank, Clevedon Somersetshire after doing so he took the money from the bank not even requiring my signature.
I was placed in a gallery where the head nurse used with the assistance of the under nurses to hold the patients arms tightly behind their backs often when doing so she lay the patient on the floor or on a sofa. One Sunday when mine were being held by two nurses I felt from a settee a small bone was broken near my wrist and my arm badly twisted My husband John Bennett of East Clevedon came to see me He made no inquiries as to how it happened & no nurse was discharged. The nurses used to pull the patients hair as they were taking them to & from a Court An increasing number of young men & women are being trained in asylums to be rude in their manners also brutal & cruel in their hearts

There is no check to any kind of intimidation.
The Commissioners are useless as they take no
steps to prosecute doctors or nurses We are
told to write to them and when we do so they make
no enquiries about us of the Medical Staff
All letters addressed to them we are told must-
by law go direct-unopened Dr. Kemp the Lady
doctor addressed an envelope to my son
Oswald Edward Bennett and put-a letter
quite properly addressed to the Commissioners
in Lunacy into the envelope addressed to my son
when I asked her why she had sent-the letter to
my Son she said it-was an inadvertency
I have several times asked the Commissioners to
prosecute Dr. Bedford Peirce also Dr. Kemp doctor
Peirce for employing nurses who illtreated &
intimidated me Dr Kemp for disobeying the Law
I sent-all letters addressed to my Son to Sir
Edmund H. Elton of Clevedon Court- Clevedon
Somersetshire and He kindly forwarded them
as letters to Relatives are not-by Law obliged
to be forwarded those to a Magistrate must-

Yrs very respectfully
Wm Anne Bennett

AND
6, PARK SQUARE,
LEEDS.
BY APPOINTMENT.
TUESDAY, FRIDAY } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
TELEPHONE { YORK Nº 112. LEEDS Nº 391X.

THE RETREAT
YORK.

Feb. 3, 1910
Feb. 4, 1910

Dear Sir, In

Ann Bennett

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Bennett was discharged by the authority of her son, Oswald E. Bennett, who lives at 2 lovaine Rd., St. Johns Hill, London S.W.

We believe she is going on very well; and she keeps house for her son. who made the last payment.

Her husband, John Bennett of 9 Triangle, East Clevedon, died many years ago, and after his death the payments were made by her sons.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

The Secretary, Lunacy Commission

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Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

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LUNACY COMMISSION,

66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

3rd February, 1910.

Sir,

Mrs Ann Bennett

The Commissioners in Lunacy direct me to ask if you can give them the present address of Mr O.E.Bennett, the Husband of this patient who was discharged on the 15th ultimo. A letter addressed to him at 9 Triangle East, Clevedon, Somerset, has been returned through the Post Office, marked "Gone away".

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

B. T. Hodgson
Secretary.

2 Lorraine Rd.
St. John's Hill S.W.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat, York.

P.S. Rin is down with appendicitis. Last news told of some improvement. F.B.

Donvane Rd
St John's Hill
S.W.
11. 7. 1910

Dear Harold

My mother & I have now been at the above address for some six weeks during which time she has been keeping house for me. I am quite willing that her name should be written of the books as suggested. I thought a shorter absence made it necessary to do so.

We are slowly getting our rooms, (a half-house) furnished & the piece of garden which falls to our share should be gay next summer if the trees do not shade it overmuch. As I am, in a sense, on special service now I do not now spend my Sunday afternoons at Rumhill so with some forethought we manage to see something of our surroundings. Tate Gallery, Battersea & Bostonall & Wandsworth Parks, Wimbledon & Roding, Wandsworth & Clapham Commons, Albert Museum & S. K. do, Wallace Collection, Albert Hall & Kew Gardens have been something of us.

Thanks for good wishes which I passed on to mother. Accept mine for yourself & family & kindly convey them also to Mr Pierce. Let me too at this late date congratulate you on the new arrival

Yours Oswald Rennett

Jan. 10, 1910

Dear Oswald,

Dr. Pierce wishes me to write and say that he now proposes to discharge Mrs.Bennett as "relieved" as she seems not likely to return to the Retreat at present, and names are better not kept indefinitely on the books. Will you kindly let us have a line saying that you agree to this.

Please give Mrs. Bennett my kind remembrance; and I wish you both a very happy new year. I hope you are well and keeping cool about the election. York will be as keenly fought as any place. I won't tell you more of what is going to happen than that Arnold Rowntree will be at the top of the poll.

My wife will join in kind regards when I tell her I've sent them.

Yours sincerely,

c/o 7 West Side.
Wandsworth Comm.
26. X. 09

Dear Dr Pierce.

Thanks for the proposal concerning the missing teeth. I think I cannot at one time accept a grant from the committee on my mother's behalf, & then, shortly after, press a claim for negligence. So, if it be convenient, I will ~~dis~~ withdraw any claim which may have been made & make myself personally responsible for that amount. You will be more conscious than I, of the futility of other teeth having been sent.

I fear I cannot prevent letters being

sent to those who choose to receive them without doing more harm than good. I could only suggest the returning of them unanswered. I had not heard of these you mention. Of others I had expressed strong disapproval.

I am yours sincerely

Oswald Dennett.

7 West Side
Wandsworth Comm.
S.W.

Received
Nov. 25. 1909

Dear Sir Rice

It has just occurred to me that the letter to her brother referred to in ~~this letter~~ mothers letter from Miss Court was really your last letter to me asking for particulars of the missing teeth.

I handed it to my mother to reply to as I was very hard pressed at the time, sitting for an examination for which I was ill prepared.

I protested when she told me that she had thought best to write to someone else but did not think of the inconvenience it would cause you. The information in the dentist's letter you have, perhaps, noted. The set was I understand an upper one of some five teeth only & was put away soon after my mother came to the Retreat.

Please accept my apologies for what must, I know, appear wilful discourtesy & believe me yours truly

Oswald E. Dennett

After Monday next please address 2 Lonsdale Sq. St Johns Hill S.W.
Would it be too much to ask for ~~details~~ items

This is for myself and the Committee of the Retreat. It is part of the kind. that really does not matter:

Yours truly,
Reading.

Nov. 25, 1909

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I received your letter this morning, and I have also received one from Sir Edmund Elton saying that he has twice heard from Mrs. Bennett asking him to ask me to send her teeth. Your delay in replying to my letter prevented this matter being dealt with before, but evidently this was not your fault.

The teeth in question are lost. The nurse who had to do with them has left, and I gather from your letter that Mrs. Bennett has no clear recollection of what happened to them. We have a note in the inventory, however, that Mrs. Bennett had teeth, and this perhaps involves us in some responsibility, although there are many ways in which patients may lose their teeth without our being to blame. I have communicated with the Treasurer and he sanctions an allowance of 30/- towards the replacement of the lost articles, and I hope this will be satisfactory.

I have asked the Secretary to enclose the particulars you request regarding the last account. When I saw Mrs. Bennett before she left the Retreat she told me that she did not intend to mention the institution to a single person, which fact I think I mentioned to you. I think it would be distinctly better for her to carry out her intention, as the worry to her of constantly raking up old grievances cannot but be prejudicial, and it is certainly not fair

Mr. Charles Bennett
Yours faithfully
J. Harwood Yellowlees
Medical Superintendent.
In the Retreat
Dundee

Private

Nov. 23rd/09.

Clevedon Court
Somerset

Dear Sir

I must apologize for troubling you - but that for whose sake Mrs. Bennett continues to harass me, to satisfy her I send her letter, & I have had one previously on same subject. I know nothing of details, if you

Can do anything to pacify her
I shall be very glad.
Believe me
Yours truly
E. H. Allen

Nov. 24 1909

No 7 West Side
Wandsworth Common
London S.W.
23. 11. 1909

Sir Edmund H Elton
Sir Edmund

Will you kindly
write to Dr Pearce
and ask Him
to forward my
~~teeth~~ Yrs Respectfully
Mrs Anne Bennett

7 West Side
Wandsworth Comm.
16. x. 09

Dear Mr Pierce

I enclose cheque for the balance of my mothers acct. Some few days ago I returned artificial teeth sent by mistake for her. Will you be so good as to see that hers are sent soon as she wishes to see if they can be adapted.

Needlework for herself & others with occasional walks fill her days well & she is in good health & happy.

I am yours sincerely Oswald Bennett

7 Wandsworth Common
28. IX. 1909

Dear Dr Pierce

My mother & I arrived safely at our lodgings last night. They are pleasantly situated & we had a walk together this morning before breakfast. She stood the journey very well although in getting across London we had to change four times.

She will soon feel at home, I hope.

I am yours sincerely
Oswald E. Bennett

35 Putney Mead S.W.
S.W.
27. IX 1909

Dear Dr Pierce,

I will meet the 6.25 train at Kings Cross tomorrow.

I do not think there is any chance of my failing to do so, but send the address (c/o Mrs Hutton, 7 West Side Wandsworth Common (S.W.)) as a precaution.

Please send any communication to us there after tomorrow.

Yours truly
Oswald E. Bennett

35 Redcliffe Sqr.
S.W.
24 Ix 1909

Tuesday
2.40 pm
arrive Kent. 6.25 pm

Dear Dr Pierce

Will you please make arrangements for my mother to come through to town & let me know when I am to meet her.

It will be most convenient for me to do so after 5 o'clock (preferably not Wednesday)

I wished I could forward money to cover expenses.

I am yours truly
Oswald W Bennett

Sept. 23, 1909

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I have had an interview with Mrs. Bennett respecting your letter and am pleased to be able to give a favourable report on the whole. Mrs. Bennett says that she does not intend to talk about the Retreat to any one, that she wishes to let the matters connected with her stay here be a closed chapter of her life which I think is certainly a wise resolve on her part if carried out. However when one comes to talk to her one finds out that she cannot understand the necessity for her detention. She still thinks all institutions for the insane are wrong in principle and that there ought to be no such places. She blames your father for her illness, and in fact denies that she has ever needed care. She is moreover rather self assertive and self satisfied, and one cannot be quite sure how she will get on in ordinary life. Still on the whole I would encourage you to make the trial. Mrs. Bennett can have leave of absence on trial, and if anything should go wrong there will be no difficulty about her coming back. May I say that I think you are doing the right thing in trying to make your mother's life happier, and I hope your efforts will be successful.

Yours very truly,

35 Perrymead Rd
Fulham S.W.
20. 9. 09

Dear Dr Pierce

In answer to an advertisement I have had offered rooms by Wandsworth Common. The lady of the house who was formerly a nurse (trained at Guys & with experience elsewhere), there is a medium sized garden & I hope to be able to spend many of my evenings at home.

Do you under these circumstances recommend that my mother join me there?

Hoping to hear from you soon & to get suggestions of arrangements for journey should you agree

I am yours truly

Oswald E Bennett

Sept. 20, 1909

Ann Bennett

Sir,

I must thank you for your letter of the 17th and do not think it is necessary to reply at any length.

It would appear that search was being made for a missing pair of scissors. The nurse in question left to be married several months ago, and it is therefore not practicable for me to make enquiries. I do not, however, in the least think that Mrs. Bennett will have been spoken to in the improper manner as she suggests.

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,

Lunacy Commission

All communications should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

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

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*,
17th September 1909

SIR,

The Commissioners in Lunacy think it right to send you the enclosed Letter, which they have received from Mrs M. A. Bennett, for your information with regard to the part marked in blue.

As this Letter is sent to you merely for your information, they will not trouble you to write to them in the matter, unless you should think it necessary to do so.

I am, SIR,
Your obedient Servant,
B. T. HODGSON,
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat ~~Asylum.~~

(7734). Wt. 35490—710. 250. 4/09. A. & E. W

Official reply

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

2nd September, 1909.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to send you the enclosed letter, which they have received from Mrs Anne Bennett, and to request you, in returning it, to favour them with your observations on the parts marked in red.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Deane
for the Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

35 Ferrymead Rd.
S.W.
17 . viii . 1909

Dear Sir.

I enclose £5 towards the acct of my mother Mrs A. Bennett.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the committee for the grant to her, of which you ~~ac~~ told me?

Your receipt will oblige

yours truly
Oswald E. Bennett

W. E. Waller.
Friends' Retreat.

Dr Kent

35 Parkmead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
11. VIII. 1909

Dear Harold

Thanks for letter notifying that order to Thomas of Cleveden had been stopped.

The poetry that any note of mine in reference to letters should have been misunderstood. I thought I wrote rather pressingly that letters should not be sent other than to near circle of relations though thinking that such communication with those outside might be healthy. Doubt whether Mrs Thomas was ever close friend.

Do not expect to be north again this year. May not get out of town for holiday. At most a run down to see my sister in Essex or westward if my cycle will carry me there. Hoping your wife & little girl are well as also yourself.

Yours in haste
Oswald Bennett

P.S. As a step in the direction of trying a change of circumstances, I enquired of my mother whether she would be content to relinquish more ambitious projects & live quietly with me. She may make much out of this. Before trying so unsettling an experiment many things must be arranged for, requiring no little time

O.B.

Brought over.	4. 19.	6¼
Thimble 2.	.	2
1 doz. Butts for Dressing Saw 8d	.	8½
1 pr. Side Combs. 9d	.	9½
	£5. 1.	2¼

Dear Sir

We have submitted your invoice to Mrs. Bennett's son who is of ~~age~~ minor that at present we should provide her with clothing. She is not ~~competent~~ really fit to order things herself, so please do not execute any order she may send.

Ans. 6.1909

DEPÔT FOR Dr JAEGER'S PURE WOOLLEN CLOTHING.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE:-
23 X: BARRINGTON HOUSE, HILL ROAD.
&
22 Y: STATION ROAD.

BARRINGTON HOUSE,
HILL ROAD,

Cleveden. July 31 1909.

Mrs Bennett.

DEPARTMENTS.
SILKS,
VELVETS,
DRESSES,
MANTLES,
MILLINERY,
GLOVES,
HOSIERY,
TRIMMINGS, &c,
DRESSMAKING.
GENTS OUTFITTING.

BOUGHT OF J. THOMAS,

Draper, Silk Mercer,

AND GENERAL OUTFITTER,

FAMILY MOURNING FUNERALS FURNISHED.

	Dress Skirt	15/6.	15	6
	Blouse	14/6	14	6
	Trim.d Hat	10/6	10	6
8	Flannel for Dress. Saxon	1/6	12	0
5	" " petticoat	1/6	7	6
	2 Calico	6	1	0
3	prs. Hose	1/11	5	9
2	" Gloves	1/6	3	0
	Underskirt	7/6	7	6
2	Silk Ties	1/3	2	6
	14 Veiling	9 3/4	1	0 1/4
	4 Ribbon Velvet	6 3/4	2	3
	Work Basket	2/11	2	11
	5 Cotton 1. Needles 2			8
2	Angola 1. 6 Crochet Cotton 2		1	2
1	pr. Scissors	1/6	1	6
	Japanese Dress Basket with Strap	5/6.	5	6
	6 Hdk/s	6 1/2	3	3
	4 Elastic 3. 3 @ 2		1	6
	carr. over.		4 19	6 1/4

35 Ferrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
5 viii. 1909.

3.14.9
9.8
3.5.1
17.8
2.7.5

Dear Sir

I do not think that my mother should have freedom to order her clothes at present. Will you please cancel the order of which you forwarded the invoice.

I am yours truly
Oswald E Bennett

W. E Waller
Friends Retreat
York

DRAPER,
MILLINER,
COSTUMIER
And GENTS'
OUTFITTER.

Depot for
Dr. Jaeger's Goods.

MEMO. FROM J. THOMAS,

Barrington House,
18, Hill Road, & 7 & 8, Station Road,
CLEVEDON.

TO Dr. Pierce. Friends Retreat. York. July 26th 1909.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Ann Bennett has sent me an order for Clothing &c; before forwarding I am writing to ask if you wish it executed, and to whom shall I apply for payment.

Yours faithfully
J. Thomas.

35 Perrymead St
~~Fulham~~ SW.
22. VII. 1909.

Dear Mr Pierce

How definitely my uncle has expressed a wish for my mother to leave the Retreat I do not know. I will try & find out his intentions in the matter.

Her letters to me are so varying that I cannot ask anyone else to undertake the responsibility of having her with them.

I suggested to her that she should cease talking of furnishing a house & be content to live quietly with me in some place I might find. She dismissed the suggestion at once. Such an arrangement would mean the finding of a lodging with someone who could give effectual oversight, it would necessitate almost a complete change in the disposal of my time & would be likely to be accompanied by distress from actions which, to those not nearly related to her, ~~would be~~ are of secondary importance.

Therefore, without her ready agreement, it does not seem worth the cost.

I am yours sincerely
Oswald E. Bennett

THE RETREAT,

YORK.

PRIVATE PATIENT.

(Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 38; Lunacy Act, 1891, Section 7).

[For use by Commrs. in Lunacy only.

No _____

Name of Patient Ann Bennett

Date of Admission 10th day of February 19 1899

Date of Reception Order 7th day of February 19 1899

Special Report and Certificate.

I have this day seen and examined the above-named patient and beg to report that with regard to Mental condition she ~~xx~~ talks incessantly in an excited, rambling way. She says that there ought to be no asylums at all, that the Committee and all connected with the Retreat ought to be shot, that the Committee run the Institution to make posts for their friends, that the patients should be killed and buried. She is greatly deficient in judgment, ~~and with regard to bodily condition, he is~~ makes proposals for leaving without considering her relatives. She vehemently denounces her late husband. She is quite unable to understand that she has been and is of unsound mind. and with regard to bodily dondition she is in good bodily health.

and I hereby certify that ~~s~~ he is still of unsound mind, and a proper person to be detained under care and treatment.

_____

Medical Superintendent.

Dated the 8th day of July 1909.

To the Commissioners in Lunacy.

100.—S.—VI., 16, 09.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

6th July, 1909.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to send you the enclosed letter from Mrs Ann Bennett, which has been forwarded to them by the Home Secretary, and to request you, in returning it, to favour them with your observations thereon.

I am also to ask for a report upon Mrs Bennett's present mental condition.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

B. T. Hodgson
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

July 8, 1909

Dear Sir,

In respect to the letter from Mrs. Ann Bennett which you send for my perusal, I may explain that this patient has improved in some degree recently, but for months together she rarely spoke wihout making obscene and indecent remarks. There would be no difficulty whatever in her leaving the Retreat if she was fit to look after herself, but in her present state of excitement I cannot advise her friends to give her a trial.

With reference to her accusations, it is true that her arm was broken on Feb. 24th, 1901 and there was an oblique fracture of the humerus. Two nurses were present, and they stated that the patient fell off the chair on to the floor, that she had been resistive but not violent, and that when the accident occurred neither of them was touching her.

At the time I made a careful enquiry into the circumstances and separately examined all the persons who might assist in throwing light upon the matter, and came to the conclusion that there was no reason to doubt the statements made by the nurses. Both of these nurses have left the service of the Retreat.

I do not think that I need refer to the statements made by Mrs. Bennett upon financial matters except to add that she has been received throughout at the rate of 12/- weekly, and in order to assist her son to pay this the Committee on three occasions made two grants of £5 and one of £4 out of the Endowment Fund.

Mrs. Bennett writes many letters, and there is no truth in the suggestion that letters addressed to the Commissioners are not forwarded.

I enclose, as requested, a report upon her present mental condition.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,

Commissioners in Lunacy

June 18/09

BRADFORD PEVEREL,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

Many thanks for your letter and the report which I have read with interest. I regret that through the hurry of the moment I should have omitted to sign my name..

I had already gathered from Mrs Bennetts letters that her case was much as you describe. I have had many letters from her and only wrote in reply, because

I feared that my silence
might excite her and
so retard her recovery
I have always tried to
resume her where she
seemed suspicious and
to impress upon that if
she wanted to get quite
well and regain her friends
the best thing for her was
quiet and patience and
above all she must not
listen to the Gossip of
the other patients –
Again thanking you for
your letter, Believe me
Yours faithfully
E Elton

incoherent
in a rambling way

She talks incessantly, she says that there ought to be no asylums at all, that ~~all~~ the Committee all connected with the Retreat ought to be shot, that the patients should be killed and buried;

~~she ~~ ~~said~~ they ~~she should have been married~~ ~~her husband~~ ~~a~~ ~~d~~ makes proposals for leaving without consulting her relatives, ~~she is~~ ~~she is excitable~~ ~~she~~ ~~defice~~ ~~greatly~~ ~~deficient~~ in judgment, unable to realise her position ~~and~~ she is suffering from mania.

~~She app~~ ~~says he~~.

She ~~has not~~ is greatly deficient in judgment, makes proposals for leaving without considering her relatives, ~~she declares~~ she vehemently denounces her late husband ~~she declares she is able to make a home for her children~~ she is quite unable to understand that she has been ~~+ is of~~ unsound mind.

That the Committee are the institution to make posts for their friends

Sheisinsane bodily health

I do not think that I need refer to the statements made by Mrs Bennett upon ~~the cost~~ financial matters: except to add that she ~~is received~~ has throughout been received at the rate of 12/- weekly and in order to assist ~~the office~~ her son to pay this the Committee ~~now~~ recently on three occasions have granted £5 out of the Endowment Fund.

Mrs Bennett writes many letters and ~~that~~ there is not truth in the suggestion that letters addressed to the Commissioners are not ~~sent~~ forwarded

I enclose as requested a report upon her present mental condition.

Dear Sir

In respect to ~~your~~ the letter from Mrs. Ann Bennett which you send for my personal, ~~there on~~ I may explain that this patient ~~was~~ has improved in some degree recently, but for months together she rarely spoke without ~~using~~ making obscene or indecent remarks. ~~Since she has~~ There would be no difficulty whatever in her leaving the Retreat if she was fit to look after herself. ~~I have urged her friends to give her a trial~~ but in her present state of excitement I cannot advise her friends to give her a trial.

With reference to her accusations, it is true that her arm was broken on Feb. 24th 1901, at the time ~~I made a careful enquiry into the circumstances and saw no reason to doubt the two nurses' verbal statements of the two nurses who were present that the patient in the course of a struggle~~ but fell off a chair on the floor and broke her arm. Both the nurses ~~have left the Retreat~~ in question have left the Retreat. There was no other person present ~~when the accident happened~~. and there was an ~~alleged~~ oblique fracture of the humerus. Two nurses were present and they stated that that the patient fell off or the chair on to the floor, ~~she~~ was resistive or ~~struggling~~ at the time ~~or the~~ fall was entirely her own doing. No other person was present. At the time I made a very careful enquiry into the circumstances, I examined each nurse alone, that when the accident occurred ~~at the time~~ ~~of the accident~~ ~~they~~ neither of them were not ~~holding her~~ touching her the patient, that she had been resistive but was not violent.

At the time, I made an ~~ex~~ careful enquiry into the ~~ex~~ circumstances and separately examined all the persons who might assist in throwing light upon the matter, and came to the conclusion there was no reason to doubt the statements made by the nurses. Both of these nurses have subsequently left the service of the Retreat.

June 14/09

BRADFORD PEVEREL,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir.

Re. Mrs Anne Bennett

I have heard from time to time from Mrs Bennett and I have answered her letters soothingly and begged her not to listen to the gossip of the other inmates or attendants but to try and be patient till satisfactory arrangements can be made with her friends for her comfort in the C. well enough to return to them

I rather think hers is
one of those dying cases where
the patient feels well
in herself. and can not
understand why she is not
released at once.
I write these few lines
as Mrs Bennett may tell
you that she has often
heard from me.

Believe me Yours faithfully

PS
I have assured her again and again,
that the letters she writes do not
to her friends.

17th June, 1909.

Dear Sir,

I received a letter which I gather is from you, although it was unsigned. Mrs. Bennett had heard at the same time, and she told me that you had also written to me. It is difficult in a few words to explain Mrs. Bennett's mental state, which is one of Mania in a mild form. She is altogether out-rageous in her statements. She tells me that there is no patient here who is unable to be at large, and that all of them could maintain themselves if we would liberate them. She demands to go about just as she likes, and without any authority from her relatives says she is going to start a Boarding House, and receive Paying Guests, and that her daughter will assist her. These are only illustrations of her general behaviour and conduct.

We should have not the slightest objection to her going away on trial at any time, provided some-one would take the responsibility of her over-sight, and I have known patients who were greatly benefitted by a trial from institution here. My fear is that none of her family are able to undertake this.. You may be interested in seeing a copy of the Report of the Retreat just issued, which I enclose.

Yours very truly,

Perrymead Ho.
Fulham
S.W.
Apr. 28. 1909.

Dear Sir.

I am sorry that mother's letters show that she is trying to use the interest you took in her pregnancy as a means of making unpleasantness.

The evidence of good work shown by the one you had sent me has been a constant source of hope.

It is pleasant to think that you have been able to dispose of others which she has completed. I hope that the fortunate attitude she has taken in regard to it will not prejudice efforts in the same direction for I think the work has made for health.

I am yours sincerely
Oswald Bennett

Bedford Park W.

P.S.

It may perhaps seem to you that if a visit to her daughters prove impracticable she might suitably visit her brother in Wiltshire. Unhappily her brother's wife lost her life by drowning when wandering in the night & should she stumble across the fact, it might, (though she did not know her) have a most unsettling effect on her mind. O.B.

198

✓
A.K.

The Bryn
Rose Hd
Portishead.

Dear Sir

I have received a letter from Sir Edmund Elton of Clevedon Court, Somerset, to the effect that he has received several letters from Mrs Annie Bennett, who is under your charge.

Although he has treated the matter very

kindly I know that he does not wish to be troubled any further, and I promised him to write and ask you to prevent any further letters to be addressed to him by her.

I am
yrs truly
A. T. Bennett.

Superintendent
Friends' Retreat.

The Committee have considered carefully the subject of the mats made by Mrs. Bennett which were sold at the Sale of Work for the new Recreation Room, and find that none of the materials were charged to her account; the whole being paid for by the Retreat.

They find, however, that the cost of material, £1.3.2, used exclusively for a rug which Mrs. Bennett sent to her daughter was charged to her account.

In consideration of the amount of work done by Mrs. Bennett for the Recreation Room Sale of Work the Committee have pleasure in asking her to accept this material also, and they propose to credit her account with that amount.

Signed, on behalf of the Committee,

Sir E. H. Elton B't to Dr Pierce -

March 31/09

Clevedon Court
Somerset

Dear Dr. Pierce -

I have had several letters of various internals from a Mrs A. Bennett - who is under your care I understand at the "Friend's Retreat" I knew her late husband very well and was one of the magistrates who was called in previously to her being removed to the "Retreat". The letters do not bear madness on the face of them though written I should think under excitement. Any how I should be glad to hear from you what you think of her case and to have some information as to her present condition. She writes me that she has made and sent a crochet collarette for Lady Elton. but it

has not arrived yet and it seems I
worry her that she has not heard from
me about it. I have written today to
her [it is the first time I have done so] and I have
only made use of a few commonplaces
and thanked her for her kind thoughts about
Lady Elton. Her order for "Elton ware" pottery which
she speaks of is not an idea founded on an hallucination.
For I do run a small pottery for art ware. I have sent
her a presents of two little pieces and have told
her I can't supply her with the number she wants.
Believe me Louis faithfully E W Elton

April 1, 1909

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter about Mrs. Bennett. After along period of very decided mental disorder Mrs. Bennett has somewhat improved, and she is now in a state of considerable excitement and resentment. She writes innumerable letters, and as you were the Justice who signed the Order, a number have been sent to you as required by law. She is still in a state of maniacal excitemett of a somewhat mild form, but is altogether unreasonable, and her language is at times objectionable and uncontrolled.

With regard to the collarettes, the letter to Lady Elton we did not send as we hardly considered Mrs. Bennett in a fit state to make presents, and the collarette was returned to the ward where she lives and where it now is. I was quite unaware that you knew this patient at all and considered that she was only writing toyou on account of your official position in relation to her. I now find that Mrs. Bennett was not informed that this was returned through an oversight, but the collarette is safely locked up among her other things.

Yours very truly,

Sir E.H.Elton, Bart.

35 Perrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
25. III. 1909.

Dear Sir

I should like to come & see my mother at Barnes if it is at all advisable & shall be pleased to receive a line to that effect, so that I may make arrangements.

I am yours truly
Oswald E. Bennett

Dr Bedford Pierce.

35 Perrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
Feb. 1st 1909

87

Dr. Pierce.

Dear Sir

I am sorry to say that I have found my mothers letters much less reasonable for some time past & I write to ask that before her letters to others are forwarded care be taken to ascertain whether her acquaintance with them is such as to justify it.

yours truly
Oswald E. Bennett

35 Perrymead Rd
Fulham S.W.

Dear Mr. Pierce

I am sorry not to have replied earlier to your request for the addresses of those to whom mothers letters might be sent.

Of my brother & sisters the addresses are

L. H. Bennett Rosebb, Regina, Canada
Mrs Abbott Cotelands, Cambridge St.,
Stanstead, Teresa (temporary)
Miss L. Bennett Fairmount, Olton Nr Birmingham
(c/o Mrs Sykes)
Miss D. Bennett Harewood, Stubington Av
North End, Portsmouth.

Her brother's Mr F. J. Willard Rev
Manor Farm
Drilbourne Nr Malmesbury

There is I think scarce anyone to whom it would be well to send such letters as she is now writing.

She wrote quite reasonable some time back to a relative Mrs Shewring Old Manor Farm, Burlopes Nr Malmesbury.

So great a fall back as shown by her letters has been a great disappointment.

Yours sincerely
O. E. Bennett

(104

1049

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters.

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

22nd December, 1908.

Sir,

Mrs Ann Bennett.

The Commissioners in Lunacy direct me to say that they would be much obliged if you would kindly give Mrs Bennett the enclosed letter, which she has sent under cover to them, and explain to her that the Commissioners cannot forward such letters. They have themselves told Mrs Bennett on two occasions that they cannot do so, but she still persists in sending letters under cover to this Office almost daily.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. I. Hodgson
Secretary.

The Superintendent,
York Retreat.

Finally answered
Sept. 19.

1017

55 Ferrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
Dec. 15th. 1908.

Dear Dr. Pierce

By the death of her sister lately, my mother became entitled to a small sum of money lately which is held by the administrator of the estate, her brother until such time as she is capable of taking it over.

It is suggested that I get her signature ~~entitling~~ authorising me to receive it on her behalf & apply it to her maintenance.

Would such a signature be of any value while she is still in the Retreat.

Hoping to have a word from you shortly

I am yours truly
O. Bennett.

35 Ferrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
Nov. 26./08

Dear Dr Pierce

Thank you for your letter about mother. I had made no suggestion of her leaving immediately. She had, as you no doubt know, written to my sister Mrs. Abbatt, saying that she was going down to her in a day or so taking the pug with her. One or two letters ~~had~~ have been forwarded through me of which the one to my brother Lindley seemed quite reasonable. My sister will probably shortly be moving & cannot hope to have her with her for a little time. I do not see that we can arrange ~~for~~ her to be with friends elsewhere & if not with those she knows I scarce think her condition would improve. Knowing that she would be disappointed at the delay, I wrote her a letter last Sunday & now have, enclosed with yours, a note from her which is altogether unreasonable & nonsensical & shows her need of attention. The improvement shown in her other letters was so great, however, that I hope this is but a temporary set-back resulting from the excitement.

I feel that, as she said, the hope of being able to live as other folks & occasionally see her children would be a powerful influence towards recovery & will do what I can to secure this. But of it I see no immediate prospect.

yours sincerely
Oswald E Bennett

3 Perrymead Ter
Fulham S.W.
Jan ~~18th~~ 22nd 09

Dear Mr Price

I am enclosing £6.0.0 for 30/- from my sister Blanche.

I have received your note in answer to the one sent to Mrs Temple & hope that the course of forwarding letters direct will prove satisfactory.

Two, which I returned, I will return to mother in a day or so when I write her.

Yours truly
Oswald C. Bennett

53 Perrymead Rd.
Fulham S.W.
10. XII. 05

Dear Dr Kemp

I thank you for the trouble you take in forwarding mothers letters. I was beginning to wonder who was doing it.

It is perhaps best that they should come to me. Certainly I should not wish them all forwarded direct, as with some of those to whom they are addressed her acquaintance has been but slight.

She writes me, as well as others, that she wishes to have money for shopping. I should be glad of a word from you to say whether it would be well for her to have some.

The round of visiting that she speaks of is, I think, quite out of the question yet.

I am glad to see evidence of such an improvement in her letters (of the opening of which I will tell her frankly). Earlier ones to me were disappointing.

yours truly
Oswald Bennett

Dec. 17, 1908

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Mrs. Bennett remains in an unsatisfactory and partly excited condition. She writes large numbers of letters as you know, and we cannot get her to look reasonably at anything.

With regard to the money matters it would seem to me well to defer doing anything. Still, if the executors wish for a settlement, I think possibly Mrs. Bennett would understand sufficiently well what she was doing to sign a Power of Attorney or something equivalent to this, asking you to act for her. I hope, however , the matter can be deferred for the present.

Yours very truly,

Mr Hodgson Sec
To Commissioner
In Lunacy
66 Victoria Street
S.W.
London

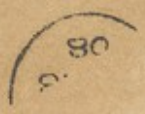
Letters are answered
when sent to
them

Friends Retreat 17. 12. 1908

My very dear
Mrs Shackleton
I want you to let me have
a few large Envelopes also a
few stamps. I am determined
to stop Dr Jeremy from send
letters to Osauld. I will pu
them addressed and stampe
to Envelopes addressed to
the Commissioner. I have sent
one that way it was not return

Lovingly yrs
Anna Benn

Mrs Bennett
The Friends' Retreat
York.



& reliable I could not have her for I have a little baby 2 months old who takes up most of my time.
When my mother came home last to Clevedon my father & I had a very bad time night & day. I should like to be pretty sure before we tried it again. I'll write to her again & try to explain it. I hope to come up to see her next time my brother comes if it can be managed. Thanking you for your kind interest.
I remain Yours sincerely
Beatrice Abbott

Wentwood
Nore Rd
Portishead
Nov 19. 08

Dear Dr Kemp
I don't think we can very well manage to have my mother down now. My husband is away in London at present, he is making a change in business & we may see moving any time if we can let this house. Mrs Albert Bennett

to away visiting for several weeks.
Wouldn't a visit be very upsetting for her?, she would not want to go back. I told my mother that I hoped she would be well enough to come & live with us sometime, thinking it might help her recovery to have that to look forward to. I'm afraid it has excited her too much, she has written me several letters since. Unless she was quite docile

Nov. 25, 1908

Dear Oswald Bennett,

Mrs. Bennett is a good deal better, but she is somewhat excitable and restless, and also variable. She came to my office last night, saying you wished her to go to Bristol today, and that she had heard from you to this effect. When I asked to see your letter she said she had not kept it. I endeavoured to explain to her that I could make no arrangements for her leaving the Retreat unless I heard directly from you or some other responsible relative. I incline to think that if she keeps about as she is now for a week or two longer she might be tried away, staying in some quiet country plahe with suitable people.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

SWALLOWCLIFFE,
CLEVEDON.

Tom to

20 Augt 1901

Dear Friend.

John Bennetts a/c

After Friends have made up the enclosed amount £12. 6. 0. Which I remit on his behalf, to the Cr of his a/c.

As I said in my recent letter, "although I or we have no responsibility

I have no reason to doubt that his payments will ~~be~~ as hitherto be kept up with his former regularity

Although I believe a source of income, which he relied upon recently, being deferred until December, may possibly delay his remittances

Please acknowledge to him. and oblige me with a line also

Thine sincerely
Ben Cornwell

Wm E Walker Esq. York Street

than a comparatively small sum.

I am communicating with my Father, F. F. Colwell, as to the reason why he wrote asking you to wait till the end of the year & will write you again as soon as possible.

I do not think it at all likely that the Quarterly Meeting would guarantee the payment to the Retreat, but I am inquiring whether the Monthly Meeting has considered this in the same way as is done, I believe, by Bristol & Brighton M.M.

for T. R. Thomas.

Yours faithfully
A. F. Colwell

Wm E. Waller
The Retreat
York

Private

WOODCROFT,
SNEYD PARK,
NR BRISTOL.

6th Aug 1901

Dear Friend,

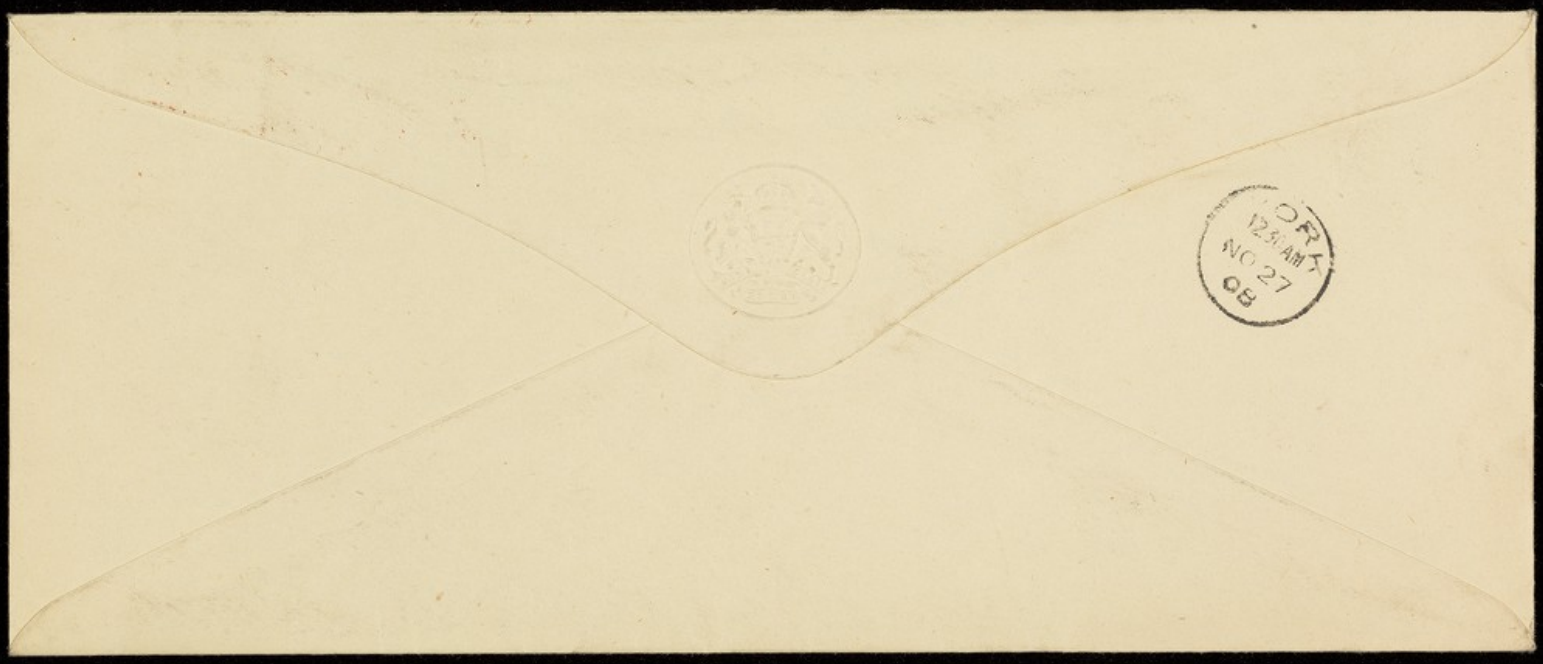
I am sorry to say that your letter of the 18th ult with reference to Ann Bennett has been overlooked.

You do not say how much John Bennett is expected to pay, but I know that his circumstances are very small indeed and as he has two children to support I should doubt his ability to pay more

Miss Ann Bennett
The Retreat Hospital
York

C. L.

LONDON OFFICIAL PAID
6.30 PM
NO 26
08
33


NEW YORK
12 31 AM
NOV 27
08

All communications should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,
Lunacy Commission,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

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

LUNACY COMMISSION,
66, *Victoria Street*, S.W.

26th November, 1908.

Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, the Commissioners in Lunacy direct me to say that the power to grant you leave of absence rests with the Managing Committee of York Retreat, to whom your application should be made.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,

B. T. Hodgson
Secretary

Miss Ann Bennett.

The Secretary is instructed to obtain the signature of the Clerks of privileged Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to the annexed form, before the reception of a patient recommended for admission to the Retreat, at the lowest rate of payment. (A privileged Monthly or Quarterly Meeting is a Meeting having the right to recommend patients at the lowest rate).

THE RETREAT, YORK.

(date) 27 *of* 11 *month,* 1908

To the Treasurer of the Friends' Retreat, York.

I, the undersigned Edmund Ashby

Clerk of the Charitable Trust Com.tee of Bristol & Somerset Quarterly Meeting,

hereby recommend Ann Bennett

for admission to the Retreat, York, at the lowest or "recommended" rate of payment [which is at present ~~fourteen~~ twelve *shillings per week, but is subject to alteration]; and I hereby undertake on behalf of* the Charitable Trust Com.tee of the Brs. & Mtg Meeting, *and by its direction, to guarantee that the quarterly payments shall be made as they become due, in accordance with the rules of the Institution.*

Edmund Ashby

Clerk to C.T.C. of Bristol & Som. Qtr. *Meeting.*

N.B.—The rate includes the charge for Board, Lodging, and Medical care, and 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.

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.