

Booth, J. E.

Publication/Creation

1906-1913

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cxxpv7qh>

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>

your letter with the
addresses in it, - for
possible future use. If-
I thought it best to
so & see O. Percy Smith
I could perhaps mention
your name without troubling
you to write.

With many thanks.
There is of course no
need to answer this.
I shall feel quite unhappy
if you do not present my
too small cheque. - You
see the night-nurse has been
dispensed with. Yours sincerely
A. J. Booth

199, Ichniold Way.
Letchworth.
Herts.

Sept: 8th 1913.

Dear O. Percy -

I am very much
obliged for your letter.
I ought not to have
said what I did about
the Matron, when I could
not explain more fully.
- but it was rather tricky
to find she could stop
a special night-nurse at
once - with no bad result. I've

says to-day that Mr. Booth does quite well without the nurse, (who was not required for anything but to sit in his room)

I see nothing for it but to leave Mr. Booth there until something fresh occurs. I am now over 60, & not at all well. It would be impossible for me to

get him away - even with a nurse, - as he now thinks of nothing but the probability of my stopping one relative.

And the D^r in that letter I sent you declared Mr. Booth could not take a railway-journey. & the matron in hers said "you will never be able to get him away."

Mr. Booth does not want ^{anyone else} to allow her ^{to} do so! -
I will ~~not~~ keep

199, Icknield Way -
Letchworth - Herts.
Sept: 12th 1913

Dear O? Pierce,

I wrote at once to

O? MacGillivuddy, & the Nursing Home
saying decidedly that I could no
longer pay any such terms! The
O? has not replied, - and I send
you the Matron's letter (also some others
in which she describes Mr. Booth's
state). I am so disgusted at her
lowering her terms at once that I
don't want to agree to ~~the~~ them.

If she can do without a night-nurse
now she could have done it months
ago. ^{I often said I could not afford to pay for it -} But it is much more likely
she has not had this special nurse
at all! I can't believe anything
she says!! - If I could only get
Mr. Booth to London! - but how

to get him cured? - She will make
him unmanageable, - even if he is
not so.

I am sorry to say I really
think the D^r is in collusion with
her - or else ^{entirely} influenced by her.

Perhaps they share these extra profits.
- She never lets me see Mr. Booth at
once if I so unexpectedly, & I when
I so he has had some seclusive, &
is quite stupid. - And since the ^{thing}
for drugs has been brought on again
he never wants to see ^{me} (tho' he was most
conscious before) - & last time quite
refused - so she said! If I agree

to these terms I shall still feel quite
unhappy about it all. Would it be
possible to get a Doctor (not too busy a
man) to go with a good attendant
to ^{Wigmore} London - in the first place, - &
later to St Andrews, possibly as a
voluntary patient - Once there he would
never dream of giving notice. He
(he hasn't sense enough)

2/ has no money or valuables on him
- he gave all to me - his nerves
are in a bad state - & mentally
he is much weaker than when
he came to you - in consequence of
the stroke. He can't write or read
letters. So is completely in the hands
of these people! If he became

very violent or excitable any D?
who went could sign an urpence
certificate. I even feel that I ^{indefinitely} ~~would~~
be better than leaving him ^{where}
he is - I hope if the D? was very
firm, & took ^{with him} some good sedative
he might give little trouble - & might
even get as far as St Northampton.

All money matters are in my control.
- Mr Booth would have nothing to do with
them. - I wish I could have seen
~~seen~~ you - I am so sorry to trouble
you - in your holidays - Do present the message
in haste - Yours sincerely -
A. Booth
(over)

She £2-7-0 per week ~~included~~
mentioned in the Matron's letter
would not include D's fees, chemist,
or washing, &c - fees at

St Andrews are inclusive, unless
the circumstances are very special.

The income from Mr Booth's firm
ceased many years ago - all the
20 years since this trouble began
I have been strenuously economical -
- or now there would possibly
have been nothing to live on,
of all Mr Booth's former resources.

If you think I am not-wise
in wanting still to remove him
- please say so.

D. Ward -
Pendennis
Aberystwyth
Brommunt

199, Schield Way
Letchworth

Private

Aug: 21st 1913

Not re 'The Retreat'

Dear O. Pierce.

- I am so sorry to
● trouble you again. In April I
wrote you about Mr Booth ^{and Co. Dorchester} & you
advised me to have him certified. Now
in August he is still at the same Nursing
Home & they are charging more than
they did - because his nerves are worse
& he will not be left alone at night.
● This I know is in consequence of the
"sedatives" (whatever they are) he has been
having all this time. - Oh I believe the
Matron tries to give him as little as possible.
I have been anxious to get Mr. Booth
into St Andrews Hospital for Mental Diseases
Northampton - as I hear such good accounts
of it, & it is near here. ^{The doctor} ~~They~~ agreed

2

as his D^r would not ^{artfully}

ask to take him ^{reluctantly} as a voluntary patient, if he would go willingly -

I send you his D^r's letter ⁽²⁾ as to the result of trying to persuade him.

Mr. Booth is not capable of judging what is best for him to do, - and he

is now - once more, as years ago -
 { terribly afraid of going where his
 sedatives might be stopped. You see
 the D^r advises me to leave him where
 he is. I would, if it were not possible
 for him to live for years. As it is
 I am paying to the Nursing Home
 & the D^r (chiefly the former, - the D^r has
 been for him I suppose, moderate in his
 charges) - ~~or~~ what ^{unpleasant} practically amounts
 to the whole of the small income there
 is now, - and so am spending capital.

Lately I had begun to talk to
 D^r Crowley about it, - he lives

3 here as you know. But he had
to go to America for two months
last week. ~~You see~~ The D^r &
Malron say now Mr. B. can't
travel. Previously they said he
could go anywhere I wished.
• D^r M. is quite kind, - but very
not a mental ^{expert} guide under the influence
undecided. ^{who is very ignorant but strong}
• The Malron at the Home
• No D^r in Bournemouth would go
in & certify in face of D^r M's
opposition - And it would put me
in the most unpleasant position
of insisting on it. I can't
think what is the best thing
to do - as I suppose such a case
would ^{not} be taken at the Hospital
- or any public institution in
Bournemouth. To forgive me
asking you your opinion again.

4) And if it is not customary to ^{receive} ~~pay~~
any fee for a letter - please apply
the enclosed towards the comfort
or pleasure of some patients - not
even as well off as I am!

Do you know any Doctor in
^{take over the case on a line from you}
B - who could I would ^{help} ~~help~~
^{removing} ^{Mr. B. to some place he knows, in the 4th instance?}
his wretched medical etiquette
hinders so sometimes. I never
understand it.

She at P. A. Northampton said
they would take Mr. Booth for
2 guineas a ^{all the time} week. That I could
be so on paying. Tho' it is difficult.

Now the cost is more than 4
guineas a week - absolutely ridiculous
in our circumstances! And when I think
of the thousands that were squandered years
ago!!! -
repards Very sincerely - with kind
Ada Booth

April 17, 1913

Dear Mrs. Booth,

I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Booth is so poorly, and I fear it will be a month, if not more, before I go to Bournemouth to see my patient.

I should think the wiser course is for him to be placed in some recognized institution, and would suggest your considering Herison, near Dorchester, which is a modern house for private patients, belonging to the Dorset County Council. It is quite a good place, and he would get the best of care. We are over full at the Retreat, and there seems no likelihood of a vacancy on the Men's side for a long time.

With regard to sedatives, I should doubt whether they would do him much harm in his present condition, though I doubt whether their administration does much good in the long run. There is, however, no likelihood that they would be giving him cocaine or any of its derivatives.

I am very sorry to hear of your anxiety, and wish I could help you more.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

1924

1925

1926

1927

1928

1929

1930

1931

1932

1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

thing that troubles me
is that the people of
this private nursing
home (a nurse of experience
- her husband & her young
daughter & some young
helpers) are not people
who have inspired me with
a right sort of
confidence & I feel
very unhappy about
Mr. Booth possibly ending
his life there. He can't
communicate with me
of course, & when I go
there they shun him

278

199, Schiold Way
Letchworth
Herts.

April 15th 1913.

Private.

Dear Dr. Pierce -

Have you any patient
whom you go to see at
Bournemouth now?

You will remember my
husband - Mr. Booth - very
well of course, - after all

you did for him. He was
taken ill about 4 months
ago with cerebral haemorrhage.
It was not a severe attack
- but on hearing his previous
history (- some of it -) the
Doctor thought he would
probably soon have another
attack. But he has
lived on - quite incapable
of doing anything, - reading
or writing etc, - & his power
of expressing himself properly

was gone - tho' in that
he improved. The Doctor
said he had better go into
a nursing Home there
- that was practically the
only thing to be done.

If you do ever go to
Bournemouth now, I
should be so grateful
if you could call &
see him. I don't know
whether you could - as
another Doctor has him
in his care. But the

^{- not certified or not -}
take him back to York?
I would pay as much
as I possibly could. It
would be a great relief to
feel he was with you.

In a letter it is difficult
to explain why I feel
unhappy about his
stopping all the time with
these people. They will
not be unkind probably
- or neglect him.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely
Ada Booth.
<sup>Of course I see that
it is probably necessary
to use quieting medicines.</sup>

278
^{more} quieting stuff of some
sort to keep him from
being excited. ^{he is apathetic} He has
- so they say - been very
excited occasionally -
& if they did not keep
him "quiet" he would
have to be certified & sent
somewhere. The Doctor
- a Mr. MacGillivuddy -
admitted that the
last time I saw him
I can't set to know
what is given him.

When I asked the nurse
to let me see the last
prescription an excuse
was made.

So it looks as if Mr.
Booth would end his
life being given drugs
by other people! - And
now ^{again} he seems to care
for nothing else as long
as he can get something
of the kind. His nerves
are of course in a

very bad state & he
would be left alone at
all. She told me
that he would not feel
being certified - as he wishes
to be under control - &
to feel there is someone
to restrain him.

You see Mr. Booth may
live much longer than
seems probable - he ~~is~~
well &c

Is there any chance
of your being able to

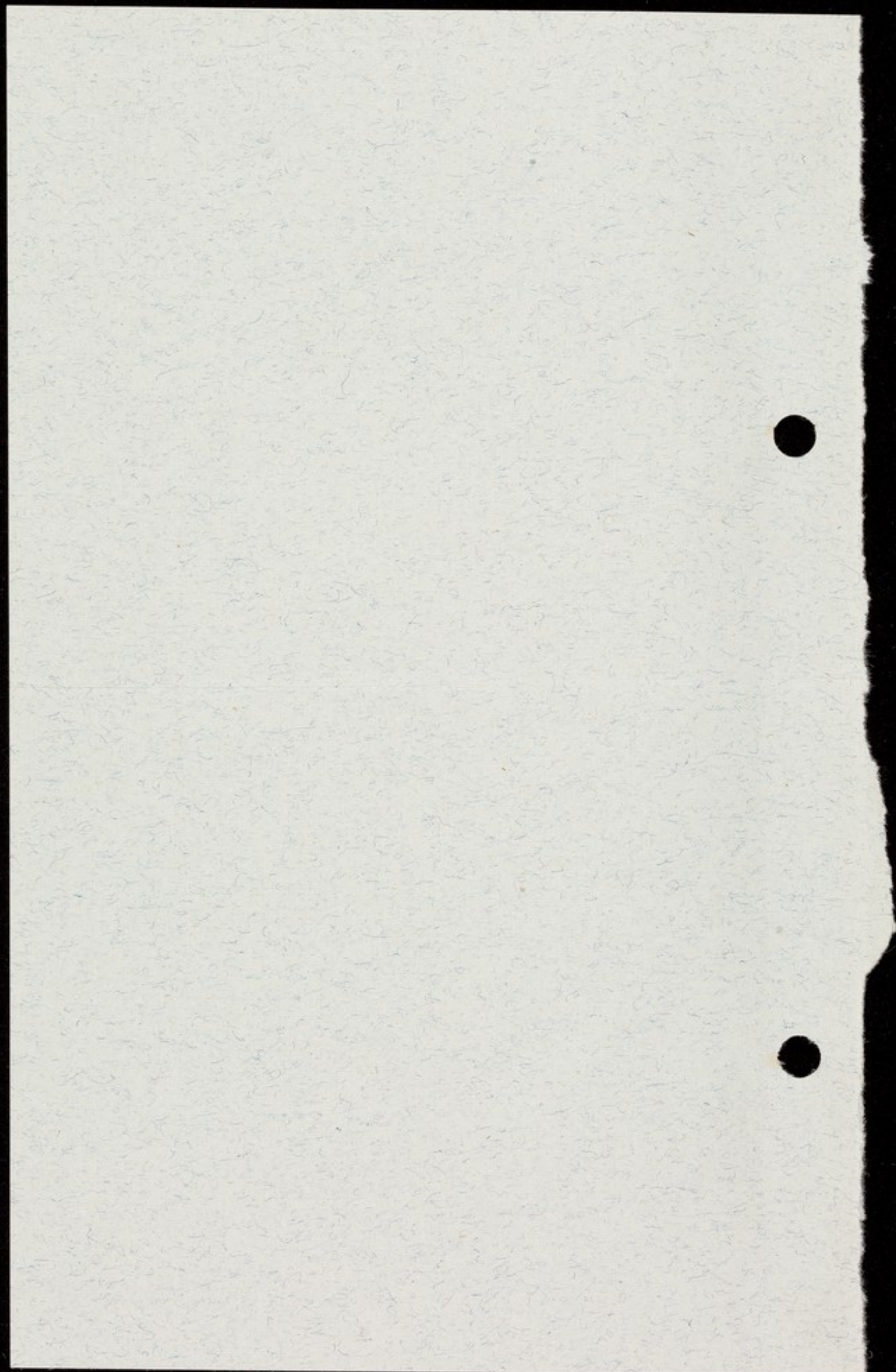
(888)

Hutley
1 Spencer Road
Bournemouth.

Nov. 4. 1906.

Dear Dr. Price.

I now send you
my new address as
above, according to promise,
and shall hope to hear
from you when you are
about to make your
expected visit in the
winter - I remain truly &
most kind regards
Yours sincerely
M^r Edw^d Booth



Will you please give my
kind regards to any who
may still remember me
and with gratitude for
your personal kindness.

I am, Dear Mr. Pierce
yours sincerely
Mr. Edw. B. B. B.

728
424 Holdenhurst Road
Bournemouth -

Sept. 24. 1906.

Dear Mr. Pierce,

Will you be kind
enough to let me know what
you would like me to do
with the Bicycle - I have
made repeated efforts to learn to
ride but with little success.
The French par & Indian make
it a very nervous business
here and reach a day
faster that I do not hear of

or see an accident of some
kind or other - I am
sorry to say moreover that
the Mechanic has suffered
considerably. I am some-
what ashamed of the
condition I have allowed
it to fall into - but for
this I fear I can only
ask your indulgence and
I must do whatever you
wish about it. -

I think I am better
upon the whole than when

you last saw me but am
still very weak, offy and
depressed - I am thinking
of moving from here very
soon to try if the change
will accomplish anything
for me. That is if I can
muster up courage enough
about which I am far from
confident - I heard that
Mr Thompson had gone to
see Mr. his sister again
and hope that of this time
he has completely recovered -