

Berrington, Kathleen

Publication/Creation

1913-1913

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/u8wn9kzj>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

21 August, 1914.

Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 38,

Lunacy Act, 1891, Section 7.

SIR,

Name Miss Kathleen Bevington

Date of Reception Order 23 August 1913

I am directed by the Board of Control to inform you that the _____ Special Report and Certificate required under the above Sections, for the purpose of continuing the Reception Order in this case, not having been received, the Commissioners assume that they have not been duly sent, and if this is the case the Reception Order will expire on the 22nd instant, and notice of the Patient's discharge on *that* date should be sent to this Office. The authority for discharge should be given as "by operation of Law, the Reception Order not having been properly continued."

If the Patient remains of unsound mind, and is a proper case for care and treatment, *her* further detention must be legalised by fresh Order and Certificates, which should be obtained by the date of expiry of the old Reception Order. In case the Patient cannot be re-certified by that date the cause of the delay should be at once communicated to the Commissioners.

A Patient who is dangerous to *her* self or others should on no account be set at large, and, to avoid any risk, the Commissioners will not object to the examination for re-certification taking place in the Institution.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

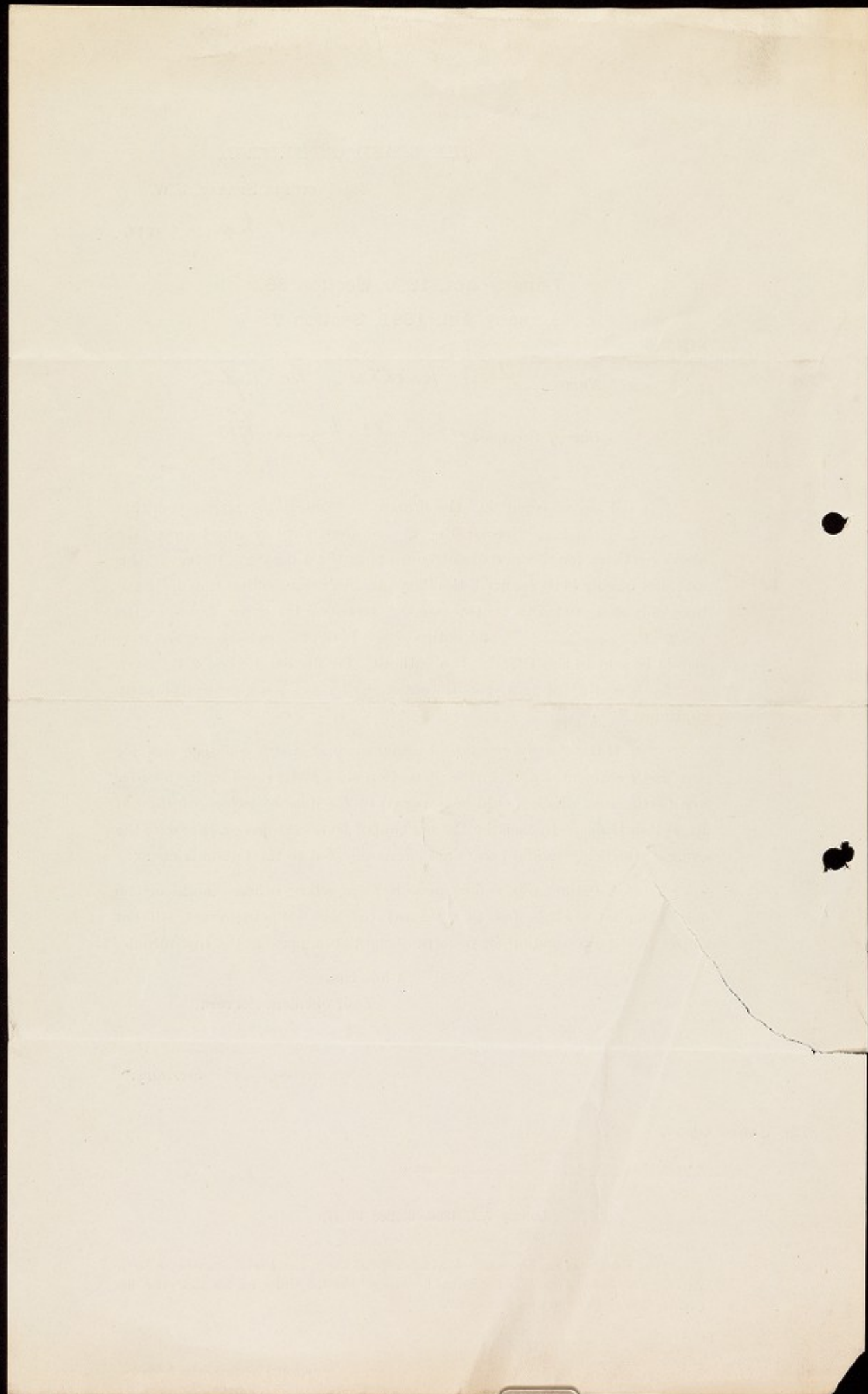
W. J. Lawrence
Assistant Secretary.

The Medical Officer,

York Retreat.

Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 38 (7).

The Manager of any Institution for Lunatics, and any person having charge of a Single Patient, who detains a Patient after he has knowledge that the Order for his Reception has expired shall be guilty of a *misdemeanour*.



844

Aug 23. 1844

✓

Merle Wood,
Sebensaks,
Kent.

Aug 8th

Dear Dr Pierce

In answer to your
letter concerning
Miss Bevington I am
glad to say she
is keeping well,
& has no hallucinations
of hearing

She is also sleeping
well. She has
not been much at
home since leaving
The Retreat, & when
she goes home it
is not for long.
only a few few weeks

We have not worried
her with arrangements
much, but she does
not like things to
be settled without
asking her opinion

Yours very truly
F Heslop

28th July, 1914.

Dear Miss Heslop,

The time has come when the status of Miss Bevington and her relation to the Retreat requires review. May I ask you for a detailed report as to her present condition saying especially whether the hallucinations of hearing continue and how far it is wise to allow Miss Bevington to make her own arrangements. I gather that she is better away from home and that if shielded from worry she keeps quite nicely. Would you send your reply to the Kingsley Hotel, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, as I expect to be there on Thursday morning. If you do not get this in time to write there please send to the Retreat.

Yours very truly,

May 11, 1912

Dear Mr. Henshaw,

The time has come when the writing of

these various papers and the writing of the report

has become a matter of life and death.

There is no other person capable of writing such a

report as the one which is now before you.

And for this reason it is that I am writing you

to make her a recommendation. I believe that she

is better than any one else and that it should

be made by her and not by any one else.

Send your reply to the Minister of the Interior,

Washington, as I expect to be there on business

tomorrow. It would be very kind of you to

write these things and to the Minister.

Yours very truly,

28th July, 1914.

Dear Miss Bevington,

I am very sorry to hear that you are not well, and it is quite clear that you ought not to be troubled in relation to your sister. If you will leave the matter for a few days I will think it over and write to you again. In the mean time it is very it is very satisfactory that Miss Bevington is doing so well and that Miss Heslop is such a success.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

June 1st, 1914

Dear Miss Huntington,

I am very sorry to hear that you are

not well, and it is quite clear that you must

not be troubled in relation to my plans.

It will leave the matter for a few days.

I will think it over and write to you again. In the

mean time it is very kind of you to write that

Miss Huntington is doing so well and that Miss Keegan

is much recovered.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

15 St. Saviour's Road

796.

July 27th

St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Dear Dr. Pierce -

It is rather difficult to know how to reply to your letter. I was going to write to you as my head is so weak that I felt you ought to know that I am hardly fit to be responsible for my sister. I meant to ask you to be in closer touch with Miss Heslop so that you might always know what arrangements were being made. But it would never do for you to see my sister. She is really very well & we have never let her know that she is certifiably so she must be discharged. But ought it to be recovered or relieved - As you know she does not live with her family - but she was with us for 5 weeks at Easter & again for 10 days this month. & we always know what she is doing & have every confidence in Miss Heslop. Although she is so well & we are

very happy about her - we should not like her to
be without some responsible companion - she
has not felt equal to going to stay with her own
friends - Miss Heslop has never left her for
24 hours - & now when she is to have her holiday
Miss Hunt will take her place - as my mother
did not feel equal to the responsibility -
I have felt my head so weak lately that I nearly
wrote about coming to Thoscently Hall - only I
did not want to alarm my people - so I have
come here for absolute rest - & am being kept
in bed & given bromide - If after what
I have told you it is alright - I should say
Relieved - but you must decide - will that
mean that you will have nothing more
to do with her. I am sure God will guide
us to do what is right - Thank you so
much for all the help you have been

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington.

Aug 25th 1914

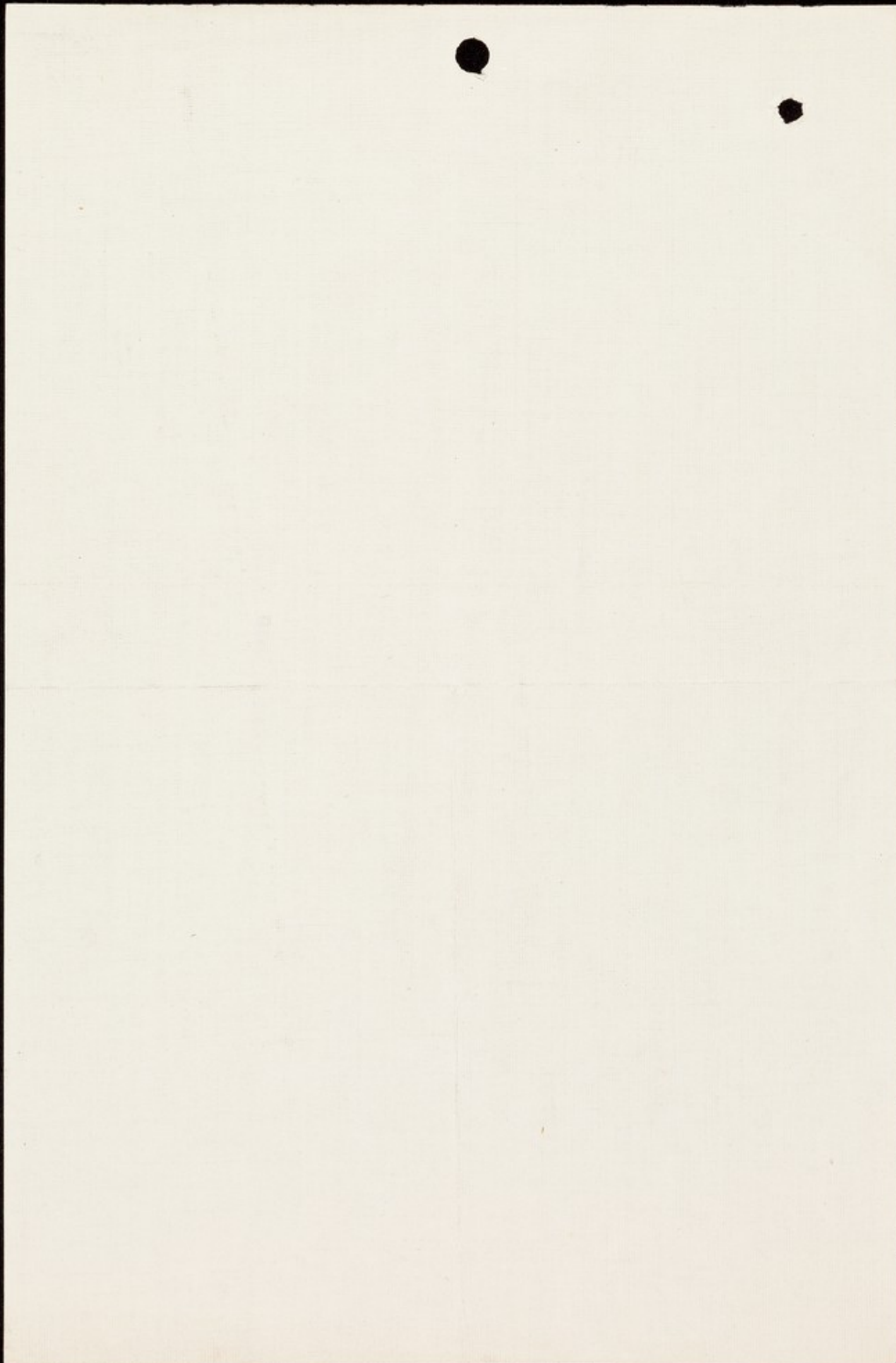
Kingway.
St Saviours Road
St Leonards.
890

Dear Dr Machenzis.

Thank you for your kind letter & for my sister's discharge. which I suppose I may tear up. Miss Heslop wrote & told me that my sister would be free after Aug 23rd so now she will not feel that she need report to Dr. Pierce. I am sure Miss Heslop does all she can for my sister's well being & I think on the whole her judgment is good. I suppose now if my sister is taken ill. Dr. Pierce would have no power to settle what should be done. Miss Heslop told me that my sister thought that she would rather be taken care of by her & another nurse. but we will hope that will never be. she is very well at present.

Believe me -

Yours very truly Flora Bevington.



24th July, 1914.

Dear Miss Bevington,

The time has now arrived when, if Miss Kathleen Bevington is to remain a patient on leave from the Retreat, we must send a special report and certificate to the Board of Control, which means that I must see her and satisfy myself that she remain of unsound mind and a suitable person to be under care. I have heard from Miss Heslop from time to time, and I gather that Miss Bevington is very nicely, and I can easily see that it may be undesirable for her to come to York or to Leeds to see me. I am going away on holiday on August 6th, and the matter must be settled before then. If you can say that Miss Bevington has recovered she can, of course, be discharged altogether, but if, as is probably more correct, she could only be discharged as "relieved" the Board of Control will wish to know where she is and what arrangements have been made for her future care. There is another alternative, namely that she should be transferred to the care of Miss Heslop and that the consent of the Commissioners should be obtained to her travelling

2.

from place to place. This, however, is rather difficult to arrange and it would mean the appointment of a regular Medical Attendant who would be responsible for the treatment adopted.

To sum up there are the following alternatives:-

- (1) Renew the present arrangement. This means my seeing Miss Bevington before August 6th.
- (2) Discharge. (a) Recovered. (b) Relieved. There is no difficulty about the latter if she is with her own relations and not placed under the care of anybody else.
- (3) Transferred either to single care as explained or to some other Institution.

I am sorry to trouble you with all this but it cannot be helped.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEGRAMS
RIGGS
WINDERMERETELEPHONE
NO. 6RIGGS WINDERMERE HOTEL,
WINDERMERE.

Dear Dr Pierce

Miss Bevington & I
are staying here for
a time I am glad
to say she is very well
& has been while we
have been at Mule Wood
I think she is better

than she was before
the breakdown last
summer.

Yours truly
F Heslop.

67

Sunnyside
70 Walpole Rd
Boscumbe
Hants

Jan. 22nd

Dear Mr. Pierce

1914

Miss Berrington
& I are staying at
Boscumbe for a few weeks
She is going on very
well; at Christmas

she got over tired, & was
not so well for a few

days, but she is much
better again

Yours sincerely
F. Heald

Jan. 21, 1914

Dear Miss Bevington,

The account you give of your sister is certainly very satisfactory, and she has done better than I expected. I quite expect that frequent changes of scene will be the best for her. We frequently find that new surroundings cause hallucinations to disappear, and fresh interests seem to dissipate delusional ideas. The Secretary will write to you respecting the account.

You have no doubt heard of Dr. Newington's fatal accident. I fear it will be a very serious shock for his cousin. I had a line from him the other day, and there is no doubt he will feel it terribly. Dr. Hayes Newington and I are associated on a Committee, and I much hope that all this anxiety will not prevent him from helping us. His judgment is of very great value.

Yours very truly,

The whole time she was here -
so different to what she has
been for the last seven years -
so I have very much to be
thankful for.

I think there is a mistake in
the enclosed account. If the
fee for Medical Supervision is 2/6
a week. Then it would not be
£1-15. from Oct-21st to Jan 4th
would it - I am so glad to
be able to write & consult you -
Yours sincerely Flora Bevington.

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

Jan 20th

Dear Dr. Pierce

My sister has gone
today to Boscombe with Miss
Heslop - where they have taken
a furnished house for some
months. She was wonderfully
well for the 10th fortnight - but
then she seemed tired & got
quite - & was easily upset.

I urged them to go away, and than a short time. Miss Healy
after another 10 days they went - see this, but she lingered on
to London from Saturday till ~~from~~ one reason or another,
Wednesday. & she came back partly because Kathleen is so
much brighter & so glad to be answering to stay. Of course
at home. She is really it is sad to urge her to go, when
better than she has been for she is so fond of her home. But
years. But she is more easily it is really kinder than allowing
tired. & I am sure home life is her to stay & get a relapse.
too much for her for more She was so very nice to me

Dec. 20, 1913

Dear Miss Flora Bevington,

I am very glad to get the favourable report of your sister, and I quite concur in your opinion that it will not be wise for her to remain very long at home.

Would it not be possible for her to start an establishment of her own, not very far away, so that communication with the family may be quite easy. It would probably be quite simple for her to shut it up altogether should she wish to travel.

If Miss Bevington does not need continuous supervision there is no reason whatever why being under certificates should compel her to have it. She is on trial, and on trial implies a large amount of liberty, provided of course the person is fit for it. On the other hand, I dare say, Miss Bevington does better with a fair amount of companionship.

Yours very truly,

10.10.1948

Dear Miss Vera Davison,

I am very glad to hear the forwarding is out of

your hands, and I hope you are all well.

With best wishes to you all,

I am, dear Miss Vera, very truly,

Yours very truly,

John Galsworthy

P.S. I am sorry to hear of the death of

your father.

It is a sad loss to you.

With best wishes to you all,

I am, dear Miss Vera, very truly,

Yours very truly,

John Galsworthy

P.S. I am sorry to hear of the death of

your father.

her. On the other hand when
she was angry she said - 'If
I am like - I had better kill
myself -' It does not matter
how much Miss Heslop is with
Maudslayi. except for her own
sake. she must not have
too much strain. I expect
Miss Heslop will be writing to
you.

Believe me

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington

I am writing in London
to enclose envelope -

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent..

Dec 19th

Dear Dr. Pierce

My sister & Miss Heslop
came home two days ago - I
wanted to write & let you
know how much better my
sister is - She is very bright &
is sleeping well & seems to me
better than she has been for
some time -

She is very glad to be at home
but neither Miss Westop nor I
think she ought to stay for
more than about 2 weeks -
She is very easily upset - and
altho my mother does all she
can to be careful - she does
irritate my sister & then there
is an outburst - Fortunately
my mother is deaf so she does

not know what my sister says
about her - It would be such
a great pity if my sister got
thrown back now she is so well -
so I hope they will find some
furnished house to which to go
early in January -
My sister sleeps alone now and
I think is quite fit to be left
alone in the day too. But Miss
Westop says she must not leave
her for long because of the
certificate - altho she quite trusts

1913
Ans
Linden 409
Fowey
Cornwall
Nov 27th

Dear Mr. Pierce

I am glad to say
Miss Bevington has
greatly improved,
since we came to Fowey.
She has not heard
the voices since the

first week, & she
sleeps very well.
We are staying here
until Dec 16th, & then
we think of going
to London for a few
days, to do Christmas
shopping, & then

on to Levenoch
to spend Christmas
Yours Truly
F Heslop.

845
Borriskill
Portinscale
Keswick

Dear Dr Pierce

Miss Bevington
continues to keep well;
she has enjoyed
her visit to the
lake district

very much

Yours truly
F Healsop

Oct. 30, 1913

Dear Miss Heslop,

I am very pleased to hear such a good account of Miss Bevington. We will pay the amount for Kirby & Nicholson.

We are very much obliged to Miss Bevington for her wish to give the balance owing to poor patients. The matter, however, is a delicate one, seeing she has been so recently at the Retreat, and I shall have to refer the question to the Committee first. We are much obliged for the kind intention.

Yours very truly,

Oct. 30, 1913

Dear Miss Beal,

I am very pleased to hear such a good account of

Miss Beal. We will pay the amount for Kirby & Nicholson.

We are very much obliged to Miss Beal for her

wish to give the balance owing to poor patients. The matter,

however, is a delicate one, and she has been so recently

at the West, and I shall have to refer the question to

the Committee first. We are much obliged for a kind

attention.

Yours very truly,

We had a heavy
gale here last night

Believe me

Yours truly
F Heslop.

Linden²⁶⁶
Forney
1913 Cornwall
✓ Oct 29th

Dear Dr Pierce

I am pleased
to tell you Miss Bevington
is going on well,
& she seldom hears
the voice now.
She is sleeping

very well in fact,
she has slept 8 or 9
hours since we
came to Lowey.

She has an account
at Kirby & Nicholson's,
& wishes after you
settle the account

that you will
keep the remainder
of the money you
have belonging to her,
for the poor friends.

Thank you for sending
on golf & clubs they
have just arrived.

Flathleen likes the
"Retreat" & I am glad
to know of some
house where she can
be happy as well as
rested when ne-
cessary.

With kindest regards,
yrs Sincerely,
J. A. Beecroft,

1915

233

Merle Wood,
Sevens Oaks,
Kent.

Oct-4-23rd

Dear D. Pierce,

Only a few lines
just to tell you
that I am very
pleased with the
improvement Flathleen
has made since she
has been under your

Care, she slept well
last night & seemed
really much more
like herself yesterday.
She will still require
care, but I hope the
improvement will
be lasting. No doubt

Miss Hooper or my
daughter have al-
ready written to you
but I thought I
should just like to
add my testimony,
& so to thank you
for what you have
accomplished.

know how much it is - but
don't send it yet -

I feel now much more contented -
I see no reason why Miss
Heslop should not manage alone
at Torrey - unless of course my
sister gets worse -

Believe me

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington.

Oct 23rd 1913.

Dear Dr. Pierce

We are so pleased that
my sister is so much better - she
is sunny today & rather irritable
but quite quiet & sensible - &
last night she slept from 10-30
till nearly 6 o'clock - she likes
it so much better now that
she has no light in her room -
would you kindly have her
golf clubs sent to "Linden" Torrey

Merle Wood
Sevenoaks

234

as she is going there on Saturday -
The dark spectacles sent here
as they belong to me -
My sister asked for her cheque
book & said that she was well
enough to manage her own
affairs - so rather than upset
her I gave her one that had a
few cheques in it - We quite
trust Miss Herlop & she will see
that my sister does not do any
thing rash - but I don't think

that she is inclined to. She likes
to keep a good balance - I suppose
I am not responsible for the way
in which she spends her money -
and as long as she keeps within
her income it will be alright -

My sister told Miss Herlop that
she thought of giving the balance
which you still have to the Retreat
for the poor patients. But we
cannot worry her about it
today - so will you let me

Oct. 25, 1913

Dear Miss Bevington,

Many thanks for your letter. It is pleasant to hear that your sister has got on so well at home, and I was glad to have Mrs. Bevington's letter. I quite expect the stay at Powey will be a success. I have arranged for the golf clubs and other things to be sent off as you request. It will be pleasant in the south now we have a cold snap and the dahlias are destroyed and the leaves are nearly off the trees.

Yours very truly,

Oct. 25, 1915

Dear Miss Devington,

Many thanks for your letter. It is

pleasant to hear that your sister has got on so

well at home, and I am glad to hear that. I hope

to see her soon. I shall expect the day or two will

be a success. I have arranged for Mr. Kell

to be at the house and other things so as to be ready

for you. It will be pleasant to have you here now

have a cold snap and the children are distressed

and the leaves are nearly off the trees.

Yours very truly,

Oct. 15, 1913

Dear Miss Bevington,

Many thanks for your letter. There was really no necessity to send a cheque for so large an amount, but in the office they were not aware that Miss Bevington was leaving so soon.

I think perhaps it will be best for us to pay over to Miss Heslop a substantial sum towards travelling expenses and expenses in Cornwall and charge it to the account, and as soon as all is settled I will get the Committee to draw a cheque for the balance owing to you.

I realise that the mental condition remains unstable and that one cannot be sure as to the success of this trial; and yet it seems to me only right that it should be made. It is quite possible it may be fully justified.

Yours very truly,

Oct. 16, 1913

Dear Miss Bevin-ton,

Many thanks for your letter. There was really no necessity to send a cheque for money, but in the office they were not aware of this and I was obliged to send one.

I think perhaps it will be best for us to pay over to Miss Bevin-ton a substantial sum to cover travelling expenses and expenses in Cornwall and elsewhere. I will let the Committee to draw as soon as all is settled. I will let the Committee to draw a cheque for the balance when it is ready.

I realize that the normal condition of affairs is that

and that one must be prepared to face the possibility of this; and yet it seems to me that it is a mistake to do so. It is in our hands, it is in our hands, it is in our hands.

time to stay on & can take
on the house - My mother
wants to come home for
Christmas but I am afraid
she will not be allowed &
we shall probably have to
stay at St. Leonards - I think
making arrangements for
my sister more than almost
any thing - I am very grateful
to you for all you have done -

Believe me

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington.

199

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

Oct 14th 1913.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am enclosing a
cheque for £15-2-3-5. for
altho it is paying until
Dec 31st & we hope to have
my sister back next week,
I thought that was the
right thing to do - & that
you would send the balance
when she leaves -

I am indeed glad to hear
that she is well enough to
come away with only
Miss Heslop - for I think
another nurse would try
her. I suppose now she
may be left alone - for Miss
Heslop could not be with
her constantly day & night
& also do the house keeping -

They will have one servant
at Fowey - but there will be
no one to relieve Miss Heslop.
Miss Heslop is coming to
York on Oct 20th so you will
be able to see her. and tell
her about reporting to you -
& if you could I should be
very glad if you could settle
with Miss Heslop what
had better be done at the
end of November when they
leave Fowey - unless they

Now Kathleen gets on
in Cornwall & I do hope
I pray that her brain may
gain strength in time -
With grateful thanks,

for your care, & with
my kind regards,

Believe me,

Very truly Yr.

S. A. Bevington

194
Oct⁶⁷-⁹⁴ 13 = 1913.

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

Dear Dr. Bedford-Pierce,

Thank you so much
for your letter received
this morning. I have been
feeling very anxious to
hear how Kathleen was
really getting, it being a
little difficult to judge
from her letters, as she makes
no remark about her

health more than to
say either "she is not quite
well yet" or she is better.

I am particularly glad
that you think she may
come home for a few
days, before we leave for
St. Leonard's on the 28th.
I will write to Miss
Heslop that she may

Care for Kathleen on the
21st & I am glad you
do not recommence a
second nerve being engaged
because I feel sure it
would greatly disturb
Kathleen, she is so devot-
-ed to Miss Heslop &
feels so grateful to her.
Miss Heslop will be sure
to write & let you know

written to Oct 9th
Merle Wood CuiB.
Severnales - 168

Oct 8th 1913.

Dear Dr. Pierce -

Do you think my sister is fit to leave the Retreat yet - I had a letter from Miss Heslop today in which she says that Kathleen wants to come away on Oct 21st & that she has written back to say that she will be quite ready to bring her if she has your consent. My mother wishes me to say that we are going away from home on Oct 20th & that she would very much like to see my sister if she is fit to come -

Will you write to my mother & tell her what you feel ought to be done - & if she can come with Miss Heslop alone or if she will need two nurses -

In Kathleen's last letter to us, she said that she did not feel strong enough to come away yet - but that was more than a week ago - She has always told me that she would not be looked after by nurses - so if she needs a second, will you tell her before final arrangements are made -

Miss Heslop writes as though I were helping my sister

at the Retreat against her wishes when she is
really fit to come away - She says she has always
been up & down ever since she knew her & that if
you are going to wait until she is quite well
she will never come away at all - When I
write to Miss Heslop I shall ask her to write to you
& tell you what she feels & then I shall be
grateful if you will answer her -

I know I do feel that as long as Kathleen is ill
she is better with you than with nurses - But
as soon as she is well enough to go away with
Miss Heslop I shall be most thankful -

While she is contented at the Retreat we all feel
that she is well cared for & as happy as she can
be in her condition -

Believe me

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington

a friend of my mother's will be with us from Oct 10th - 25th

Then the lady has written about
the house at Torrey. She wants
to go away herself & cannot
leave the servant alone & wants
to know when my sister is
likely to take over the house
& servant. Kathleen is paying
the full rent for the house -
\$3-3-0 a week.

I hope you don't mind my
battering you about all these
things.

Believe me
yours sincerely
Flora Bevington.

Merle Wood 103
Sevenoaks

Sept. 23rd

1913

Dear Dr. Pierce.

I was very sorry to
hear that my sister was not
so well & had given trouble.
I suppose either the doctor tells
her to do these things or she
quite loses control of herself.
She is naturally impulsive, but
is most considerate for others -
I quite understand what you
felt about having Miss Heslop
at the Retreat. it is exactly

what I think myself - I was
not thinking of her going to go
when last I wrote. But of her
taking up fresh work on her
own account. When I was
at York she wrote & said that
if Kathleen did not want her
for some months - she would
rather take up work - than live
at home. I have written &
told her that Kathleen is not
so well - & if she writes again
& wants to go to work, I do not

think I ought to ask her to wait
any longer. - That is what I
wanted your opinion about - &
also if she wants to go - ought
my sister to be consulted -
Kathleen always told me that
she was quite well when I was
in York, that she could make
her own arrangements - & altho
I know she is not. I don't want
to upset her by doing any thing
that she would not like. When
she heard of it -

103
● 3. My brother said that he
would be writing to you. He
is very upset about Kathleen.
I am rather anxious about
him. so please do not depress
him more than you need.

Miss Heslop has written to him
suggesting that it would be
better to take Kathleen away
when she is at her best. or else
the time may come when she
wants to come away & cannot
& then will be miserable.

Neither of them know that

I have any power - which is
a comfort. For Miss Heslop
would bring pressure to bear
to get me to take her away -
Of course we must each have
our views & she has a right to
hers. But so far my brother
agrees with me, that Kathleen
is ~~rather~~ happier & better where
she is - They both think
that Kathleen is in your power
as long as she is certified - But
my brother is quite content about
that - Yrs sincerely Flora Barington.

To reply as there is no
need for it but I felt
anxious to let you know
that I regret the
trouble you have had
with Hattie.

Believe me,
Yrs. truly,
J. C. Bevington

87
Sept. 19th 1913.

Merle Wood,
Sevensaks,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Pierce,

My daughter Flora
has shown me your
letter & I do feel relieved
that poor Hattie
should be so troublesome.
The great comfort being
that she is content to
remain with you. I was
greatly in hopes that

she was gradually
improving & cannot
account for this out-
-break unless seeing
Miss Heslop again, dis-
turbed her when she
left; Kathleen has al-
ways been devoted to
Miss Heslop & she certainly
has a great control over

her, perhaps a little
too much, as I have
thought at times it
might be better for
Kathleen to exercise
her own will & learn
to control her feelings
which are abnormally
strong & very sensitive.
I will not trouble you

Sept. 17, 1913

Dear Miss Bevington,

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry I cannot report any further improvement since I wrote. In fact there has been a temporary set back. The other night Miss Bevington interfered with a nurse, who was feeding a patient with a spoon, in an impulsive way and caused a disturbance; and yesterday morning, for no particular reason, she threw her plate of porridge on the floor, which was spread all over the carpet and generally made a mess. It so happened that I was down in the Villa immediately after, and she was quite unconcerned at the trouble she had given: her only reason for doing it was that she did not want it. I fear that no plans must be made in the immediate future.

With regard to Miss Heslop coming here and acting as companion to Miss Bevington, I have grave doubts as to how it would work. Only once have I taken in a private attendant in this way and found it a success. As you will readily understand, it is hardly to be expected that Miss Heslop, who has been a free agent all these years, would willingly accept direction from others, and though there may be no active opposition, one can hardly expect that loyalty to the Institution which one requires in a member of the staff.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Sept. 17, 1913

Dear Miss Livingston,

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry I cannot report any further improvement since I wrote. In fact there has been a temporary set back. The other night Miss Livingston interfered with a nurse, who was feeding a patient with a spoon, in an impulsive way and caused a disturbance; and yesterday morning, for no particular reason, she threw her plate of porridge on the floor, which was spread all over the carpet and generally made a mess. It so happened that I was down in the Villa immediately after, and she was quite unconcerned at the trouble she had given; her only reason for doing it was that she did not want it. I fear that no plans must be made in the immediate future.

With regard to Miss Taylor coming here and acting as companion to Miss Livingston, I have great doubts as to how it would work. Only once have I taken in a private attendant in this way and found it a success. As you will readily understand, it is hardly to be expected that Miss Taylor, who has been a free operator since youth, would willingly accept direction from others, and though there may be no active opposition, one can hardly expect that loyalty to the Institution which one requires in a member of the staff.

With kind regards,
Yours very truly,

Merle Wood
Sevenoaks -

77

Sept 15th 1913.

Dear Dr. Pierce -

I am most thankful to hear that my sister is so much better - I have had a very well written letter from her & so has my other sister Mrs Best - who is staying here at present - In the letter she says "I don't think I shall be coming to Sevenoaks - I feel pretty comfortable here, so I think better to remain, where I feel fairly well. It is possible I may go to Cornwall later, but I do not feel in a hurry about it" & latter on she says "I feel certain I shall not be able to leave here until next month" —

From what she said to me when I was there & from her letters - I feel that Kathleen finds it a great rest to her mind to be at The Retreat - & I don't think that she at all wants to come away - Of course she may change her mind at any time - but don't you feel that as long as she is contented, she is free from any anxiety & worry at The Retreat —

I do not mean that just the time she would be at Fowey with Miss Heslop she would have any thing to bother her. but she told me that it would be very dull there - so by the end of November, she probably would not want to take the house on - & then they would have to settle what to do - & it is that that tries her head so much. What makes it so difficult is that Mrs Beverton may have to go to St Leonards for the winter & it is really not good for Kathleen not to have any settled place. Miss Heslop writes that Kathleen is thinking of taking a house after Christmas & furnishing it. but I should think that choosing where to live - & the house would be enough to make her ill again - & if she had an establishment on her hands, then was ill - it would be a great expense.

Of course we must think of Miss Heslop & if my sister wants to stay on with you, & you feel that it is best for her to remain some time longer at the Retreat - would it do for ^{Miss H} her to take some other work during that time - That is what Miss Heslop proposes, but Kathleen would have to be consulted first -

77

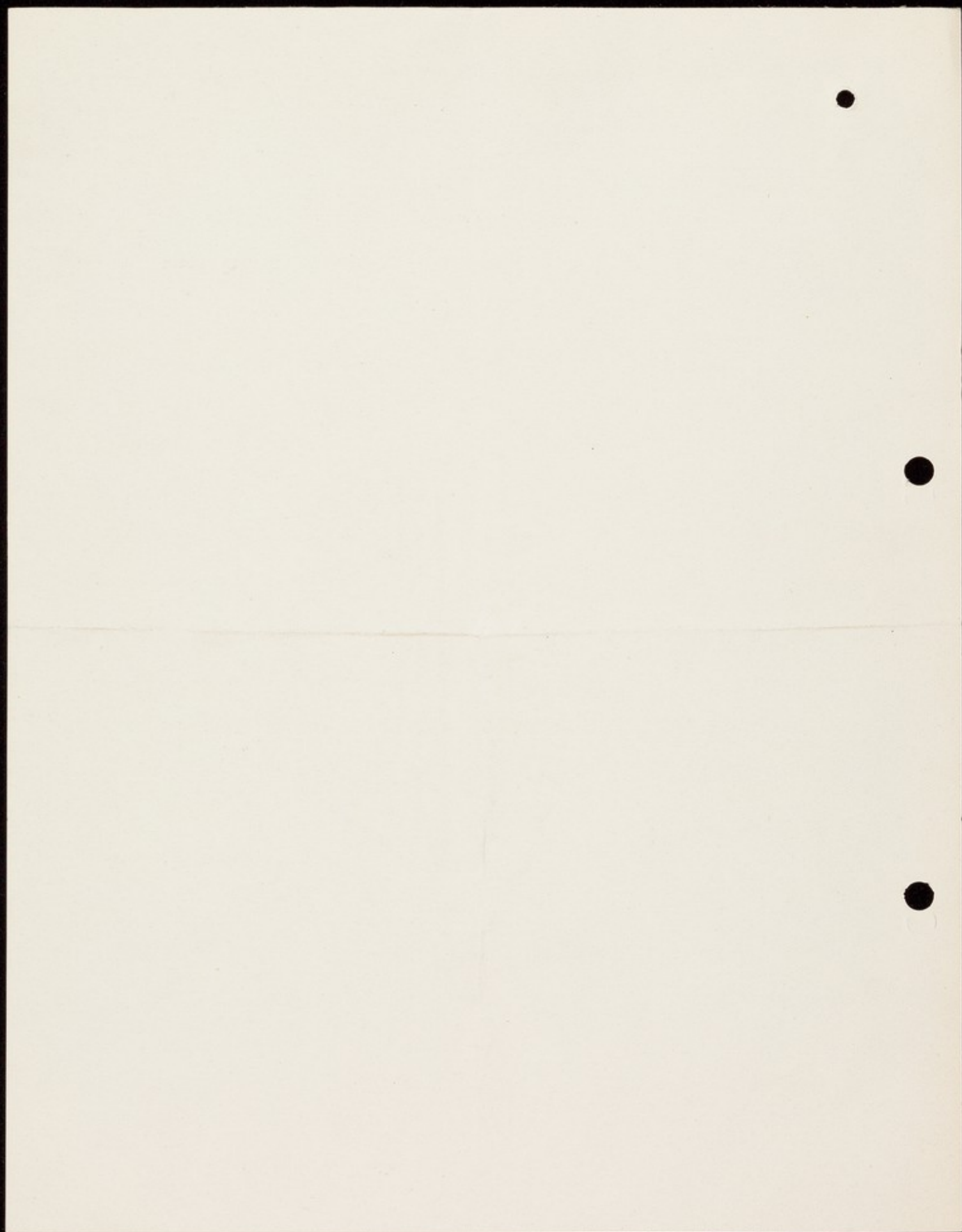
About the money - I am quite willing to go on looking after it all as I am now. But when Kathleen feels better & is with Miss Heslop. she will probably object to any interference on my part. - We all quite trust Miss Heslop & I feel sure she would never influence Kathleen to give her money. - My sister is rather touchy about her money. My brother has tried several times to get her to have Trustees. But she is too suspicious & has read of those who have been dishonest. - But as long as she remains at the Retreat she is quite willing for me to look after her money, but if when she comes out she does not wish me too, I don't see what we can do, unless she is told that she has been certified & that is what we don't want. -

When you next write could you put on one sheet how my sister is so that I can show that to my mother. -

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Flora Bevington -



Fin Brumby

42

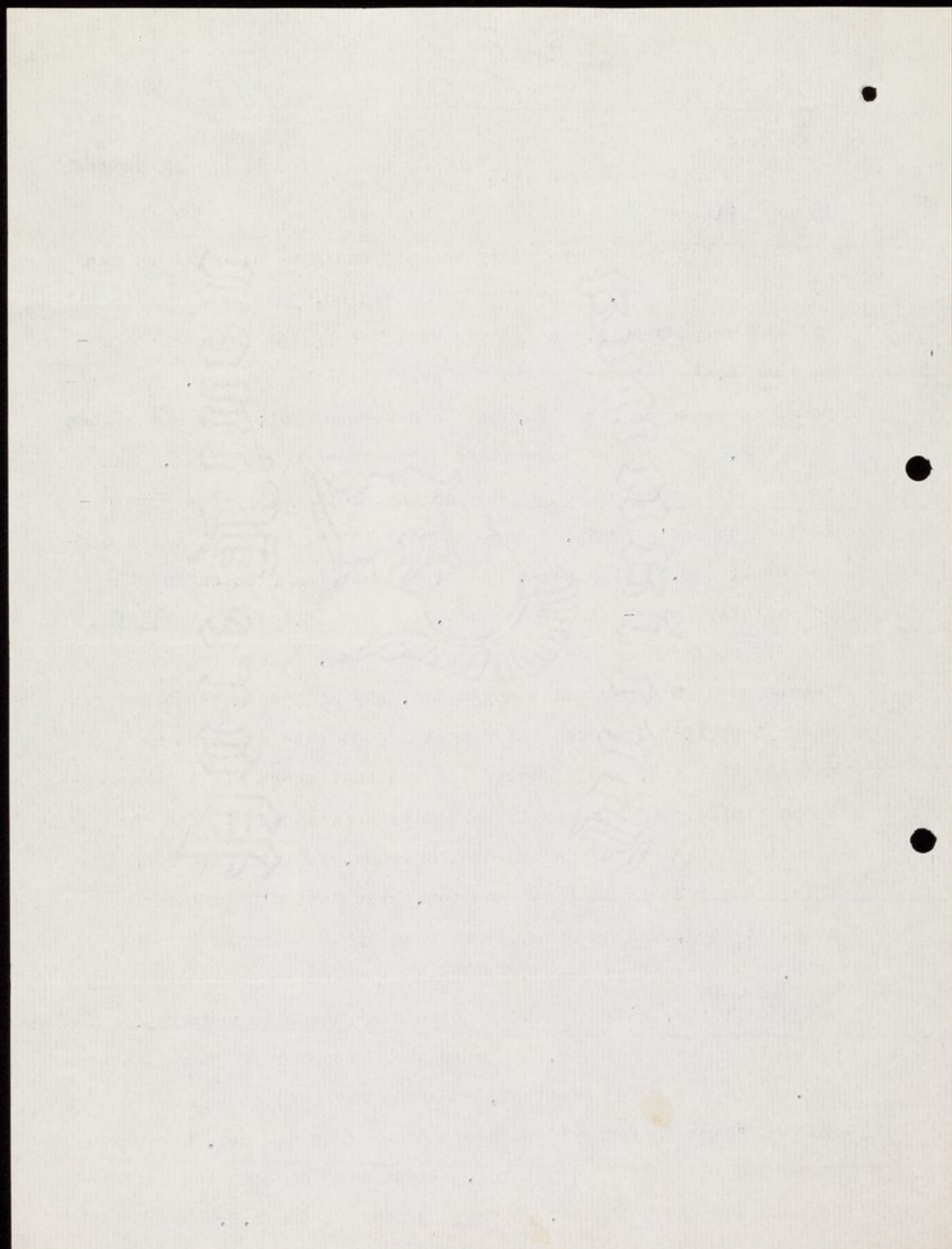
The Gables.
Ticehurst, Sussex.

September 8 1913

My dear Pierce

I have set my memory to work and have also got as much to aid it as I can. I remember Nurse Heslop, just and that is all. She was very capable, and as you will see by the enclosed correspondence, we let her remain for ever with the patient. They proposed to ~~pay~~ a fee for that, but we never do that; if a nurse goes with a P. she goes off our staff altogether for the time. The nurse was a superior woman and one that left quite a good recollection on one's brain. I enclose some letters of the latter period of Miss B.'s stay here. She always struck me as one of the potentially hyper-dang_erous sort. In fact if I remeber right she did go for some one with a garden knife. I fear that she will settle down into permanent asylyndom. Why do they not put her now under Sect II6? I should think that a good case might be made out for this now, and I should imagine that there might later on be some difficulty in giving her quite a clean sheet when the question of removing the ban of II6 arose. If this were done things would be in an ideal position. Miss Heslop's influence is no doubt good, and has been sanctioned by the parents in time past. The control of the court would be useful in repressing any undue ^{financial} activity, while it would not hinder useful adventures.

If it were not you, I should feel desperately jealous about ^{Miss B} her. I was her guide at first, and then have had to assume to role of "papa in lunacy", and now another chap has her. However it is you and that is something. Alliot mentioned in the letters perhaps you did not know. He was a member of the M.P.A and a right



The Gables.
Ticehurst, Sussex.

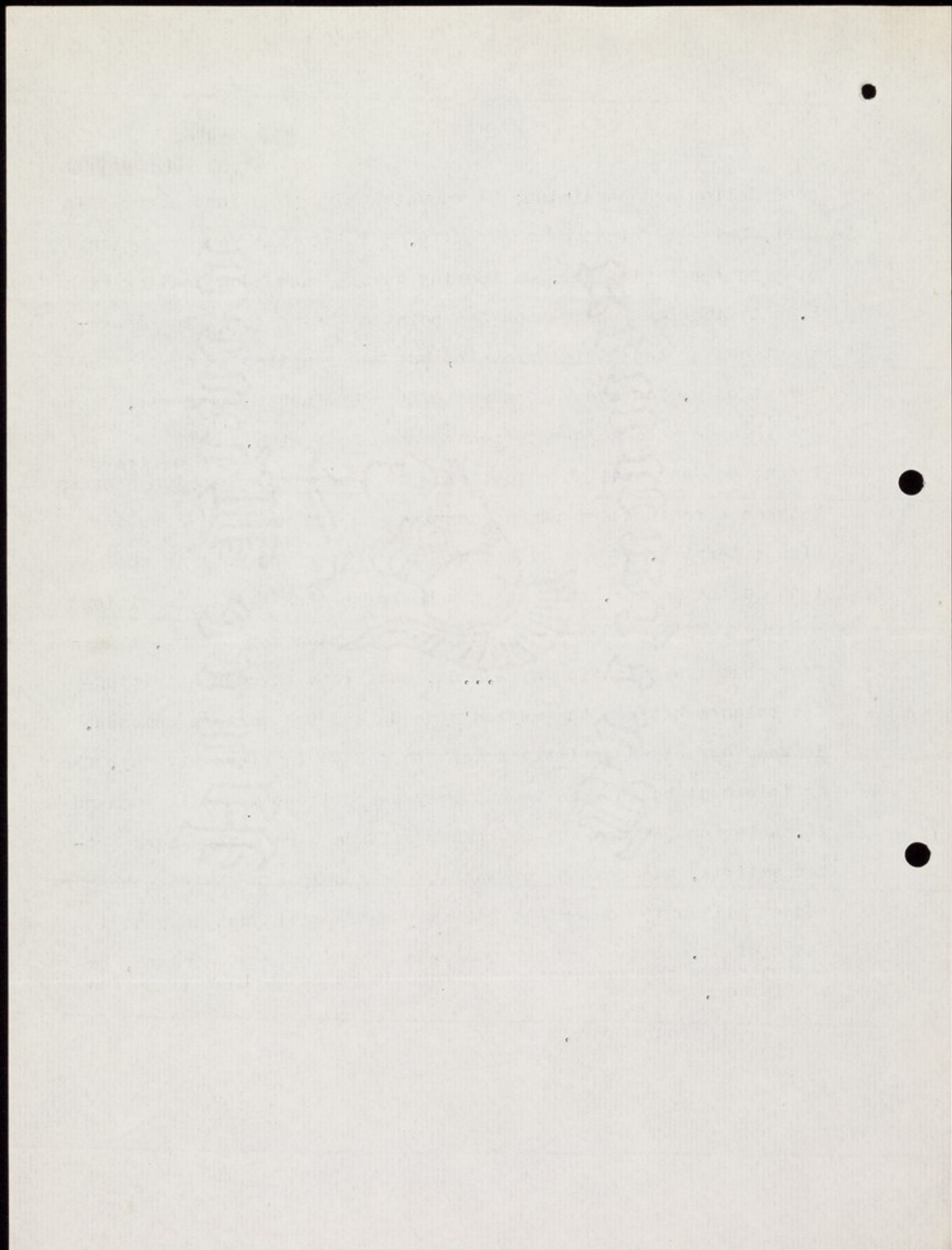
good fellow and physician; he was always very anxious about this girl, being a friend of the family. I think that you are quite wise in certifying her. On looking up the case book dealing with V.Bs I find that she was on the point of being certified on account of threatened violence etc, but was respited as she got better at once. You know of course of the bad habit- alum etc.

Please return correspondence when done with.

I cant see any available foothold for a 'service' of asylum ^{officers} between a central government service and the present 'go as you please' service. If you once touch the latter you must in the end land in the former. and that may be worse than existing onditions as many asylums found when pensions were made compulsory. I much fear that the salvation of A.M.Os. must come through attrition- the balance between the asylum's needs and the doctors demands. Between ourselves strictly I see the change in views already. The article must be got and we must pay the price which will command it. Later on perhaps the pruchaser will require a very much better article, but for the present one can only expect that the purchaser will only consent to get that which will just do what is the minimum. I feel rather hopeless about any real advance, except through the cultivation of conscience in an improving class of Visitor.

Yours ever.

Strenuous



Aug 31st 1913

Merle Wood 37
Sevensonams.

Dear Dr Pierce -

I am writing to you because I feel so sorry for some things that I said about Miss Heslop - I am most anxious that you should not be in any way prejudiced against her - but on the contrary, that you & she shall understand one another - so that you may together do what is best for my sister -

I find it so difficult to speak the whole truth - because at the time of speaking I see one side & do not remember the other until afterwards - I have never heard Miss Heslop say a word against Dr Newington or Dr Sterry - it was specially our own doctor she objected to - I think it is quite possible that she might work well at The Retreat - I don't know if my sister would like her to be there as nurse - but she has asked her to stay at Mr. Jarvis' as her friend -

I wish I had not said that Miss Heslop turned my sister
against us - because I don't think she ever tried to -
Every thing has been most difficult - My mother is highly
nervous & felt she could not have Miss Heslop in the
necals - so for 3 years she had them alone - Naturally she
was very lonely & felt she was badly treated & that Helen
felt so too - I used to urge my mother to have her
in but she always refused - & yet as I have a great
influence with my mother - I am the one who is chiefly
blamed - How much more I could have done I do not
know - but at the time I felt I was doing all I could
for the best - My head is never very strong & the effort
of trying to influence others is often more than I can
manage if there is much opposition - I don't want
to put any blame on my mother - old people find it
hard to realise things - & she is most kind hearted &
would do any thing she could for any of us -
Believe me - yours sincerely Flora Bevington -

3

Jas Coyne

Down View

Bude

Cornwall

Dear Sir

1913

My sister has
written to me about
my other sister Kathleen
& I am sorry to hear
she is not so well
I had letters from her
since she was with
Joe & hoped she was

getting better. & I am
very much surprised
at hearing of a change
for the worse. I should
be glad to hear from
you how my sister
is. I would have
come to York but have
only just got here &
I do not think I could

do much good by coming
I hope my sister may
get better after this
attack. She had been
quite well for some
time.

Yours faithfully
MSD Wington

2
The Pavilion Hotel
Scarborough -

Dear Dr. Machenzis

1913

Dr. Pierce asked me

to sign this & send it to you - He
said that I should have to come
in to York one day about it -
I am staying here anyhow until
Thursday after which I have no
plans - except that I must go
South on the 20th - I do hope

my sister is better. & that this
will not upset her -

Believe me

yours sincerely

Flora Bevington.

Merle Wood,

Sevenoaks,

Kent.

Aug 31st

Dear Sir.

Thanks you for your
letter. I have attised my
statement. not only because
of what the doctor said. But
because of some thing else
I heard, between when I made
the statement, when I signed it.

I am afraid my sister is
worse than I thought. She
never said any thing to me
about wanting to hurt herself.

Believe me

Yours Truly

Laura Bevington

Aug 5th
Ans
CMB.
Merle Wood,
Sebenoaks,
Kent..

Aug 4th

Dear Dr. Pierce.

My sister has
written saying she would like
one of us to come & see her
as she is not coming home
so soon. so I am coming
next Thursday & shall be
grateful if you can find

me a lodging near the Retreat - I've much better written -
where I can stay for a few
days. Believe me

My own doctor has
ordered me away for rest.

so the one thing I specially
want is a quiet bedroom.

I hope my sister is going on
well. The last two letters
we have had from her, have

yours sincerely
Hera Bevington.

better with you - Thank you
for letting me have the nurse's
report - I thought it was quite
satisfactory -

I am enclosing \$14-14-0-

Believe me

Yours very truly,

Flora Bevington

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

July 30th

Dear Dr. Pierce -

We were so glad to
hear that my sister is sleeping
better. She has written to
say that she does not want
to come home before September -
I am sure that as long as the
doctors worry her - she is much



26th July, 1913.

Dear Mrs Bevington,

On the whole, Miss Bevington is doing fairly well. She is still troubled with the "voices" but I do not think they trouble her so much as they did. We do not leave her alone at all until we feel more sure than at present that she has fully regained her self control. She sleeps on the whole very well.

As regards the future, one cannot but admit there is ground for anxiety. I fully expect that this recent trouble will subside, but there is always a danger in such a case of relapse, and a return of the hallucinations of hearing.

I am interested in hearing that Miss Bevington comes from an old Quaker family,. I gather the school at Croyden to which you refer, would be the same at which I was educated myself; it has now been removed to Saffron Waldon, Essex.

Miss Bevington does not talk to us very freely, but so far as we can judge she is quite contented here, and enjoys being out in the gardens this beautiful weather. She does not, however, get up until the middle of the morning, and we think it better that she should remain as quiet as possible.

I remain,
Yours very truly,

Mrs T. A. Bevington,
Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks, KENT.

20th July, 1913.

Dear Mrs Bevington,

On the whole, Miss Bevington is doing fairly well. She is still troubled with the "voices" but I do not think they trouble her so much as they did. We do not leave her alone at all until we feel more sure than at present that she has fully regained her self control. She sleeps on the whole very well.

As regards the future, one cannot but admit there is ground for anxiety. I fully expect that this recent trouble will subside, but there is always a danger in such a case of relapse and a return of the hallucinations of hearing.

I am interested in hearing that Miss Bevington comes from an old Quaker family. I gather the school at Groyden to which you refer, would be the same at which I was educated myself. It has now been removed to Salfron Waldon, Essex.

Miss Bevington does not talk to us very freely, but so far as we can judge she is quite contented here, and enjoys being out in the garden this beautiful weather. She does not, however, get up until the middle of the morning, and we think it better that she should remain as quiet as possible.

I remain,
Yours very truly,

Mrs T. A. Bevington
Nervicood,
Ravenhoeke, Kent.

Quaker family on her
Father's side - & that he
received his first edu-
-cation at a Quaker's
school in Croydon.

William Bevington an
ancestor was imprisoned
in Warick Gaol for at-
tending the preaching
of George Fox in 1700 -
With kind regards,

Believe me,

Y^r sincerely,
J. A. Bevington.

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

July 24th 1913.

Dear Sir,

I have refrained
from troubling you with
a letter, although I am
most anxious to know
your further opinion
of my dear daughter
Hathleen, since you have

known her more.

It seems so strange that
she should have been
so well for six years.
& then that the trouble
should have come again;
she has a sweet dispo-
sition when well & is
a very strong character.
Can you give hopes of

her ultimate recovery?
J. Herdington & J. Allott
both ordered her some
Burgundy with her din-
ner when she was ill?
if you think it suitable
for her now I should
like her to have it.
It may interest you to
know that Beathleen
is secluded from a

(632) South Elms
Cole Park Road
Twickenham.

July 23rd

✓

Dear Dr. Pierce

Thank you for your letter - I am very
sorry that my sister still hears voices & is not
sleeping well - but it is a great comfort that she
is so contented with you - she writes that she is
happy & finds the place soothing - She has not
written home for 10 days & my mother worries a
good deal. I was wondering if my sister could have
some picture postcards as they would be much
easier for her to send than a letter.

I expect she was poorly last week & am very anxious
to know how she got through that time - Do make
it clear to her that my mother & I want her to do what
is best for her health - as to how long she stays with
you - until now my mother has always been so

anxious that she should be at home - but now
she understands that it is not good for her - & the
one thing she wants is that she shall get well -
I expect my sister has told you that she has taken
a furnished house at Fowey for 3 months from
September 2nd & she hopes to stay there with Miss
Heslop -

I am enclosing £7-7-0.

Believe me

yours very truly

Hora Bevington.

her & feel neglected -

I am enclosing £14-14-0 for
her for two weeks. I would
have sent before - but I understood
Dr. Macmenzie that an account
would be sent to me -

Believe me

yours truly

Flora Bevington.

593

Merle Wood,
Sebenoaks,
Kent.

July 14th

Dear Sir -

I am very anxious to
know how my sister Miss K
Bevington is - if she is still
hearing the voices & if she is
sleeping better - I was sorry
that a nurse had to sit up
with her at night as I was
afraid it would be more
difficult for her to sleep - and

The nurse who has looked after times - so I hope she will stay
her at night before has generally with you until she has been
had a bed & slept when my through that time next month.
sister slept. Kathleen has I may be able to leave my mother
written as though she were about the 24th for a little &
happy - but she complained could come to York if Kathleen
of not sleeping & she evidently really wanted me - but if she
did not feel herself - but that is content I think. The quieter
was early last week - she is the better - & relations
about now it will be her period are not good for mental
& she is always worse at these patients - only I don't want

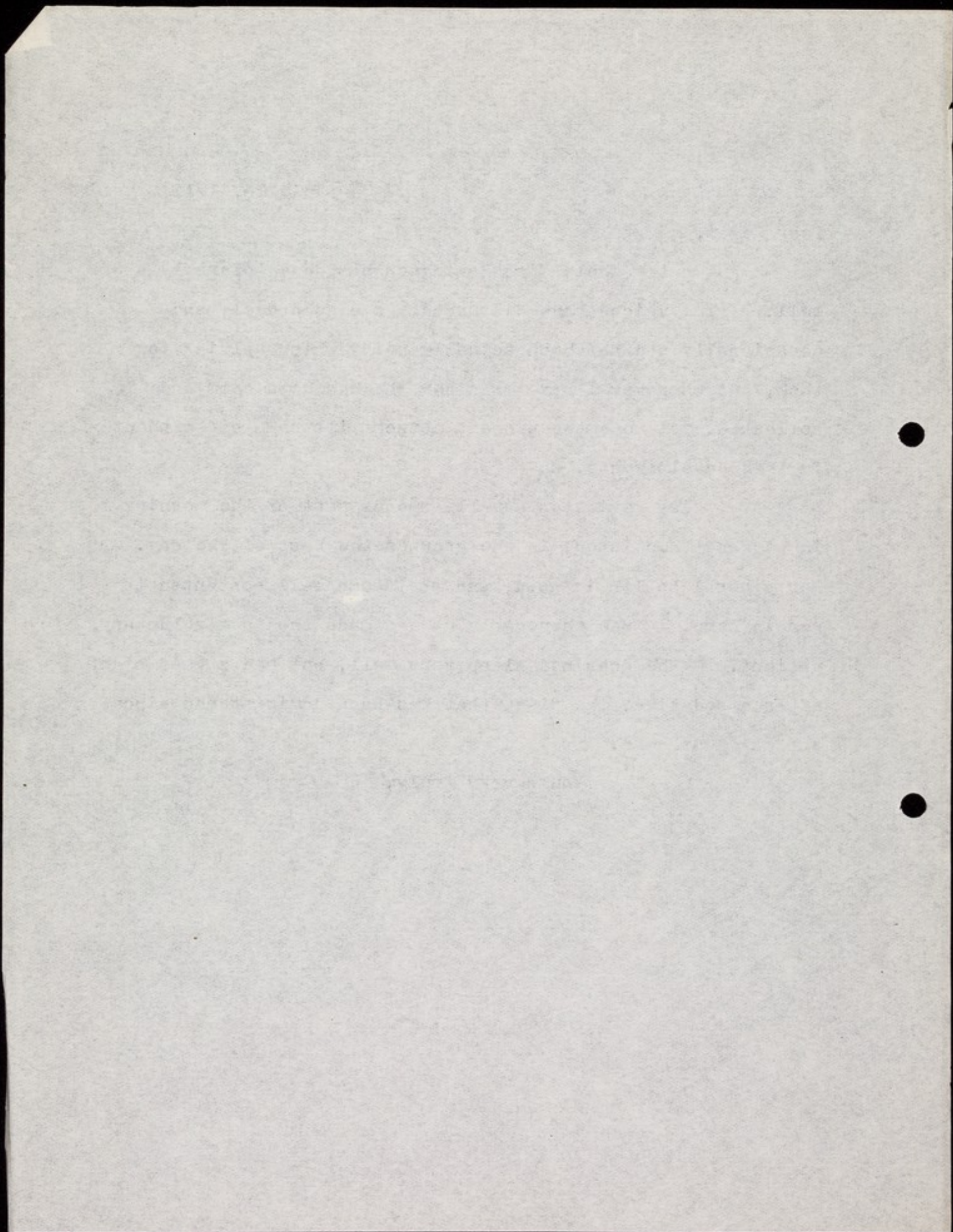
July 13, 1913

Dear Madam,

On the whole Miss Bevington has done tolerably well. The voices have disturbed her a good deal, and occasionally she has been actually noisy when replying to them, but whenever I have seen her she has been calm and collected. I hope the present attack will pass off without further developments.

Miss Bevington usually spends part of the morning in bed and then is out in the grounds the rest of the day. Her general health is good, and she seems well contented to remain here. She thoroughly understands she is a voluntary patient. She does not sleep very well, but had a good night after a sedative, the first that has been administered since she has been here.

Yours very truly,



543

Merle Wood,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

July 22nd

1913

Dear Sir—

I am writing my
sister Miss Kathleen Bevington
to the Retreat tomorrow
by the train arriving at
York 5-40— I do not
know if you have a

carriage to meet us - or
shall we take a cab -
Her friend is coming with
us & I should be glad
if you could put her
up for the night - she
has been sleeping with
her lately & my sister

would feel less strange
if she were in the same
house & could see her
after she was in bed -

Believe me
yours truly
Flora Bevington.

urge her to suicide, but which
she says she can resist.

She will probably not
volunteer this herself to you.

Her nurse & brother will
probably bring her up, and
you can arrange matters
with Col. Beverington then.

I have their leave for you
to certify her if necessary, but
they hope you will not do so
unless it is really ^{required.} necessary.

Yours very truly
John S. Terry

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

544
RIVERHEAD,
SEVENOAKS.

July 1st / 13

Dear Sir

Miss Beverington is coming
up to you on Thursday
next (3rd July), and would
like to have the single room
you mention, and a special
nurse.

She is better - talks quite
sensibly and quietly, but
the last day or two has
heard voices again which



June 30, 1913

Dear Sir,

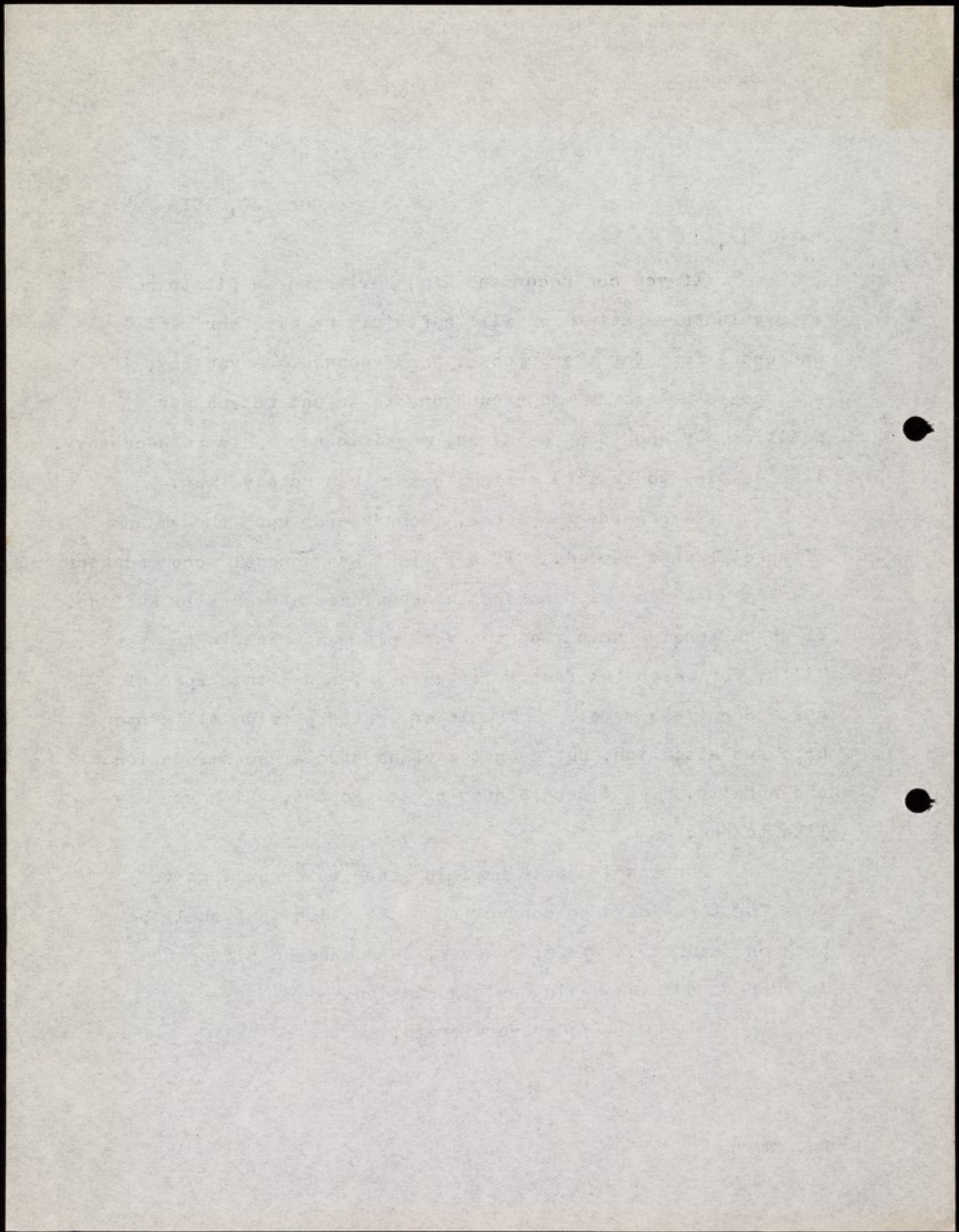
If you can recommend Miss Bevington as fit to come as a voluntary patient we will certainly receive her, and I enclose a form for the purpose. Of course, as you say, if she should get worse and become unable to understand her position, or has to be detained, certificates would be necessary. I am sending you a wire saying that we can receive her.

As regards the terms, much depends upon the amount of special care needed. If a patient has general accommodation and shares a room with others three guineas a week will suffice. If so happens we have vacant a very pleasant room in the West Villa, for which the fees are 5 guineas, and with a special nurse 2 guineas more. The lower rates provide all proper care and attention, but do not include special accommodation and nursing. I send a copy of the Report, which you may like to see.

Perhaps I should explain that tomorrow I go to town for three days to conduct an examination, but shall be back on Saturday. This, however, need make no difference in respect to Miss Bevington's admission.

Yours very truly,

Dr. Sterry



be. the middle of next
week, say about 2nd or 3rd July,
if you have room, so
will you send me a telegram
on receipt of this, and a
letter stating terms etc to
give them?

Yours very truly

John S Terry

MTRCS

TELEPHONE NO 12.

RIVERHEAD,
SEVENOAKS.

537
June 28.13

Dear Sir

You had a letter from
Mr. Beverington asking if you
could take his sister
Miss Kathleen Beverington, but
not quite representing the
facts in a clear way.

I am writing to say that
since he wrote she has
been worse, and must be
called mental, although

she is quite sensible and agrees to come to you if she can do so without being certified.

She has been at G. Tricehurst once on certificate ten years ago & once voluntarily seven years ago, & since then she has had a nurse at home & usually can travel, ride, walk etc & is perfectly right.

Just now she has been

a little noisy & irritable but I think this will probably settle down, and her family are anxious to send ~~her~~ her to you for a time, at any rate which her nurse has a holiday, without certificate, but I have their consent to giving you leave to have her certified if it became necessary.

We should like to send

Yr. a reference

Yr. faithfully

AKD Smington

534

Junior Army & Navy
Club
Horse Guards Avenue
London W

Dear Sir

I have been
asked to find out
whether you have
a vacancy for a

lady who requires
Care or is mentally
weak but mostly
kindle - she has
times of depression
I would like to
know whether you

take such cases or
any those ~~of~~ who are
quite unable to
take care of them
Also have you
more than one
house I am sure
kindly state - please