

**Brittain, Albert**

**Publication/Creation**

1915-1916

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wpf9c55v>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



27 June 1916

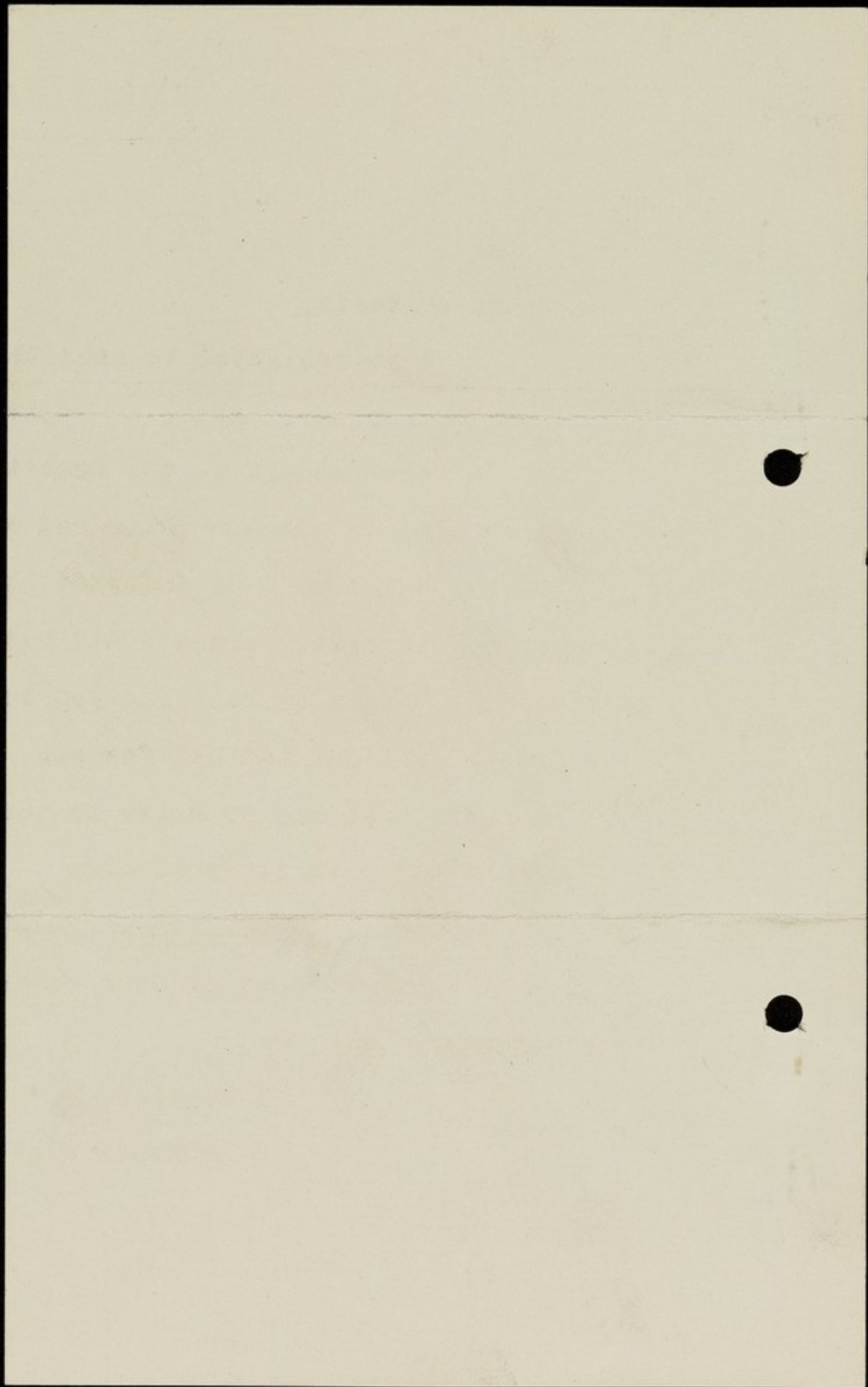
Dr. Bedford Pierce

Dear Sir,

I find I shall  
require a Registration Card  
so will you kindly apply for  
one for me + send it to  
47 Ventnor Esds Whitley Bay

Am now fairly settled +  
glad to be back to work.

Yours faithfully  
Albert Brittain





17th June, 1916.

Dear Mr. Brittain,

I am delighted to hear that you have recovered and are back at work again. It is very excellent news.

With regard to the Registration Card, we were not required to get one while you were here, but I believe I ought to have informed the Registrar General that you had left. This I did not do, but I should have thought it would be well for you to see the Town Clerk in your own area and ask him for one. If you would prefer I am quite prepared to write to the Registrar General, but I should think it is necessary.

After a spell of very cold weather we are having it warm again and out of door games are being prosecuted with vigour .

I remain,

Yours very truly,





1014.  
47 Ventnor Gardens  
Whitley Bay  
16 June 1916

Dr. Bedford Pierce ✓

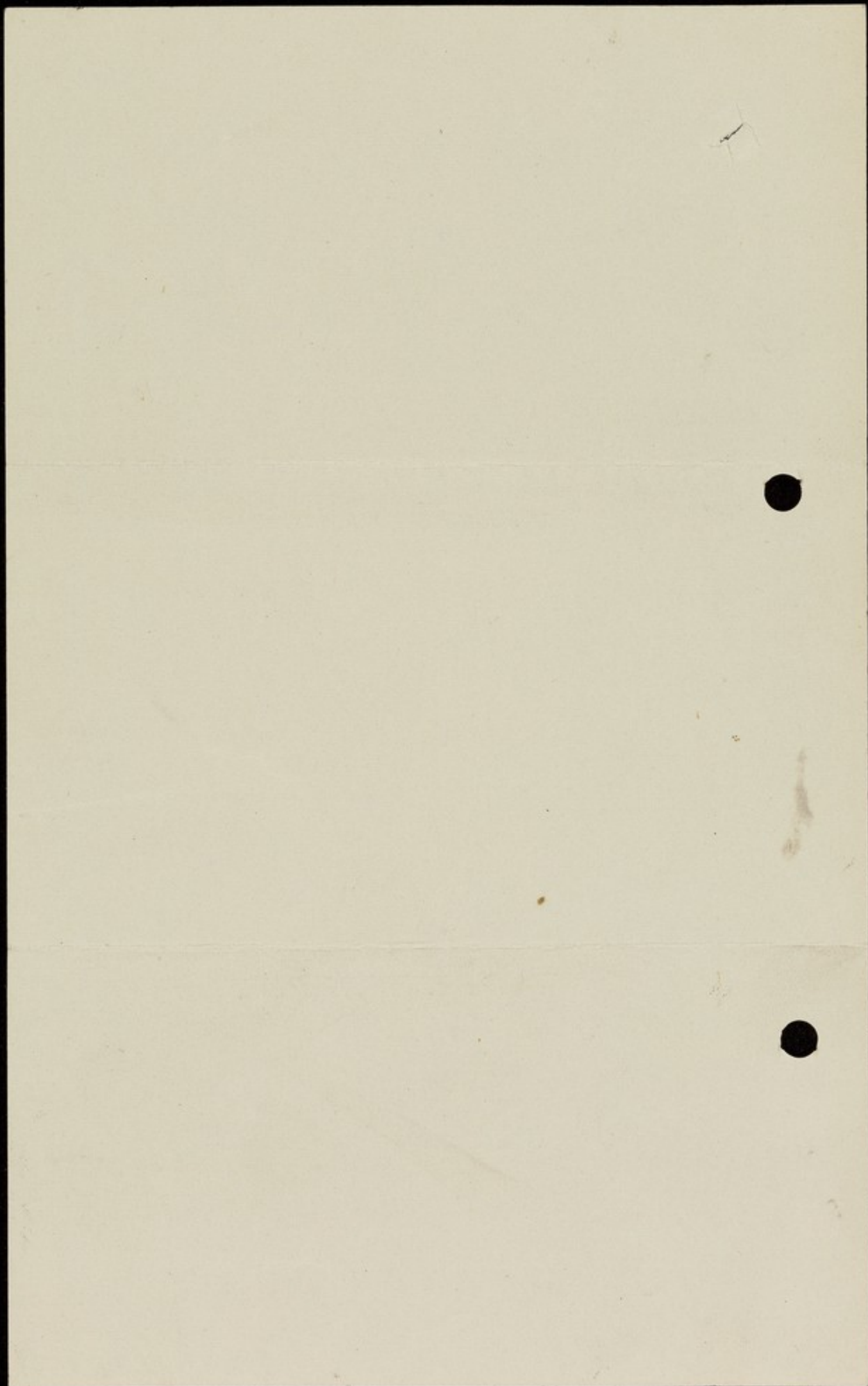
Dear Sir

You will be interested  
to know that I have  
resumed my duties & feel  
decidedly better.

I see in the Newspapers  
references to Registration Cards  
& should like to know where  
I stand. I came to York  
on the evening of Registration  
Day Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1915. & if you have  
my Card will you kindly send  
it to above address. With  
best respects to yourself & all  
at York

Yours faithfully  
Albert Brittain







47, Ventnor Gardens.

Monkseaton.

16<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

✓

Dr Bedford Pierce.  
The Retreat  
York.

Dear Sir.

You will be glad  
to hear that Mr Albert  
Brittain has resumed  
his school duties this  
week.

Our stay at Torquay  
for two months has  
proved very beneficial,  
the rest & quiet & the  
open air life there

& interest you have  
taken in his welfare.

Yours very sincerely  
Catherine Brittain

has quite restored the  
mental balance.

He will have four  
weeks of school work  
then he has his summer  
vacation of 5 weeks,  
which will give him  
another rest before  
settling down to his  
winter's work.

I know that Dr.  
McKenzie & yourself  
will be pleased to  
hear of his complete  
recovery, and let  
me again thank  
you for the care

"Finglewood"  
6 Chatsworth Rd  
Torquay.  
24 . 4 . 16.

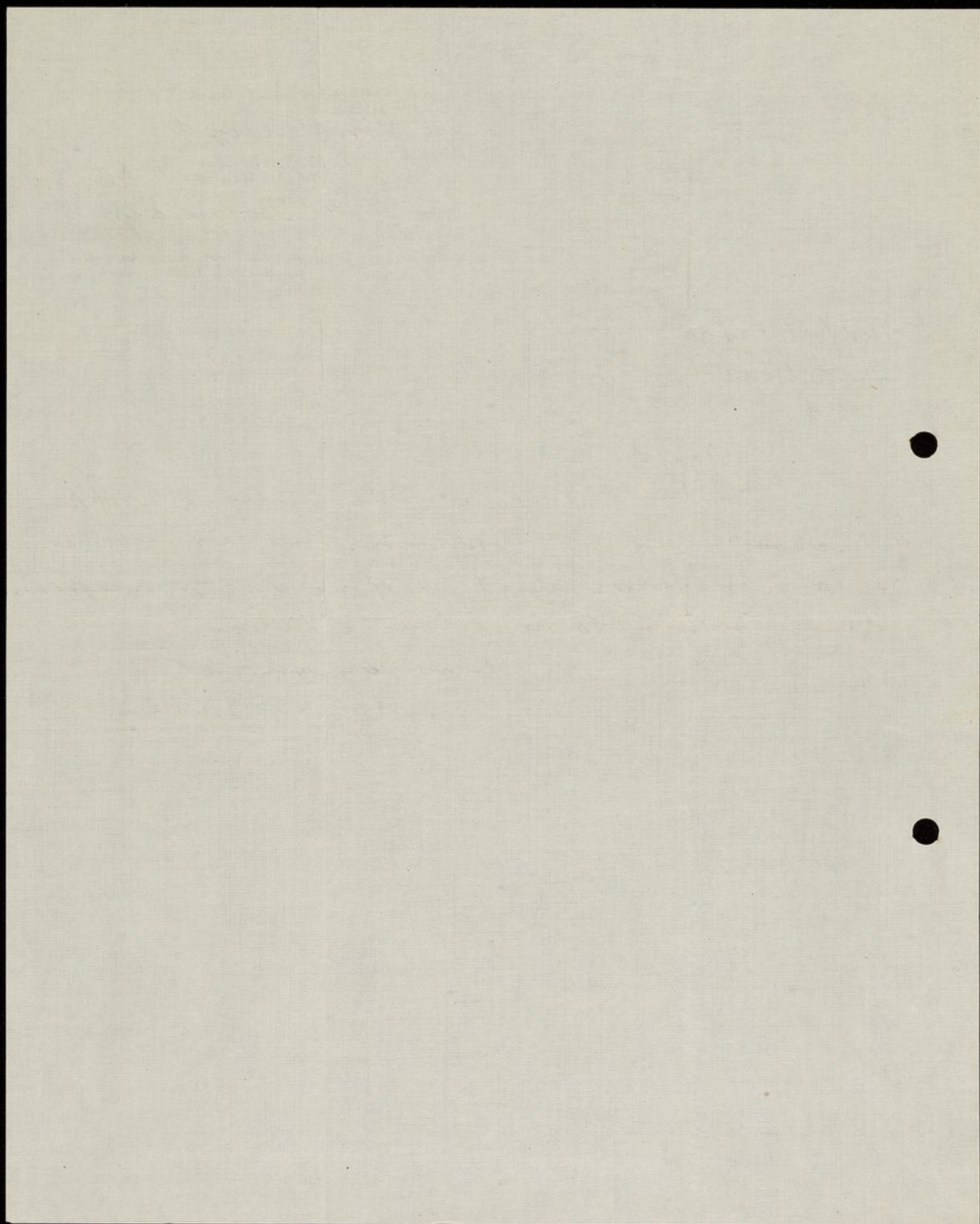
D<sup>r</sup> Bedford Pierce  
The Retreat  
York.

Dear Sir.

I received the enclosed certificate  
of discharge for Mr. Brittain. but am returning  
it for signature. as it is of no value unsigned.  
Kindly return to the above address.

Yours very sincerely  
Catherine Brittain





Finglewood,

6. Chatsworth Rd

Torquay.

20<sup>th</sup> April. 1916.

Dr Bedford Pierce  
The Retreat  
York.

Dear Sir.

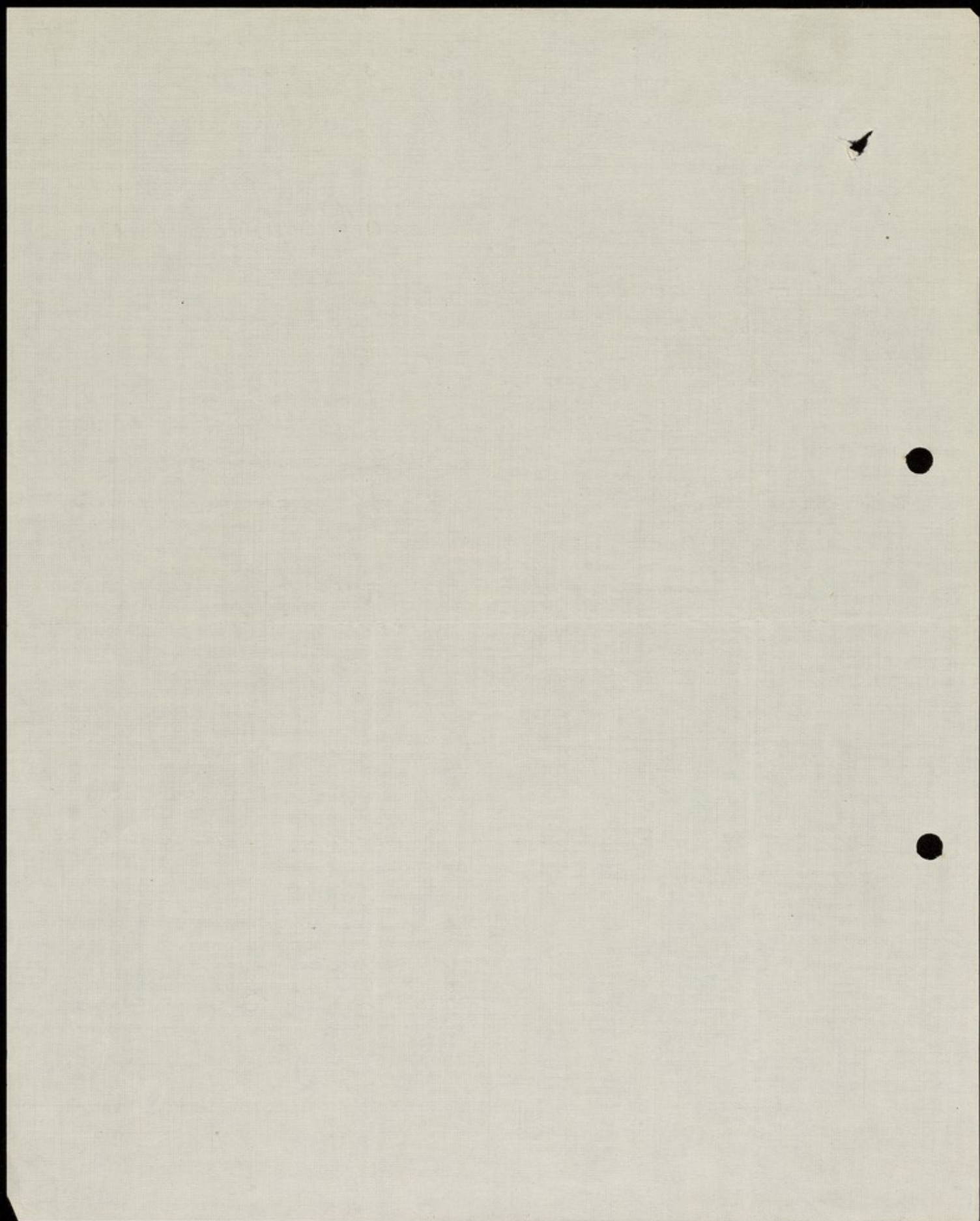
Enclosed please find  
cheque in payment of account for  
Mr. Brittain.

We have got comfortably settled  
here in rooms and I feel sure  
that he will now go on steadily  
towards recovery. He gained about  
3 lbs in weight last week.

With thanks for your kind  
interest in him & with kind  
regards.

I remain  
yours sincerely.  
Catherine Brittain







41 Belle Vue St.  
Heslington Rd  
York.  
31<sup>st</sup> March. 1916.

Dr Beaford Pierce  
The Retreat.

Dear Sir.

Enclosed please find cheque in payment of account rendered for Mr. Albert Brittain dating to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1916.

This account was only forwarded to me here yesterday. It was sent to my home address 47 Ventnor Gardens, Monkseaton, & was laid aside in a drawer by a careless maid & forgotten, until this week. I note it bears the date Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> & must apologise for delay.

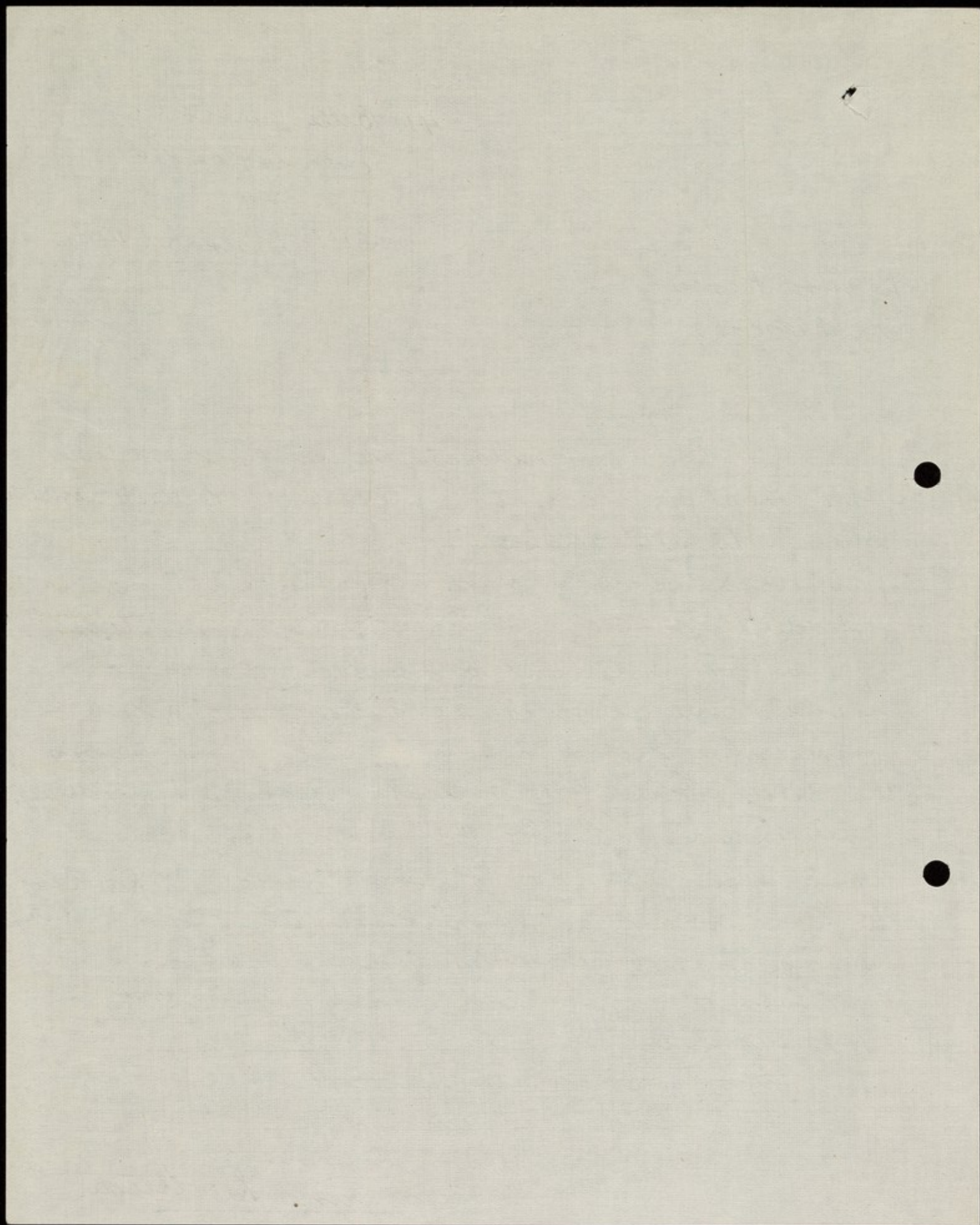
I thank you for the reduction of fees, which has made it possible for Mr. Brittain to remain under your care, also for the attention he has had & the interest you have taken in his case.

I intend to let him remain the month as you stipulated in our last interview, so he has still two weeks with you, after this present one.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,  
Catherine Brittain.

\* Enclosure.





6 Blacket Place.  
Edinburgh.

5. 2. 16.

Dr. Bedford Pierce,  
The Retreat.

Dear Sir,

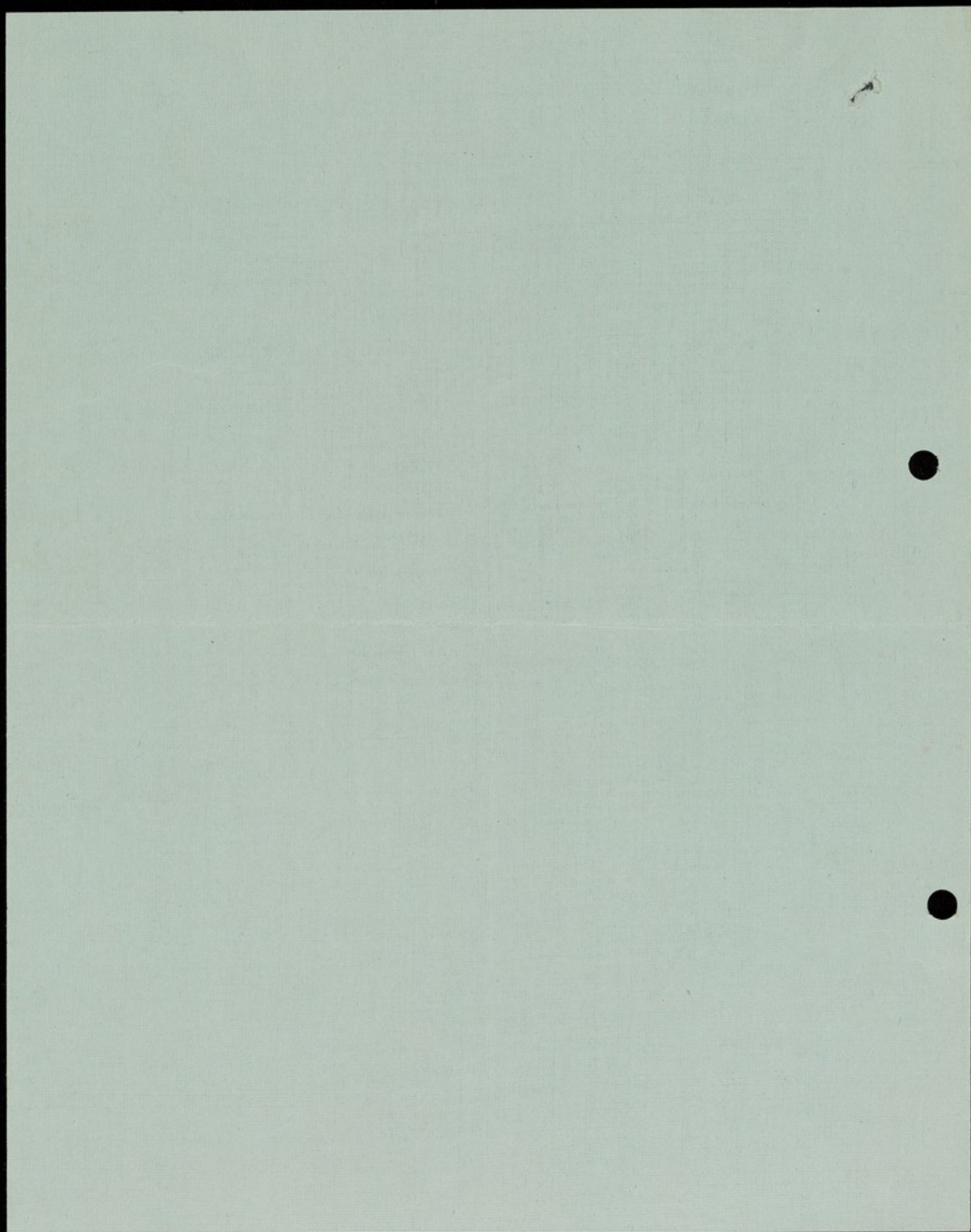
Many thanks for your medical certificate & report received this morning. I am sorry that Mr. Brittain's progress is so very slow, as I was hoping for better things after seeing him.

I should very much prefer to leave him under your care until he is ready to come home, and as I am only here on a short visit it would be no advantage to me to remove him to Morningside, it would only be taking him further away from me, as I shall shortly be returning to Newcastle.

Could you impress upon him that by showing improvement & settling down to his present conditions is his means of returning to home & work again? The expenses we shall just have to meet as we best can.

I intend writing to himself as to the necessity of his part in recovery. Yours very truly  
Catherine Brittain





6. Blacket Place  
Edinburgh.

3. 2. 16.

Dr. Bedford Pierce.  
The Retreat  
York.

Dear Sir,

Since my  
conversation with you  
regarding my husband's  
Mr. Albert Brittain's health,  
I have felt perfectly satisfied  
that I was doing right  
in leaving him under  
your charge as long

627.  
as possible, and until a  
decided improvement for  
the better had taken place.  
Now, I find, that his mother  
& sister have visited him,  
& I received from her the  
enclosed letter which I  
wish you to see that you  
may fully understand the  
circumstances.

I do not intend to bring  
him home as long as  
he is gaining benefit &  
as long as we can afford



to keep him under your care,  
but I do wish to do the best  
for himself despite his relatives.  
mistaken ideas of things.

I shall be glad to have  
your opinion & advice on  
this matter & also an  
account of his progress since  
the beginning of December.

I may say that his  
extension of absence is  
ended with the middle  
of February & he is  
perfectly aware of it &

worrying to get to his work.  
If you think it advisable  
I'll ask his Committee  
of Managers for a further  
extension, if you will  
forward me a report  
of his health to lay before  
them at their next meeting.

Please send it on to me at  
the above address as I shall  
be here for a week or two.

Apologising for troubling you  
in this matter & yet feeling you  
ought to know of it.

I remain  
Yours very sincerely  
Catherine Brittain

P.S. Please return enclosure. C.B.



10 St Thomas Street

2. 2. 1916.

My dear Kate

You will be surprised to hear Ella and I have been to see Bert on Sunday, in talking, he tells me he will never get better there, and the longer he stays the worse he will get. My own impression is that he means it. Now Kate don't you think that if you told him that if he improved to the Doctor's satisfaction within say 2. or 3. weeks, make a definite date, as you could best manage, you would take him out, and go to some place for a few weeks. To give a chance to get up his strength. This may have the desired effect? It would give him something to look forward to, and from what he says I am sure you would never regret. He seems to me, as if he was actually fretting his poor dear heart away, and that nothing else remains for him but ~~waste~~ away and die. Now my dear girl what do you say? You know his sensitive ways. And whatever good he may have got from his stay at this beautiful place will be altogether lost, as I am sure he will be himself to us all if something is not done. Hope you are keeping well, and that Aunt is some better. May joins your loving Mother in Britain



My dear John

2. 2. 0. 0.

My dear John

you will be interested to hear  
that I have been to see Bert on Thursday  
in talking to him he will never get  
there, and the way to do the work he will  
get  
my dear John is that the means of  
your rate about you think that if you told him  
that if he understood to the satisfaction within  
say. 2. 2. 0. 0. make a little bit of work on your behalf  
but I am not sure if you would take him with you and go to  
work for a few weeks, to give a chance to  
get up his strength. This way have the chance  
effect. It would give him some time to get forward  
to, and from what he says I am sure he would never  
regret it. As if it was really his  
his poor dear heart, and that nothing else  
remains for him but to wait away and die.  
Now my dear John, I am sure you know  
his situation. I am sure that he would have  
got over his illness if this beautiful day would be  
like other days. I am sure he would be well  
if the thing is not done. I am sure that  
that will be some day. I am sure that



4th February, 1916.

4th February, 1916.

Dear Mrs. Brittain,

I cannot report much improvement in Mr. Brittain lately. He remains much the same, and is fretting and worrying a good deal, partly about his detention, partly about his prospects, and partly about the expense. He certainly is not fit to return to ordinary life, though I am not prepared to say that he would break down again if he did so, but we think that the risk would be much too great. Experience shows that persons in his mental condition really cannot set to work, and the disappointment on finding themselves unable to perform their accustomed duties aggravates the depression.

Nevertheless I think some change of surroundings is desirable, partly on account of the expense. As you are in Edinburgh I would suggest that you ask Dr. Robertson of Morningside if he could receive Mr. Brittain as an intermediate patient, which would be less expensive than here, and I think the change of surroundings would be helpful.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



4th February, 1916.

This is to certify that

Albert Brittain is suffering

from melancholia, and is

agitated and depressed, and

continues to be unable to

give proper attention to

business matters, and a

longer leave of absence is

necessary.

11 Gosson Terrace  
Heaton.

Newcastle-on-Tyne

22. 11. 15

The Secretary  
The Retreat  
● York.

Dear Sir,

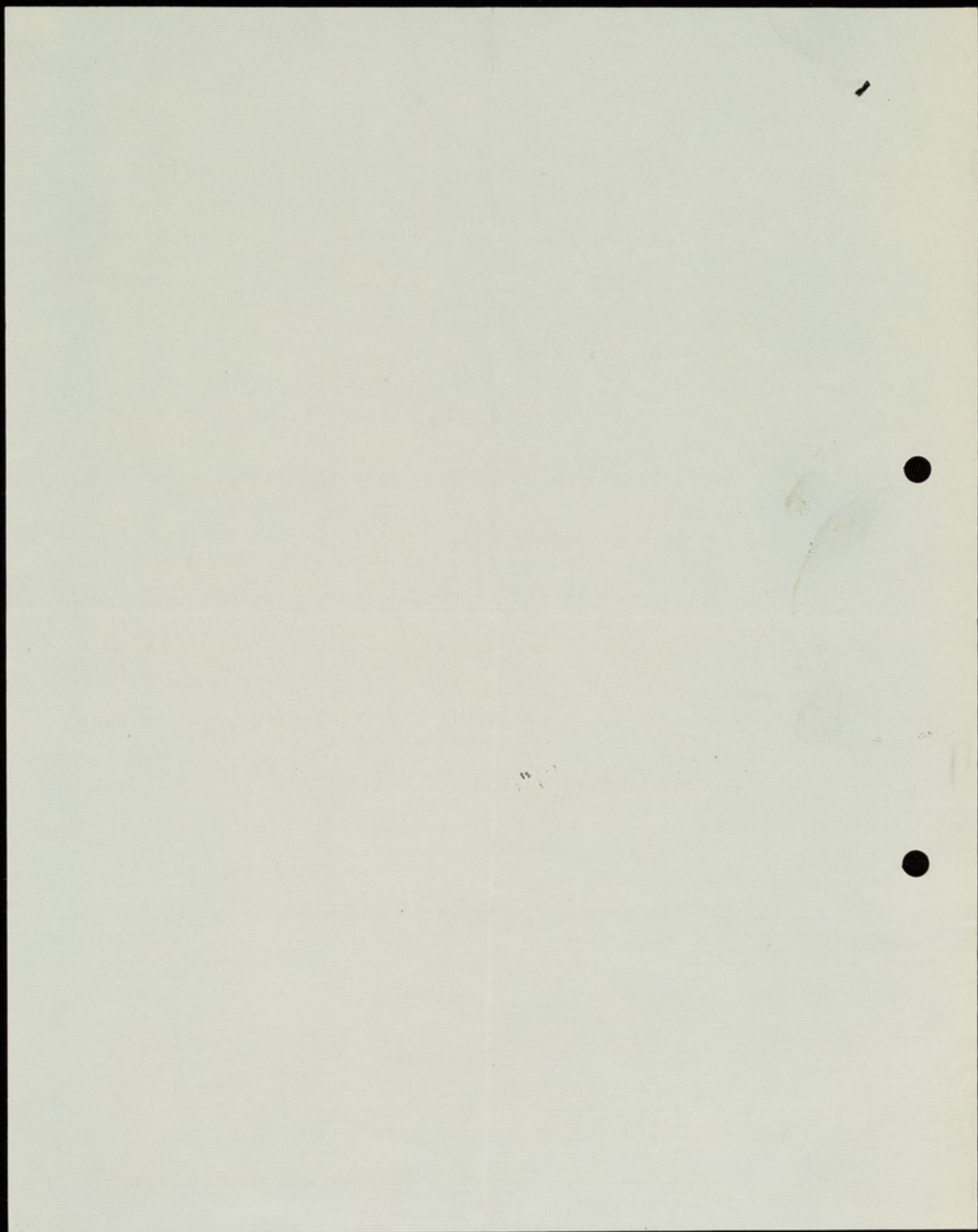
Will you kindly ask the  
D<sup>r</sup>. to send me a report of Mr. Brittain's progress  
+ whether it would be helpful or otherwise to his  
recovery that I should visit him.

Kindly communicate with me at  
above address + oblige.

Yours very truly.

Catherine Brittain





5th November, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Brittain,

I will bring the matter of the terms before the Committee at their next meeting. Your letter on the subject did not reach me in time for the last meeting, but it need not make any difference in the current quarter's account.

Mr. Brittain is a little better, but he does not get on very rapidly.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



1941, 1942, 1943

1944, 1945, 1946

1947, 1948, 1949, 1950

1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955

1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960

1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965

1966, 1967, 1968

1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973

1974, 1975, 1976, 1977

1978

1979, 1980



11 Tossion Terrace  
 Heaton  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne,

4 - 11 - 15.

The Secretary  
 The Retreat  
 York.

Dear Sir.

With reference to terms  
 for Mr. Albert Brittain up to December  
 I have to ask if the Committee have  
 granted any reduction of same.

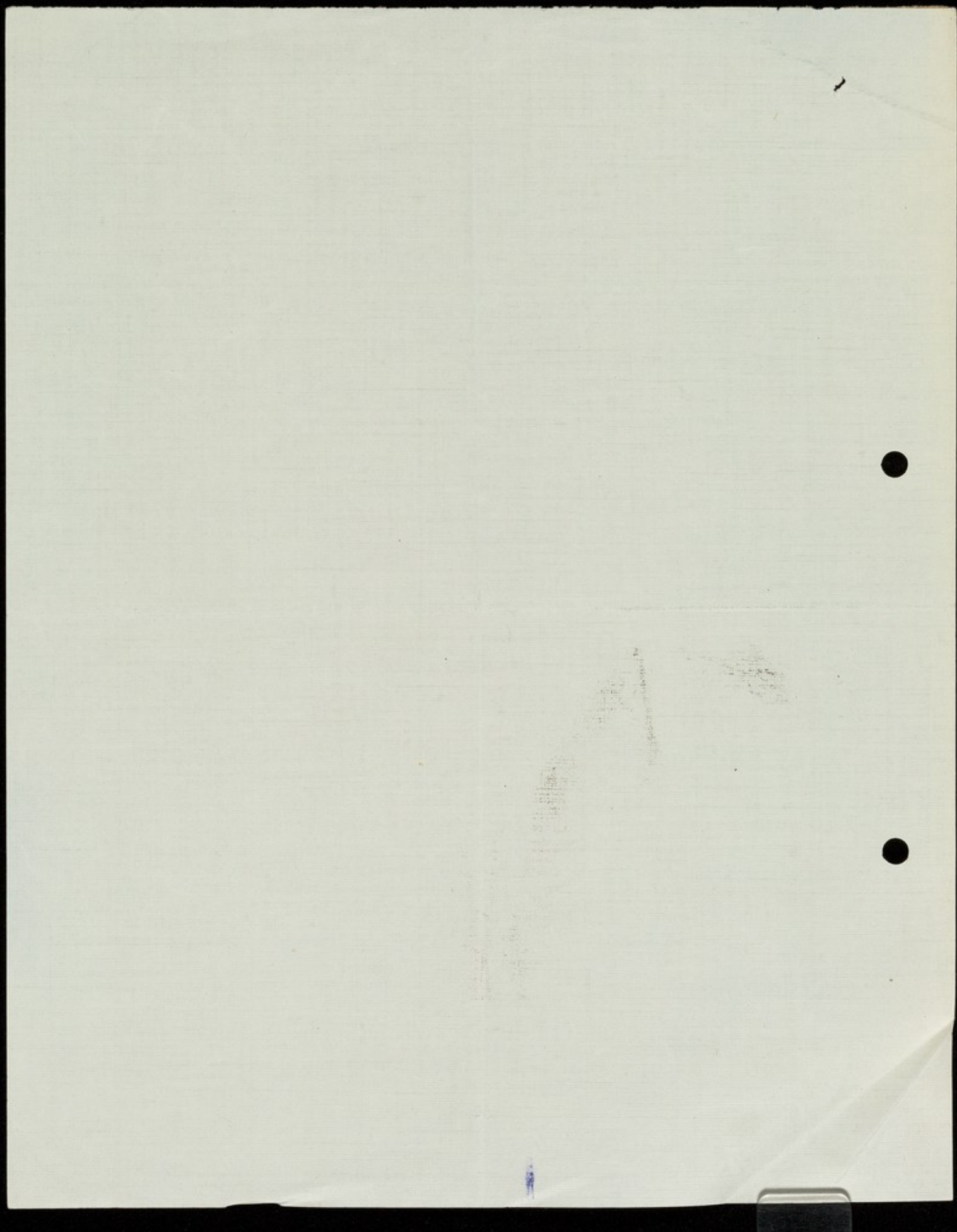
I'll be glad to hear from you at  
 your earliest convenience after which  
 cash will be remitted.

Yours very truly  
Catherine Brittain.

P.S. Please communicate with me at above  
 address.

C.B.





11 Gosion Terrace  
Heaton  
Newcastle-on-Tyne  
9.11.15

The Secretary  
The Retreat  
York.

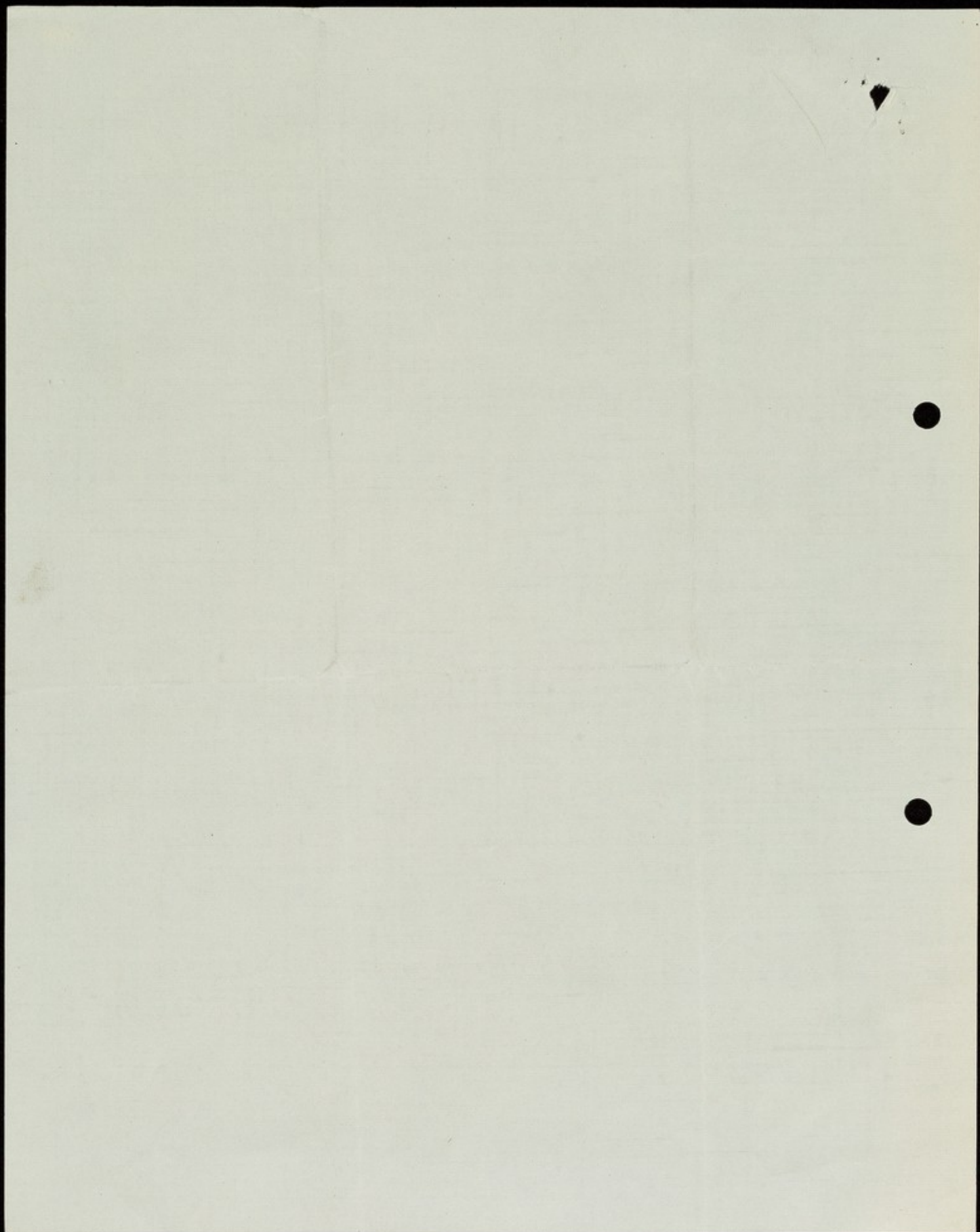
Dear Sir,

I enclose cheque amounting to £27. 14. 6 in payment of account due for Mr. Albert Brittain for quarters ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1915.

I shall be glad if you will bring the matter of reduced terms (if more payments have to be made) before your Committee of Management at their next meeting.

I am, Sir,  
Yours very truly,  
Catherine Brittain





47 Ventnor Gardens  
 Monkseatow  
 Northumberland.

21. . 10. 15

Dr. Bedford Pierce  
 The Retreat.  
 York.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your prompt response to my application for a detailed report of my husband's (Mr. Albert Brittain's) progress.

I think it is as favourable as we can expect in the time he has been under your care, & probably, now that a definite improvement has taken place his progress may be more rapid in the next month or two.

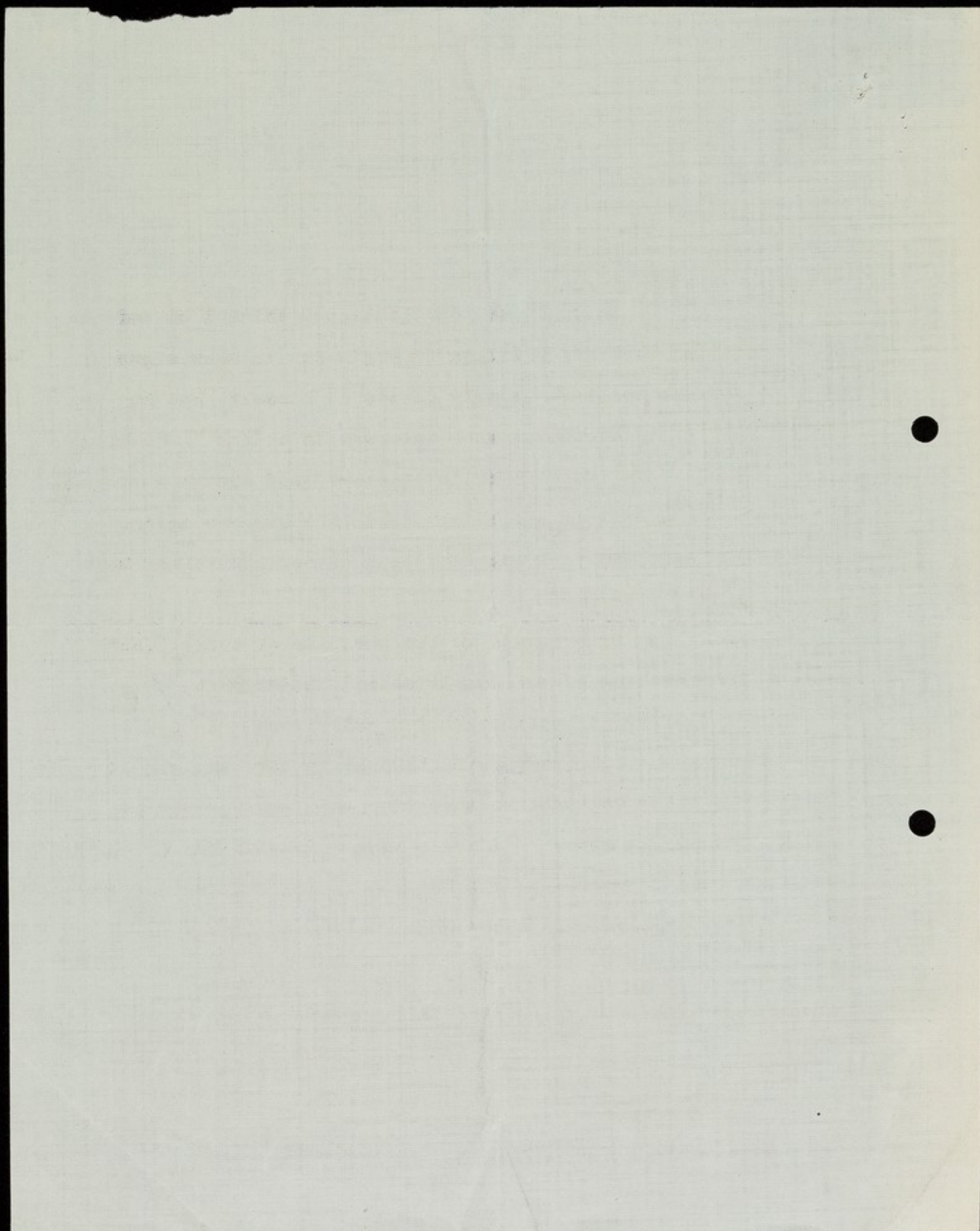
If I can manage to do so I should like to give him until Christmas at least, and if the charge is reduced, a little longer.

He himself is not acquainted with the Newcastle Friends, but his father knew most of them as he attended the Meeting House here for many years.

With many thanks.

I remain  
 yours very sincerely  
 Katherine Brittain







16th October, 1915.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter, I think I am safe in saying that Mr. Brittain is beginning to show signs of improvement. He hardly admits it himself, but he certainly is taking more interest in things. He plays bowls when the weather is suitable, and though he remains restless and is still depressed, the extreme agitation has subsided. I see no reason why he should not make a good recovery.

With regard to the question of terms, there is a meeting of our Committee on Tuesday next, when I can submit an application for reduction. I hardly think the Committee would be able to make any considerable reduction unless the connection with the Society of Friends is close. I had a long talk with Mr. Brittain, and he did not appear to be acquainted with any of the Newcastle Friends about whom I spoke to him.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Brittain,  
47 Ventnor Gardens,  
Monkseaton.



10 October 1952

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter, I think I am safe in

saying that Mr. Pitts is beginning to show signs of

improvement. He hardly denies it himself, but he

certainly is taking more interest in things. He gives

points when the weather is miserable, and though he remains

restless and is still very keen, the extreme isolation

has benefited him. I see no reason why he should not make

a good recovery.

With regard to the question of travel, there

is a meeting of our Committee on Monday next, when I

can submit an outline of my suggestion. I hardly

think the Committee would be able to make any definite

recommendation unless the committee was too small to

be able to do so. I had a long talk with Mr. Pitts

and he did not seem to be against my suggestion.

Yours very truly,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mr. Pitts

at Hampden Court

London

107.

47, Ventnor Gardens.

Monkseaton.  
Northumberland  
15 10 15.

The Secretary  
The Retreat  
York.

Dear Sir,

The statement of  
amount due up to December  
31st 1915, I received on Wednesday  
last, and before making  
further payment I should  
like to know from the doctor  
his opinion of Mr. Brittain's  
progress and the likelihood  
of his recovery, also whether  
(if he can possibly tell at  
present) it will be slow or



+ I see from your  
Report that you give special  
terms to such.

Would he be well enough  
in the doctors' opinion to  
remove his friends  
at the end of the term  
for which payment has  
made i.e. middle of  
November?

Awaiting an early  
reply.

I remain,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Catherine Brittain

otherwise.<sup>2.</sup>

I may also say that  
I find it difficult to meet  
such heavy payments as  
I have no other source of  
income than his salary  
+ these payments absorb  
it almost entirely & after a  
time it is likely to cease if  
his absence from duty be  
a lengthy one.

I may also ask if this  
is the least possible  
charge, as (he will tell  
you <sup>particulars</sup> himself) he comes  
of a Quaker family



7th September, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I cannot report any decided improvement in Mr. Brittain's condition, though he is certainly no worse, and in some respects he is rather less agitated. He is acutely depressed and restless, but is up and about for the greater part of the day. The wound in the neck is nearly healed, and it seems unlikely that there will be any noticeable scar.

As to the cause of his present condition, I fear I must say that I cannot offer any opinion. I expect that his work has been a considerable strain on him for a long time, and yet it is possible that there is some other factor, probably quite unknown, that has led to the breakdown.

With regard to the prognosis we quite expect that he will make a good recovery, as no unfavourable symptoms have appeared, and we quite expect that the recovery will be complete. It is, however, quite impossible to say how long the recovery will take.

By all means come over to see your brother any time, and no doubt you will be writing to him regularly with home news.

Yours very truly,



Dear Sir,

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to hear that you are

interested in the new book which I have

just published. It is a book on the

history of the English language, and I

am sure that you will find it very

interesting. I have written it for

the purpose of making it a book which

every one can read, and I am sure

that you will find it very

interesting. I have written it for

the purpose of making it a book which

every one can read, and I am sure

that you will find it very

interesting. I have written it for

the purpose of making it a book which

every one can read, and I am sure

that you will find it very

interesting. I have written it for

the purpose of making it a book which

every one can read, and I am sure

that you will find it very

interesting. I have written it for

Yours very truly,



The Royals  
West Villas  
Stockton-on-Tees

5<sup>th</sup> September 1915.

Dear Sir,

My Brother W: about Sickness of Bronchitis, was  
I understand placed under your care 3 weeks ago, on behalf of  
his brother an old lady so & myself. We should esteem it very greatly  
if you could kindly reply stating.

1. What is his present condition, whether he has made improvement
2. Could you suggest the cause in your opinion of present condition
3. Do you regard it as hopeful case for recovery

I realize my request may go beyond what is in the circumstances  
usual, but you will be doing a real kindness by conveying your  
straight personal opinion on above questions, which I assure you will be fully  
appreciated.

Naturally I feel that I should like to see him, would you  
consider at present, a visit would be helpful or otherwise, if  
advisable what is most convenient day & hour, Waiting your kind reply.

Dr. Price  
The Retreat  
York

Yours faithfully  
W. I. Pittman



DEVON VALLEY  
PARQUIMENT

All communications should be  
addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,

The Board of Control,

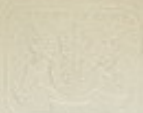
66, Victoria Street,

LONDON, S.W.

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

In reply please quote

No.



THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

26th August, 1915.

Sir,

Albert Brittain.

I have to request you to be so good as to  
inform the Board of Control, on what grounds your  
certificate of the 22nd instant as to personal  
interview after reception was based in this case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*A. O. Wild*

The Medical Superintendent,

The Retreat,

York.



23  
:- He is depressed & agitated. He is apprehensive & accuses himself  
of wrong doing. In my opinion ~~the~~ <sup>the visit of</sup> ~~to give him a notion of right & wrong~~  
a megastate would be likely to affect him injuriously.

16th August, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Just a line to say that Mr. Brittain is doing fairly well. He has kept quietly in bed, but has taken too little food. He slept a few hours, and on the whole he is doing quite as well as we could expect. We are quite hoping that he will not prove to be a very difficult patient, and he certainly is giving a minimum of trouble at present.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

T. W. Tomlinson, Esq.

43 Ventnor Gardens,

Monkseaton.



12th August, 1918.

Dear Sir,

Just a line to say that Mr. Brittain is  
doing fairly well. He has kept pretty in bed, but  
has taken too little food. He slept a few hours, and  
on the whole he is doing quite as well as we could  
expect. We are quite hoping that he will not prove  
to be a very difficult patient, and he certainly is  
giving a minimum of trouble at present.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

T. W. Tomlinson, M.D.

43 Vanevor Gardens,

Monks Cleeve.



N.B.—The Secretary is instructed to obtain the necessary signatures to the accompanying form of guarantee before the care of any patient is undertaken by The Retreat.



## YORK RETREAT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In consideration of the Directors of the York Retreat Hospital for the Insane agreeing to receive Albert Brittain of

as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dunstable The Mount, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson as such Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall from time to time be or become due and payable for the Lodging, Maintenance, and care of the said patient in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid or disbursed by or on behalf of the said Institution for any articles of Wearing Apparel, or other necessities, or extras supplied to, or provided for the said Patient, or the repairing or mending and washing of the articles of Wearing Apparel of the said Patient, so long as the said Patient shall continue in the said Hospital, or be under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and also to pay or cause to be paid the expenses in respect of the Funeral of the said Patient, in case the said Patient shall die in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital. AND I FURTHER AGREE to pay interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on any accounts due from me as above, which shall not have been discharged within Twenty-eight days from the receipt of such account from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk of the said Hospital. AND I ALSO UNDERTAKE AND AGREE, at my own expense, to remove the said Patient from the said Hospital within Fourteen days after receiving Notice in writing from the Treasurer, Secretary or Clerk for the time being of the said Hospital, requiring such removal.

WITNESS my hand the twentieth day of August 1915

Name Catherine Brittain

Residence 47 Ventnor Gardens, Northampton

Occupation Housewife

SIGNED by the said Catherine Brittain

in the presence of

Witness's Signature,

Address, and

Profession.

W. H. W. W. W.  
47 Ventnor Gardens, Northampton  
Managing Clerk

N.B.—The charge for Board, Lodging and Medical care is payable quarterly, in advance. Disbursements by the Institution on behalf of patients, and other exceptional expenses, are charged in the following quarter's account. A residence of less than a month is charged as a month.

In the event of the death, removal, or discharge of a patient before the expiry of the quarter covered by the last payment, the surplus amount is returned by the Retreat.



ALBERT D. M.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
BOSTON

Aug 18 1915

Dear Sir,

At the meeting of the Retreat  
Committee held yesterday the terms for  
Mr Albert Brittain were fixed at  
3½ guineas a week.

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

Yours faithfully

Wm E Waller Secy.

J. W. Tomlinson Esq.



May 18 1892

Dear Sir,  
At the meeting of the Patent  
Committee held yesterday the same for  
the above mentioned was reported  
It remains a week.  
I enclose the several forms of  
agreement that please refer  
to when completed.  
Yours faithfully  
W. E. Johnson Esq.

W. E. Johnson Esq.