

Binder, Alice

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COUNTY OF YORK.

TELEPHONE NO 16.

West Riding Asylum.

Wakefield January 23. 1914

Dear Dr Bedford Pierce,

Your letter about the plans has very much surprised me. I note that I received them from you, and acknowledged their receipt, on the 22nd. September 1912. On the 3rd. October 1912 I received them from the West Riding Architect, and at once returned them to you, but I have no acknowledgement on your part that you received them. I cannot conceive therefore what can have happened to them, but the date of their return may possibly be a help to you as to whether you were at home or not at the time of their return.

The Committee here has bought a house, about a mile from the main building, and is putting me into it shortly. I do not know how such a plan will work, and certainly I have no special affection for the house, but ^{it} is a case of willy nilly.

Miss Nicholson has been fit for discharge for some time and would have been sent out before had I been able to get any single relative to be responsible for her. They ~~club~~ together to pay for her maintenance here. I hope however to get rid of her before long. I should say that she is as far as possible in her usual mental condition, though she may be, for all I know, a little more childish and facile, and perhaps a little more vain as regards her appearance, etc. She made several attempts at recovery before she finally got well. I always regard^{ed} her as a hysteric and similar both in appearance and symptomatology to the cases of hysteria which are common in Jews, but which many people never-the-less call "Dementia Praecox". I have never regarded any psychomotor symptoms whatever as definite evidence which would enable one to distinguish between hysteria and pre-

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mature Dementia. Miss Nicholson never showed any indication of mental confusion being, in her lucid intervals, perfectly clear in her mind. I mention this point because I lay stress on the existence of mental confusion and not on that of any psychomotor symptoms, although I know that it is usual amongst alienists to regard certain of the latter as in themselves unfavourable.

Judging from Miss Binder's behaviour during the first few days after her admission I do not think that much stress ~~may be~~ laid on the existence of any bruises whatever which are not major. I have looked at my notes and find that on the day after admission I myself saw bruises on the thigh and shoulder, but they were not important and I should not have been at all surprised if they were of very recent occurrence. Your nurse mentioned the fact that Miss Binder had had a succession of boils. When she was admitted the only severe one was at the back of her right shoulder.

I think it probable that the Commissioners write with regard to all bruises mentioned on the Statement of Admission and in view of the fact that bruises have been much more frequent of late I never omit to mention any present upon admission. Probably your nurses are not Trades Unionists.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. H. M. (Signature)

*P. H. M. to cause any muddle in the
above as I am in bed with flu & attack -
head 1M*

Jan. 21, 1914

Dear Dr. Shaw Bolton,

A note in my drawer states that the plans of my house were lent to you in September 1912. We do not seem to have had them back, and as they are the only ones we have we should like to have them if they have not already been sent. I hope your new house will be as comfortable as mine has proved. I think if we were building afresh we should make very few alterations indeed. In fact, the general disposition of the rooms is all that can be desired.

I hear from the nurse who was over with Miss Binder that Miss Nicholson was about to be discharged recovered. If so, this is a most interesting case, as I always looked upon the case as hopeless, and thoroughly typical of Dementia Praecox. Particulars would be very interesting.

I have heard from the Commissioners respecting Miss Binder's bruises. There seems to be some difference of opinion between the nurse who examined the patient on arrival at Wakefield and our nurse who was present at the time, our nurse stating that the only bruises existing were on the leg and that there were none on the thigh and shoulder. I wonder if our nurse explained that Miss Binder had had a succession of boils since her admission to the Retreat.

Yours very truly,

Jan. 21, 1914

Alice Binder

Dear Sir,

In respect to your enquiry about Miss Binder, I have to say that the two bruises below the knee on the right leg were reported by the Sister in charge to Dr. Birnie before she left the Retreat, and I am informed they probably occurred at a time when the patient, in an attack of violence, was attempting to throw about a number of heavy chairs which were really too heavy for her to lift. I am informed that there were no other bruises, and that Sister Annie Naylor was present when the patient was examined on her arrival at the West Riding Asylum. There was a mark of a recent boil on the right shoulder and a new boil was under treatment, there being a fomentation upon it when she was transferred, the patient having had a succession of boils since her admission to the Retreat. I may say, generally, that the patient was extremely violent and abusive, constantly kicking, fighting and spitting at the nurses and people about her.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,

Lunacy Commission

Jan. 21, 1914

Alice Binder

Dear Sir,

In respect to your enquiry about Miss Binder, I
have to say that the two pictures below the right
leg were reported by the doctor in charge to Dr. Smith before
she left the hospital, and I am informed they probably occurred
at a time when the patient, in an attack of violence, was
attempting to throw about a number of heavy chairs which
were really too heavy for her to lift. I am informed that
there were no other pictures, and that Sister Annie Taylor
was present when the pictures examined on her arrival at
the West Riding Asylum. There was a mark of a recent fall
on the right shoulder and a new fall was under the hand,
there being a laceration upon it when she was transferred,
the patient having had a seizure of bolts since her admission
to the Asylum. I may say, generally, that the patient
was extremely violent and abusive, constantly kicking, light-
ing and spitting at the nurses and people about her.

I remain,

In respect to your enquiry about Miss Binder, I

Dear Sir,

Alice Binder

Jan. 21, 1914

The Secretary,

Lunacy Commission

WILTON HOUSE,
ROTHERHAM.

5 Jan 1914.

D. Purice

Dear Sir

Thanks for
your letter of 29
December. I am
sorry this matter
is proving an unsuitable
case. I am forwarding
the information to
Mr. Bueckers Esq.

Yours truly

S. B. Wolfe Moore

WILLIAM K. KELLY
MAINTENANCE

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.

19th January, 1914.

Sir,

Miss Alice Binder.

With reference to the recent removal of
this patient from York Retreat to the Wakefield
Asylum, I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy
to inform you that the Medical Statement from that
Asylum includes a statement that on admission thereto
she had bruises on the right leg and thigh and a
bruise on the right shoulder. The Commissioners
would be obliged if you will kindly inform them how
these bruises were sustained.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

for the Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent,

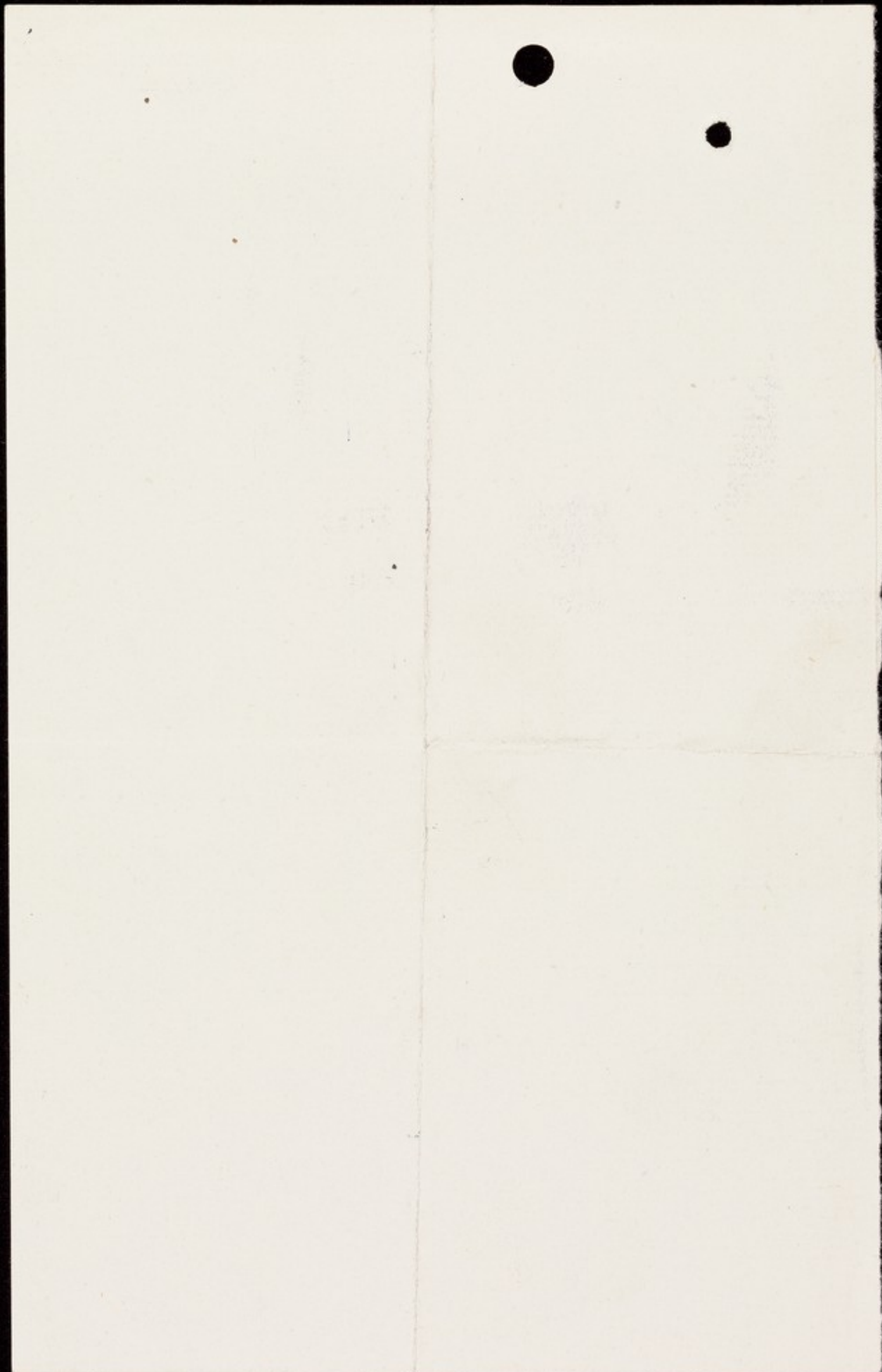
York Retreat.

Only known Cause of bruises kicking & banging
against anything or anyone who came anywhere
near her -

5.
Black Wood Lane
Lewiston
Providence

Dear Sir I received your
letter this morning re. my
sister, & I am sorry that
she is so noisy of course
I understand why as it
is not right for the other
patients to be annoyed
I am making arrangements
to have her removed as
soon as possible. I will
write you when arranged

Yours Truly
F Lord



525
Walter Wood Allen
Lewiston (Swanton)
Jan 3rd 1864

Dear Sir

Thank you very
much for writing me
about my sister. I am sorry
that she is so noisy. ~~as~~
as up to about a fortnight
before her removal, she
was very quiet. I think
it may be to her removal
away. I hope she will
quieten down. as it
is a very anxious time
to me. It would you

be kind enough to write
again & tell me if there
is a little change in her.

Thanking you for being
so kind as to inform me
how she is.

Yours Truly
F. Lord

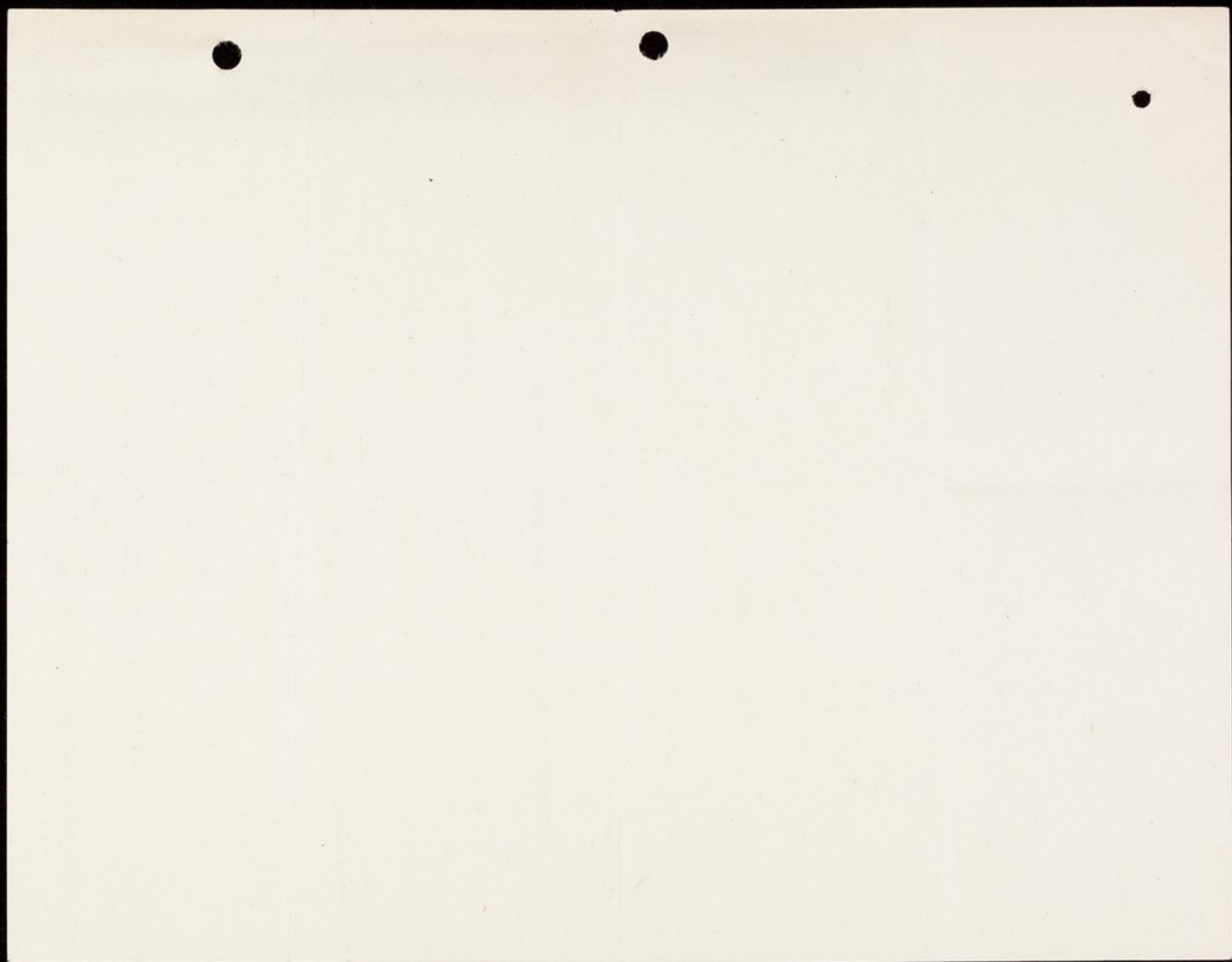
513
Waltham Wood Farm
Lewiston

Dear Sir

Ans.
Ans B.

Will you
please be so kind
as to send me word
how my sister is
Miss Kinder, as I
feel very anxious about
her. I should like to
know if there is a little
change in her.

Yours Truly
F. Lord



Jan. 5, 1914

Dear Madam,

I am sorry to say that Miss Binder does not improve, and her constant noise and bad language are very distressing to our patients. The Retreat is not a large enough place to isolate such patients from the rest, and I am therefore compelled to ask you to remove Miss Binder to some other institution.

Having settled where she is to go, the only step that is necessary is for you to write to the Commissioners in Lunacy, 66 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, asking for their consent to the removal.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Lord

Jan. 5, 1914

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that you are

unwell, and hope you will get better soon.

I am very sorry to hear that you are

unwell, and hope you will get better soon.

I am very sorry to hear that you are

unwell, and hope you will get better soon.

I am very sorry to hear that you are

unwell, and hope you will get better soon.

I am very sorry to hear that you are

unwell, and hope you will get better soon.

Yours very truly,

John G. Thompson

John G. Thompson

Dec. 29, 1913

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to say we are not getting on very well with Miss Binder. She has not shown any signs of improvement as yet, and the difficulty of the case is that she is extremely noisy. She screams at the top of a very powerful voice, using the most objectionable language which can be heard all over the house. This causes much distress to other patients as the Retreat is not a large enough place to allow of our isolating the noisy patients from quiet and orderly ones. We will do our best for a little longer, but if there is no improvement I think we shall have to ask the friends to remove her, as it is really a case for one of the larger County Asylums.

Yours very truly,

Binder

Wm. Wood Lane⁴⁵⁹
Lewiston

Dear Sir I am sorry
that the papers were
not filled in as you
required them. as I
am afraid now that
I have not done it very
well. but hope you
will excuse mistakes
as it has been such
a terrible anxiety

To me my sister
been in the state she
is in, but I have
great trust that under
your care she will
~~be~~ come to herself
again, will you
please write as soon
as you think there
is the slightest change

in her. for you cannot
imagine what a trouble it
is to me, for in a sense she
was my mother. as Mother
died when she was very young
& she was as a Mother to
me. I

Remain

Yours truly
& fondly

Dec. 19, 1913

Dear Madam,

We have heard from the Commissioners in Lunacy that Miss Binder's Reception Order is invalid, no Petition having been presented to the Magistrate. This means that she must be re-certified if she is to remain here.

We will get the two Medical Certificated and obtain the Magistrate's Order in York, but it will be necessary for you or some other relative acting for you to come over to see Miss Binder and present the Petition to the Magistrate in person. It will be quite all right for you to come tomorrow, Saturday, or on Monday, but it should not be deferred later than this.

Yours very truly,

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.,

18th December, 1913 .

SIR, With reference to your letter of the 10th inst.,
_____ The Commissioners in Lunacy desire me to point out that
the reception of Alice Binder
is irregular by reason of the fact that no petition was presented to
the Justice before the Order was signed for the patient's
reception.

I am directed, therefore, to say that this patient cannot now be
legally detained on the authority of the existing Reception Order, and I
am to request that, when the patient is discharged, formal notice of
such Discharge may be sent to this Office in the usual way.

Should it appear that the patient's further detention is advisable,
such detention can only be legalised by obtaining a fresh Reception Order.

A patient who is dangerous to himself (or herself) or to others should
on no account be set at large, and, to avoid any risk, the Commissioners will
not object to the examination for recertification taking place in the
Institution.

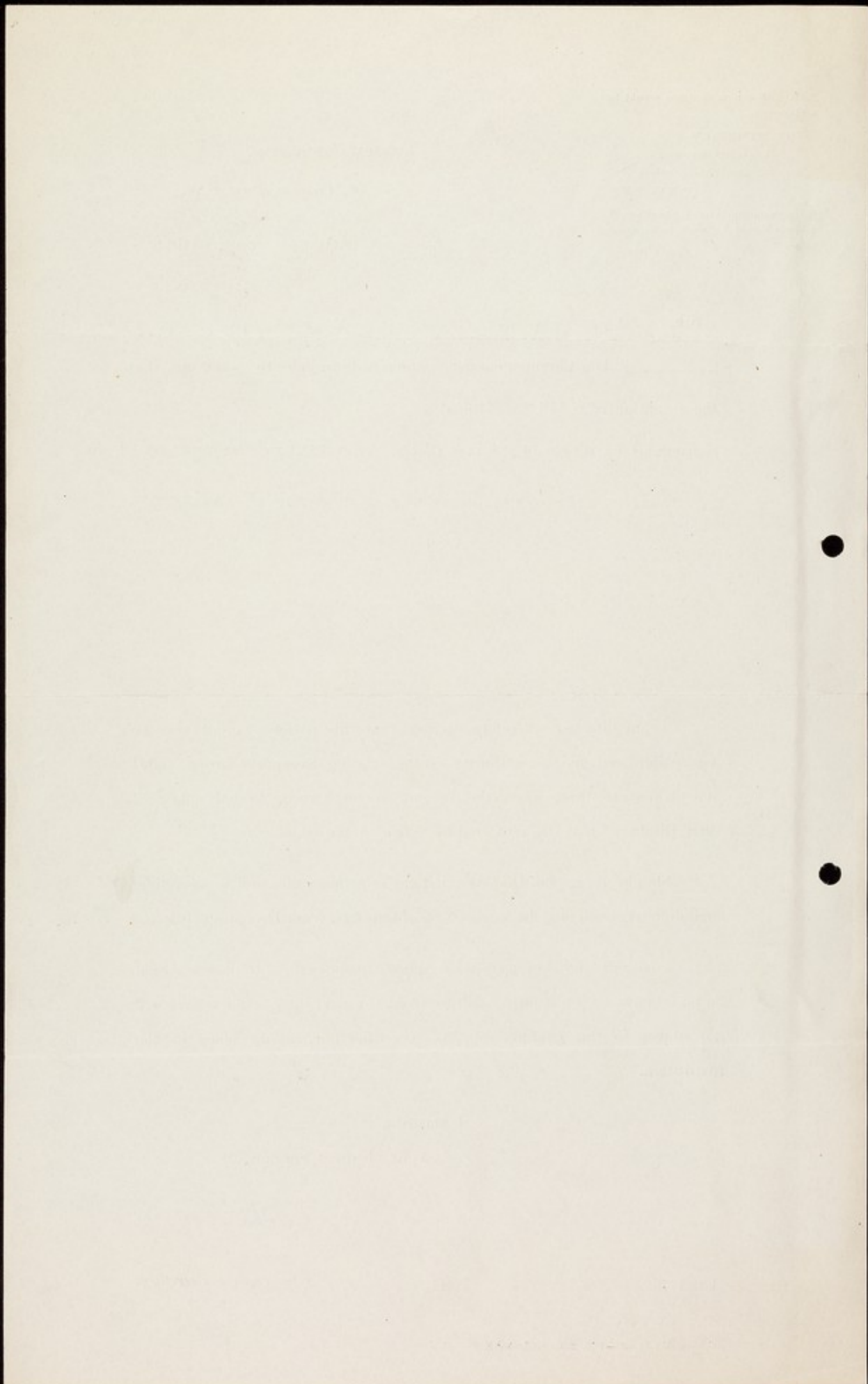
I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

A.S. Wild

The Medical Superintendent,
York Retreat.

for the Secretary.



Dec. 18 1913.

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of
the Retreat Committee the terms
for Alice Bunker were fixed at
3 guineas a week -

Enclosed the usual form of
agreement which please return
to me when completed:

Yours faithfully

Wm. E. Waller
Secy.

Walter Bunker Ey.

Dec. 18 1913.

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of
the Robert Committee the same
for their books are first of
efficiency a book -
because the usual form of
agreement which these books
are then completed.

Yours faithfully
W. C. C. C. C. C.

Walter C. C. C. C.