

**Brison, Winifred**

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1913-1915

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Acct. sent to Alfred Brisson.

20 AUG 1915

1250  
TELEPHONE NO. 9.

1 Duncan Place  
York  
~~20, RAMSHILL ROAD,~~  
~~SCARBOROUGH.~~

Aug 16. 15

Dear Sir,

I find in reference  
that the account of  
£2.2. enclosed was for  
remaking a book set  
of talks for Mrs Brisson  
in January 6<sup>th</sup>

The 10/6 paid in  
February would be for

an account of the

previous year.

The enclosed account  
has not been sent in

previously

Yours faithfully

T. E. Constant J.



2nd February, 1915.

Dear Friend,

I received in due course the transfer papers for Miss Brison, and she is going to the Pleasaunce this afternoon. She does not seem at all pleased at the idea of leaving now the time has come, and she declares that she did not appeal to a member of the Committee to be removed to another Institution. This is the sad part of it that she does not remember what she has said, and consequently it is difficult to make an appeal to her.

I think that I explained when I wrote to you before that I told Dr. Baugh that if he found Miss Brison extremely difficult to deal with, and was unable to cope with the case we would receive her back. I hope, however, that such a course will not be necessary, and that the change will be beneficial.

I remain,

Yours very truly,







(8)  
21st January, 1915.

Dear Friend,

a member of the Committee received an appeal from Miss Brison, asking to be transferred to another Institution, and seeing that she is so discontented I am requested to write to see whether a change of surroundings will do any good. With this in view I made enquiries as to whether Dr. and Mrs. Baugh would be willing to receive her at the Pleasaunce. I have explained the difficulties of the case fully to them, and they are prepared to try. I have, however, told them that if it is found not to be a success after a reasonable trial we would certainly receive Miss Brison back, as we do not wish to avoid fulfilling our obligations to members of the Society of Friends. The only point in my mind is to see whether anything can be done to make her more contented. I may perhaps explain that Dr. Baugh has only recently taken over the Pleasaunce, and I have formed a very high opinion of him, and, as you will see from the enclosed prospectus, his wife is also a medical woman. I told them that I did not think you could pay more than you are now doing. This is a very small fee for a private house, but they said they would be



(2)

willing to take her at that, provided Miss Brison's coming did not mean their increasing their staff on her account. If you approve of this suggestion will you please write to the Board of Control, 66 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., asking for their consent to the transfer, and they will send you the necessary papers.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



339.

32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

10/1/1915

Dear Doctor Pierce

Thank you for writing me about Winifred's accident to her teeth and for arranging for her to have them repaired at York, it would have been useless to send them here, as she wrote us she wished to do.

I am <sup>very</sup> sorry to hear of her violence to other patients and nurses, thus making her very difficult to deal with & her general dissatisfaction is just part of her trouble & is the same at home or wherever she has been placed.

I am much obliged to you for sending me the letter written by Winifred to her cousin, it would have been a great annoyance for us, had it been forwarded to him. May I take this opportunity of asking if arrangements can be made for all her letters to relatives

or others, can be forwarded <sup>to us</sup> here.

Some time since during Doctor  
Burnie's absence from York, Winifred  
wrote an aged aunt, who was  
much upset by receiving the letter  
I should feel it a relief if all  
her letters could be forwarded here.

Yours sincerely  
Alfred Prisson



8th January, 1915.

Dear Mr. Brison,

I am sorry to say that Miss Brison has had an accident with her teeth, and she has had to pay two or three visits to the dentist for repairs.

In some respects Miss Brison has been rather calmer lately, but she is still very uncertain, and is often violent, sometimes attacking a patient or nurse without the slightest provocation, due apparently to some sudden hallucination. I hardly think that she properly remembers what she does. Thus a day or two ago she gave a patient a bad kick, and afterwards said that it was quite an accident. She is very discontented, persistently wishing to go away. I send you a letter which perhaps you will forward if you think it desirable.

Although I have given you this bad account I should add that a casual visitor might find Miss Brison perfectly cheerful and apparently well controlled and sane. The other day she demanded to see the Committee, but when she was visited by two members of the Committee she said she had nothing whatever to say, and had forgotten all about it.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



Dear Mr. Briston,

I am sorry to say that Miss Briston has had an accident with her teeth, and she has had to pay two or three visits to the dentist for repairs.

In some respects Miss Briston has been rather calmer lately, but she is still very uncertain, and is often violent, sometimes attacking a patient or nurse without the slightest provocation, due apparently to some sudden hallucination. I hardly think that she properly remembers what she does.

Thus on Thursday

8th January, 1915.

7th. October, 1914.

Dear Mr. Bryson,

Many thanks for your letter. Since I wrote to you things have been perhaps a little better, and under such circumstances one always is inclined to look at matters differently.

I rather hesitate to recommend a change to another Institution in the North of England. I doubt whether it would, at this time of the year, assist very much, and one must not forget that in spite of all the outbursts of temper and consequences therefrom, Miss Bryson does not dislike the staff at the Retreat. The storms very quickly blow over, and she is on quite good terms with the nurses with whom there has been trouble. I think the best plan therefore will be for us to persevere longer, and if things do get very difficult I must write you again. I quite agree with you that anything in the neighbourhood of Bristol would be undesirable.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Alfred Bryson, Esq.,  
32, Archfield Road,  
Cotham, Bristol.



My dear Mr. [Name],

I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are still in the same good health and enjoying your work. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are still in the same good health and enjoying your work. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

I am, dear Mr. [Name], very truly yours,

[Signature]



32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1914

Dear Doctor Pierce

It is with much regret that I hear of my daughter giving so much trouble at the Retreat. I shall be very sorry to make any change for her, as my wife & self feel that the best possible is being done for her at York, and we think that a change for a short time elsewhere does not offer much prospect of permanent improvement, but just whilst the novelty wore off she might appear somewhat better in a fresh place but from our past experience we feel that she would not long get on with nurses & others without giving trouble. We should feel much less satisfied about treatment she might receive elsewhere than we now do.

Still as you think a change might do her good, we should be

willing to try, if we could provide it  
would not involve additional expense  
or long railway journey.

We think it would be undesirable  
for her to be at all near Bristol  
for she would beg us again to come  
home

In our opinion she is quite as happy  
at the Retreat or more so than she would  
be elsewhere, but it is unfortunately  
part of her trouble that she does not  
see that she well off there

Can you recommend an Institution  
at no great distance from York  
where the fees would not be higher  
than at the Retreat as I am at  
present doing as much as my circumstances  
admit of

Thanking you for your kind  
letter I am yours sincerely  
Alfred Pearson



2nd Oct. 1914.

Dear Mr. Brison,

We are in some difficulty to know how to manage in respect to Miss Brison who has become increasingly troublesome of late. The case is a difficult one, for a short period she is comparatively rational, talks reasonably and joins in the games, and then suddenly she becomes irritable, quarrelsome, violent and almost dangerous. Thus when playing a game of tennis she quarrels with the others in an outrageous way. Often she is noisy, perhaps most of the night, screaming in a petulant, childish way, and if anybody tries to pacify her she is abusive. This general condition you are I fear already familiar with, but it has become rather worse of late. We have tried her in four different departments of the Retreat, and we have now almost exhausted our resources, and none of the sisters in charge wish to have her back again for she tries the patience of the staff very seriously. As a general principle it is not wise to press patients under nurses with whom they do not get on, and it has occurred to me whether you would not like to remove Miss Brison to another



Institution for say six months to see if the change would do her good. We do not in the least wish to get rid of her except that it would seem to me that the change might benefit her, and we would willingly receive her back if it did not answer. Perhaps a change to somewhere in the South of England would be pleasant for her. She is quite unfit to be at home and I fear must remain under care. I am sorry to have to give such a poor account.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



1st July, 1914.

Dear Mr. Brison,

I think it very likely that Miss Brison would distinctly prefer to remain at the Retreat, but asked you about it so that we should be at liberty to arrange a visit to Scarborough should she express a wish to go. I think the better plan is to leave it until the autumn, as there are many games and amusements going on here, and patients going to Throxenby after the summer season are not charged extra fees.

She has been doing rather better lately, and is quite an adept at picking gooseberries. We pay a little an hour for doing this work. She is also enjoying the games of tennis and so forth.

Yours very truly,



1st July, 1911

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I think it very likely that this Wilson  
would naturally prefer to remain at the Forest,  
but would you mind if so that he should be at liberty  
to change a visit to Leighton, should he express  
a wish to do so. I think the best plan is to leave  
it until the autumn, as there are many things and  
business with regard to the Forest, and I think it would  
be better to wait until the autumn season is not changed  
extensively.

He has been doing the work better lately,  
and is doing an amount of writing now. He  
has a little to do now for doing his work. He is also  
enjoying the game of tennis and so forth.  
Yours very truly,



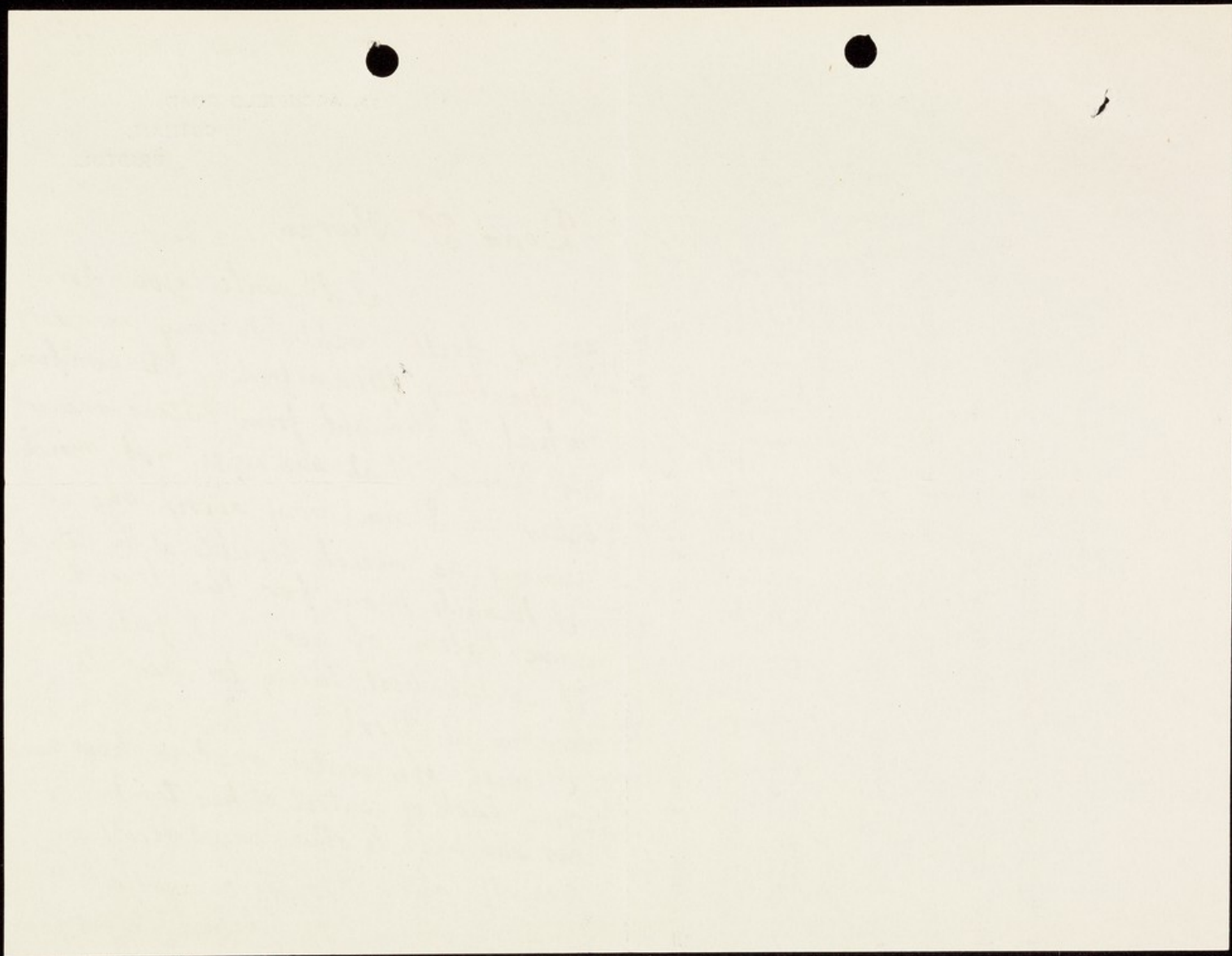
32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I thank you for  
your full reply to my enquiry  
respecting Winnifred. It confirms  
what I thought from letters received  
at home, that she was not much  
better. I am very sorry she is  
giving so much trouble at the Retreat.

I thank you for the kind  
care taken of her. I feel sure  
it is the best thing for her to  
remain at York.

I wish she could realize how much  
her lack of control of her temper &  
her conduct to others must recoil on  
herself later. Yours sincerely  
Alfred Perceon





14th. May, 1914.

Dear Mr. Brison,

I had been thinking of writing to you in respect to your daughter, as the general position remains unsatisfactory. It is quite true that the Commissioners were here on Saturday, but they did not recommend Miss Brison's discharge nor was the subject raised at all.

I am at a loss to know what more can be done. She is very discontented, constantly begs to be allowed to go home, and yet clearly lacks self control. She is very uncertain in temperament, and she can only be employed in a fitful, unsatisfactory way. If she is playing tennis she is frequently abusive to the other persons playing, and even breaks up a game by taking away the balls and preventing others from taking part.

She is often very abusive and frequently cannot associate with our more intelligent patients. At other times she suddenly bursts out weeping for no apparent reason, and if sympathised with, may break out in a storm of indignation.



When excited she talks in a rambling way about a man, but it is difficult to know what she means.

I am sorry to have to give you such a poor account, but it is quite clear she is unfit to go home, and I cannot see how anything better could be done. I only wish I could see some signs of real recovery.

Yours very truly,



454

32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,

COTHAM,

BRISTOL

13/V/1914

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce

My wife has received a letter from Winifred to day in which she tells us that the Commission saw her last Saturday & that she has been told by a nurse that she could come home now if we wrote you & begs her mother to write you to send her home.

Winnie adds "the Doctors think I am better". "I will try to be good". "I do not like West Villa". "I like the centre". "I do fret so to come home".

Remembering all that happened last autumn, & the relief it has been to my wife & daughter & self to have Winnie where she can be safely cared for. I should like to be convinced

that it is quite safe for us to have  
her home, & that there would be little  
risk of scenes with neighbours, again  
before making such a request.  
Ought she not be able to rise even  
above the centre corridor before we  
have her home.

I shall be obliged if you will  
have advice sent <sup>me</sup> as to right  
course now.

Yours sincerely

Alfred Prinson



177.  
CmB.  
32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

Dear Friend

23/2/1914

My wife has this morning received a letter from Winifred from which we gather she has become more unwell & that some of her old delusions have come forcibly over her, in connection with which she proposes writing a lady friend here. I am sorry to trouble you about this matter, but I think she ought not to be allowed to write annoying letters to others outside her family & that this should be stopped.

She is also working for money

to be sent her, but how far  
this is permitted for pocket money  
I do not know, and should  
be obliged by your kind advice.  
I hope you will do anything  
necessary to stop annoying  
letters being sent to others that  
is one of the difficulties we  
had to contend with before she  
left home.

Yours sincerely  
Alfred Pearson



32.  
CmB.

32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

Dr. Bedford Pierce 8/1/1914

Dear Friend

Winifred supposed that she took her savings bank book with her to York & afterward could not find it & thought some one had taken it from her. She has send my wife a key and to day the book has been found in a sealed envelope

When at home she nussed things & made accusations without foundation.

I hope that she is not giving  
the staff much trouble in this  
way.

When the right time comes, I  
shall be pleased to receive  
your report concerning her.

She tells us that she has lost  
weight.

I think that as we have  
fewer complaints than we  
anticipated from her, that  
probably the treatment is  
doing her good.

Yours sincerely  
Alfred Pearson



32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

15/XII/1913

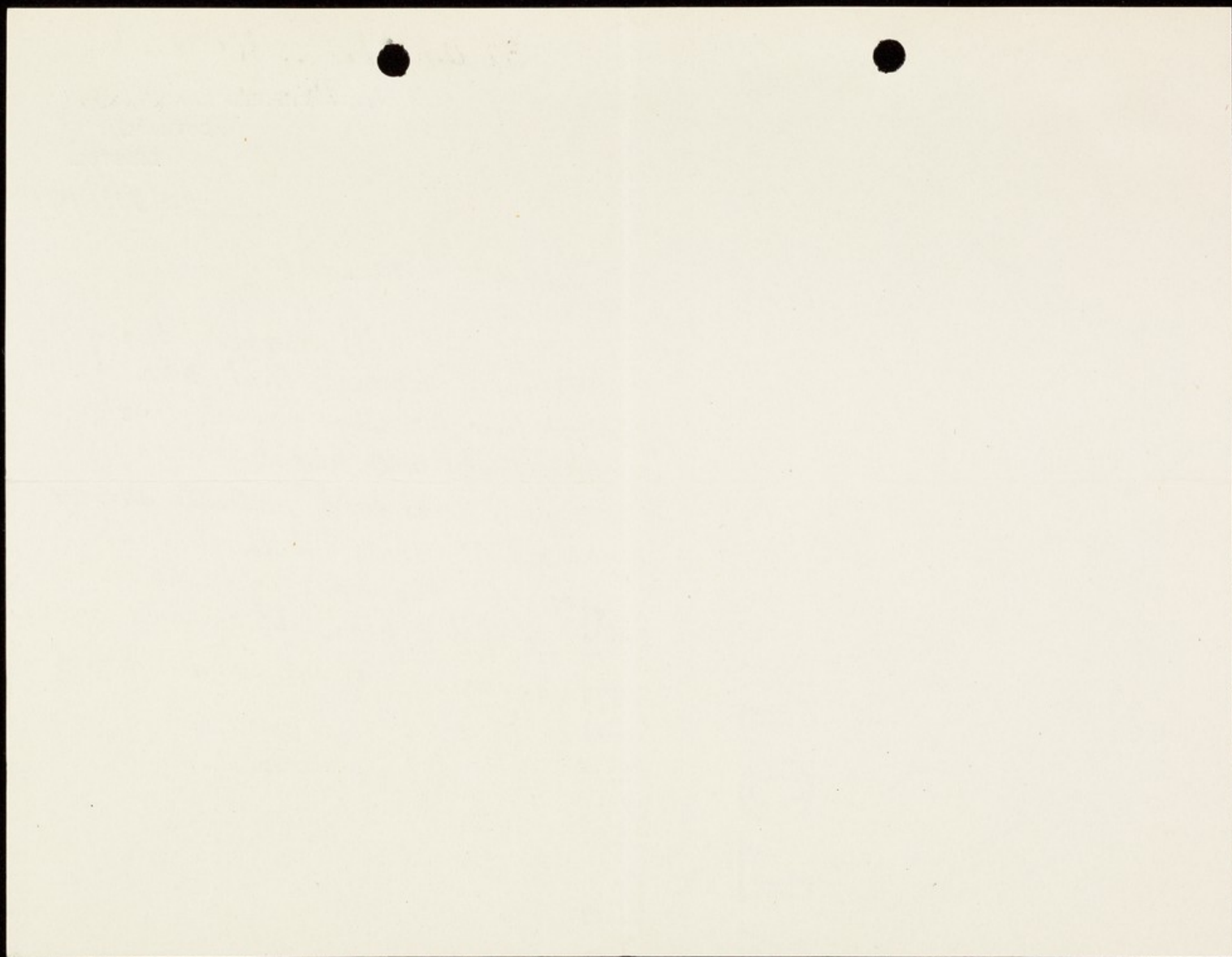
Dear Friend

Winifred has written home, that she has lost her savings bank book which she took with her to York.

As I was told patients are not allowed money, I think that possibly the book is being taken care of for her. If so and as she is worrying about, would it not be well to tell her.

Yours sincerely

Alfred Brown





32 Ar<sup>o</sup>field R<sup>d</sup> Coatham <sup>364</sup>  
P<sup>r</sup>istol 15/XI/1913

Dear Friend

There has been delay  
in obtaining Doctor's certificates &  
Magistrates' order, which <sup>Pearce</sup> curse, will  
be bringing to morrow, & and they  
expect to travel to morrow arriving  
at York 5.50 P.M.

I enclose "further statement, which is  
not so clear as it should be. I am  
feeling quite upset about this matter to day

What I have written about pilfering must  
<sup>be</sup> be entirely confidential. No charge of  
this kind against my daughter has been  
made by others, but she told me herself  
& made restitution out of her money, & the  
matter has haunted her since

I am enclosing cheque £26.6.0

Yours sincerely

Alfred Pearson











Nov. 26 1913

Dear Friend

Alfred Prism

I have spoken to D. Price with  
reference to the charge for your  
daughter & he thinks it was  
understood that the fee should be  
\$25.00 a week - we will therefore  
ask the Comtee to make this alteration  
at their next meeting. The fee  
for the horse will be included in the  
Quarter Statement

Yours truly

W. E. Waller



Mar. 26 1913

Dear Friend

My dear friend

I have spoken to the Board and

reference to the charge for your

daughter & he thinks it was

understood that the fee should be

of course a week - we will therefore

ask the Court to make this alteration

of their last ruling. The fee

for the house will be included in the

great statement

Yours truly  
W. E. Johnson



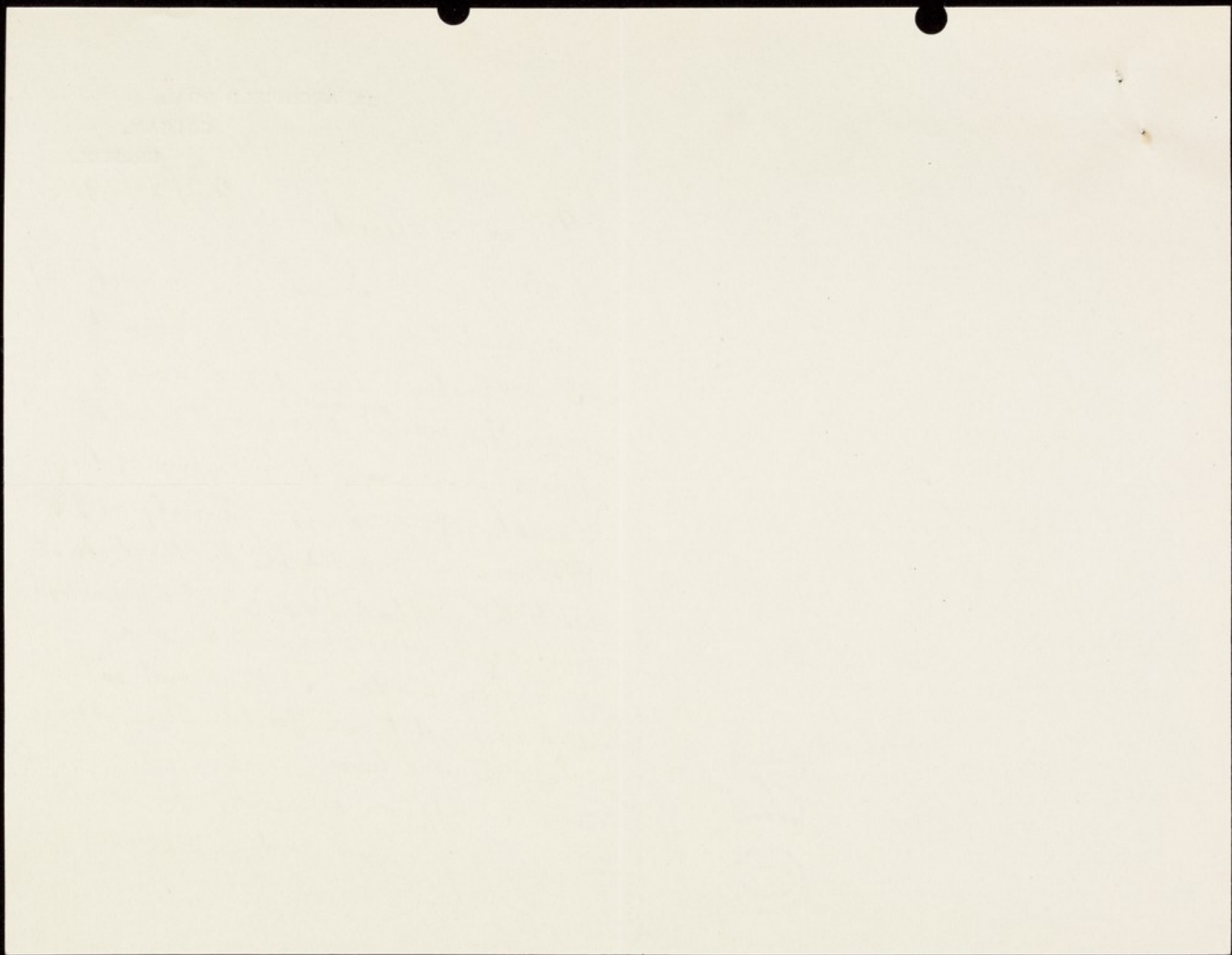
32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

22/XI/1913

Dear Friend

I am in receipt of  
account for 1 Quarters Board  
I understood that the charge of 48/-  
was the usual <sup>minimum</sup> terms but that special  
terms were given to members of the  
Society of Friends. The Agent for  
B. Frenchay Monthly M<sup>1</sup> for the Retreat,  
wrote Dr Bedford Pierce & I understood  
that reply was received and a  
concession made. Is that not so?  
I have not paid for the time Nurse  
Pearce was here

Yours sincerely  
Alfred Pearson





note - says 40/-  
redirection to friends -  
from 12/- remainder

---

25.7.13

245

FERN HOLLOW,  
ROCKLEAZE AVENUE,  
STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL.

↓  
Dear Dr. Pierce  
I have been applied  
to by a friend here, Alfred  
Brison, whose daughter needs  
to be under care, to know  
at what rate she would be  
admitted to the Retreat.  
She would not need any  
special care or private rooms.  
He is retired from business  
& of comparatively small means  
& has 4 unmarried daughters  
dependent on him - I do not  
think that he could afford

to pay more than £2.2-0  
a week.

Will you let me know  
the terms and send me the  
necessary forms - the doctors  
are ready to certify. I am told

Yours sincerely

Mr. Sturgis



Nov. 21. 1913

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of  
the Retreat Committee the terms for  
Miss W. A. Brown were fixed at £7  
a week.

Enclose the usual form of  
agreement which kindly return to  
me when completed.

Yours faithfully  
B. E. Walker Secy.

Alfred Brown Esq.



Mar. 21. 1913

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of  
the Robert Committee the Committee  
this W. H. Brown was present at  
a bank.

Enclosed the several forms of  
agreement which I wish to  
be when completed.

Yours faithfully  
W. H. Brown

W. H. Brown



Nov. 17, 1913

Dear Friend,

We received your cheque and the papers safely, and Miss Brison has got on quite comfortably so far. She had quite a fair night considering it was her first here.

I do not feel able yet to offer much opinion as to the case. So far there has been no difficulty. Miss Brison has been quite bright and reasonable, though it is clear she is very easily excited.

Yours very truly,



100

100

100

100

100

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100

100

100



328

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.



STAN &amp; SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

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in at 9 14 .M.,

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TO { Doctor Pierre  
Retreat York

Please send as arranged Brison  
32 Archfield Rd Cotham Bristol



1840

~~2210~~

500.  
20  
9 | 10000  
1111

10



257

32, ARCHFIELD ROAD,  
COTHAM,  
BRISTOL.

✓  
Dr. Bedford Pierce

28/X/1913

Dear Sir, I thank you for your reply to my letter & copy of report of Retreat. My daughter is a member of the Society of Friends & so entitled to any concession that can be made on that account. I think I could manage about 48/- per week. I am 66 years of age in weeks time & I have <sup>failed weak heart</sup> stricture of the bowel, & that has not permitted my making a railway journey for some years past, so could not come up with my daughter to York but perhaps a younger daughter could do so, with the nurse.

Would it be advisable to have the nurse here before getting certificates signed, so as to reconcile W to prospect of going to York & not to frighten her by visit of magistrates. I have had several fainting attacks & would be of little use, if restraint necessary.

Dr Bullen is away from Bristol

Dear Sir  
and  
Mrs. M. N.

but I think he expects to be home again end of this week or beginning of next. He knows more of the case than any one. He prescribes Borival Valearian capsules & since Winnie has taken them she has become quieter, & so an entirely fresh medical man might not be willing to certify.

I wrote Dr Bullen yesterday enquiring about his return & hope to have reply tomorrow as to date of his return.

I will telegraph for nurse as soon as I can get dates fixed.

Winnie has sty & stoppage of nasal duct & fomenting it & will see Doctor this afternoon & if that involves operation it will involve delay.

Many years ago I had abscess through nasal duct becoming stopped myself & had operation to reopen it, & if this has to take place it will involve delay.

Yours sincerely Alfred Pearson