

**Higgins, G. F.**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
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9 Buller's Road

When I saw him on  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> & so very  
thin, & feeble - he seemed  
to have hardly strength  
to walk, one wonders how  
he found strength to do  
what he did - it is all  
so terribly sad -

With kind regards

Sincerely yours  
Emily Thornton

Nov. 25.  
Apt. 26

WADSWORTH HOUSE,  
BEDFORD.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Private

Dear Dr. Pease -

I expect you  
have heard of the  
terribly tragic death  
of poor dear Mr. Hypis,  
I should imagine his  
attendant must have  
been asleep, of course such  
a

WADSWORTH HOUSE  
GEORGETOWN  
nothing ought never  
I have been allowed  
to happen. it has been  
all too sad, & distressing  
I want your true  
opinion of him, do  
you think he could  
ever have recovered

from his awful illness?  
I am most anxious  
to hear your opinion.  
When Mr. Briggs was  
only talking about for  
some two days & before  
his sad end, & seemed  
to think most highly of  
you. He was very very ill,



April 15, 1912

Dear Mr. Higgins,

I am sorry there is no improvement in your nephew's condition. It is a painful and distressing case.

Our Secretary tells me that he has sent the 8/8.

So long as Mr. Higgins does not become demented I should not lose heart altogether, but one must admit that after such a long illness the hope of recovery is receding.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,







I am sorry to say my nephew  
remains in a very miserable  
state of mind at Keigham  
Hall, and there seems little, if  
any prospect of his recovery.  
The suicidal tendency continues  
very strongly marked, & his rest-  
lessness is a constant difficulty.  
His anxiety to leave Keigham Hall  
is as strong as it was to leave  
the Retreat and so it will continue  
be no matter where he is.

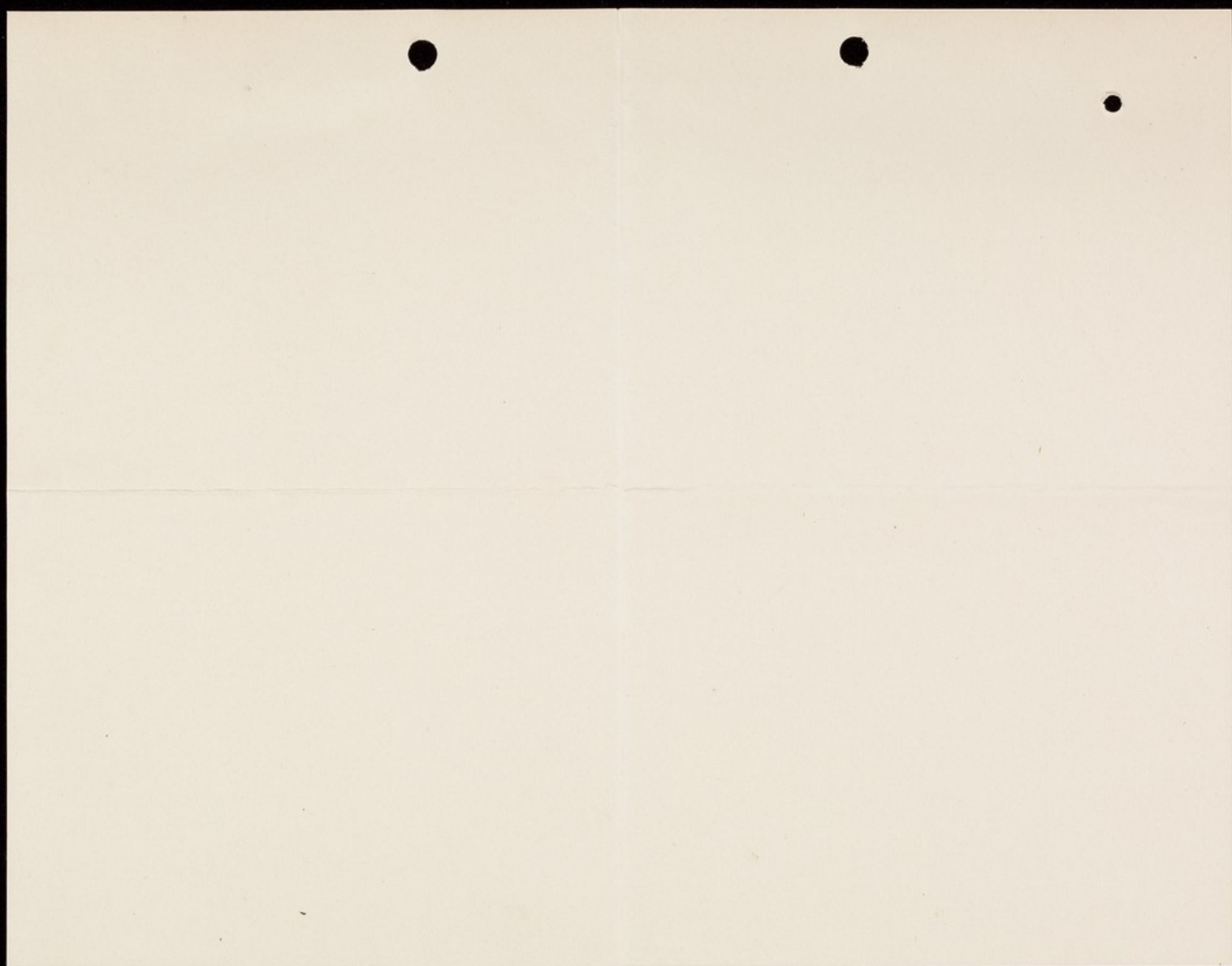
Yours truly,  
G. F. Higgins

385  
3 North Grove  
Highgate N.  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 1912

Dear J. Peirce

I have received statement of  
account in regard to my nephew  
Mr. G. F. Higgins showing a small  
balance due to his estate of  $\$8/8$ ,  
there was not however any remittance  
to that amount in the envelope.  
As I have to render account to the  
Court of all monies due to or owing  
by the Estate, perhaps you will be  
kind enough to send me this small  
sum at your convenience.





& tell wiles that  
one would have got  
well if one had  
been given proper  
treatment -

Yrs sincerely  
G. Francis Higgins

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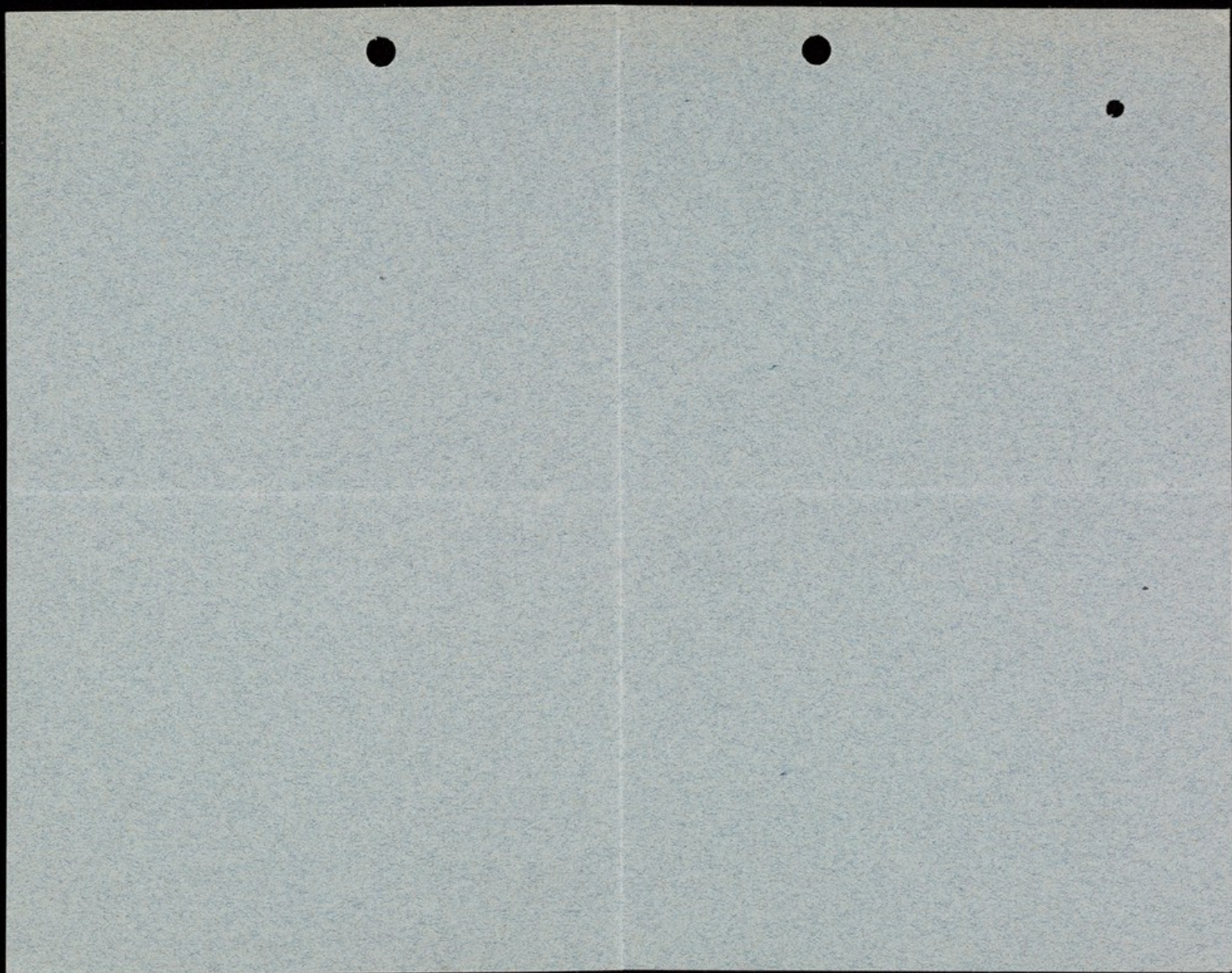
Heigham Hall  
Norwich

Monday

Feb. 19/12

My dear Dr. Pierce  
I wish I could let you  
know that I felt better,  
but I don't, & unless  
something miraculous  
happens I do not think  
I ever can do so - as I  
suffer abominably -  
Will you thank Dr. Mackenzie  
sister Emily, Marshall &  
wiles for their forbearance to me







Feb. 12, 1912

Dear Dr. Gordon-Munn,

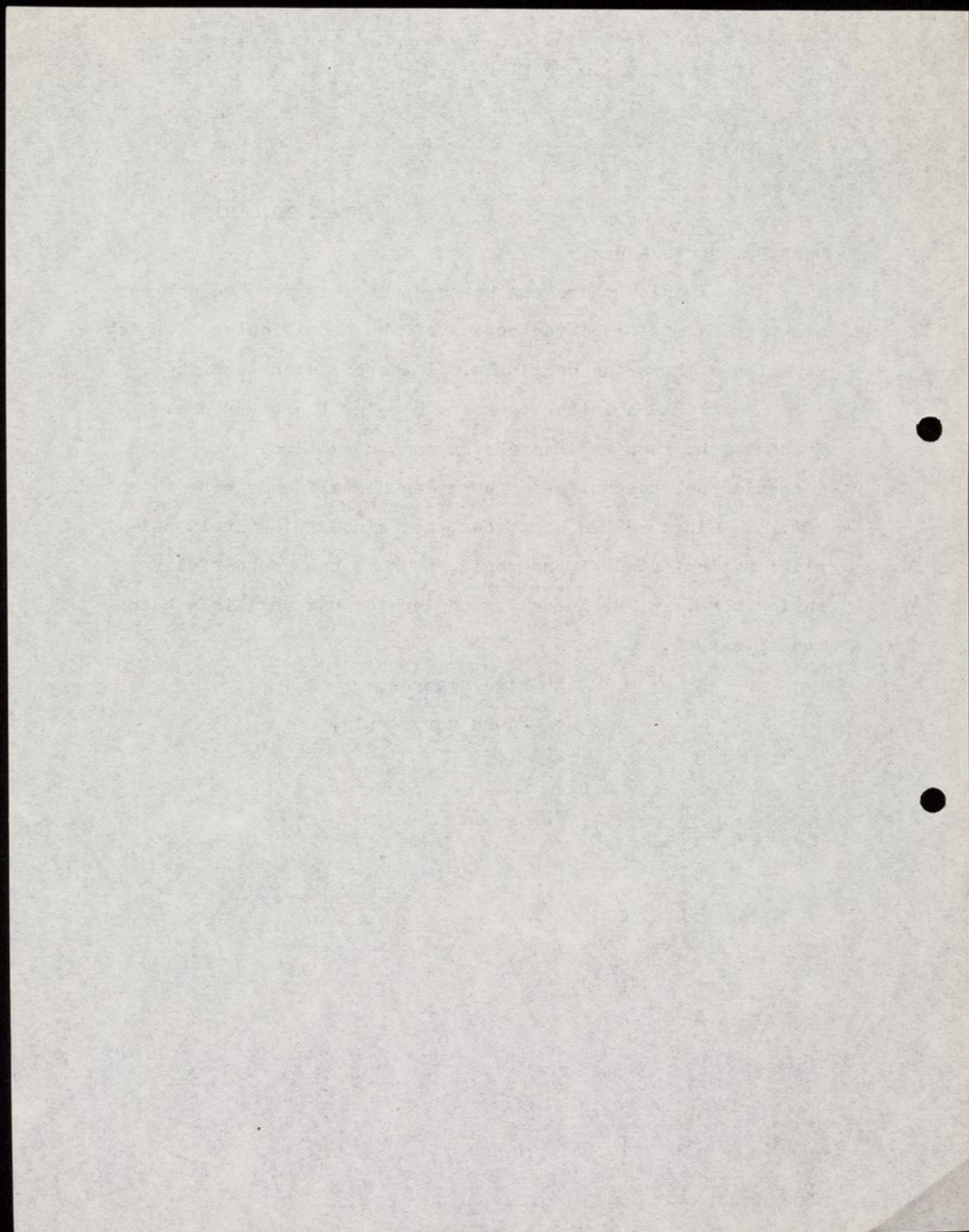
I think there can be no doubt that you are correct and that we must send you copies of the certificates of which you already have the originals. I therefore enclose them.

I had a letter from Mr. Higgins the other day. Evidently he remains in much the same condition. He has a considerable capacity for worrying himself and those about him. Since he has been gone, and since an actively suicidal patient died of pneumonia, we have been wonderfully easier here. The lessening of tension has certainly been most pleasant.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,





Feb. 7, 1912

Dear Mr. Higgins,

It was good of you to write to me, even though you had nothing very satisfactory to say.

I hardly expected you would be much better so soon as this, but I still adhere to the opinion that you should recover in the long run. As I explained, your intellectual powers are not damaged, and though your outlook on life is distorted and your sensations are perverted, these facts alone do not justify an unfavourable prognosis.

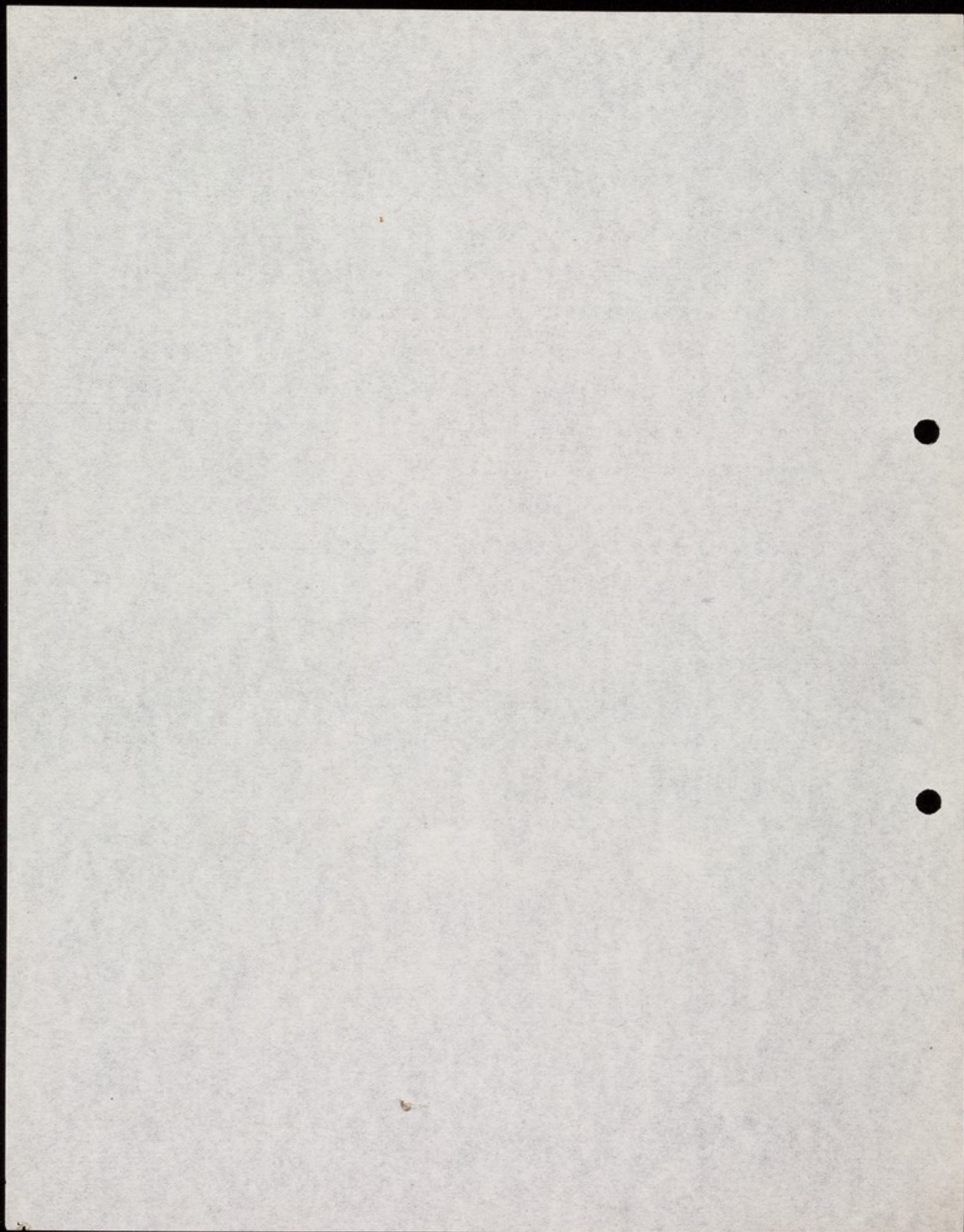
I have given your messages to Mr. Darley to distribute. I am sure the staff will value your kind thought of them.

You will be pleased to hear that Fry is getting on exceedingly well, and I am sanguine that we shall make something of him.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,





naughty cold weather  
here.

Yours sincerely  
J. G. Gordon-Krumm

---

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TELEPHONE 30

HEIGHAM HALL,  
NORWICH.

6.<sup>a</sup> Feb: 1912

Dear S. Bedford Pinner  
Many many  
thanks for letting  
you attend to bring  
Shiggins to us.  
He is now all for  
going to Zurich  
& we get plenty of  
it. He is clamouring  
for Pissaldehyde



but seems to sleep  
quite well without  
it. Tho' 2 nights  
he was very restless.  
I think we purpose  
to get it but had  
to sleep in the end.  
He throws himself  
from the night stool  
on to the floor one  
night damaging  
his nose & forehead.

He said he faints.  
You did not send us  
copies of the Adminis-  
tration Papers - Are they not  
necessary? They sent  
us copies from the  
Priory even though  
we of course have  
the original papers.  
Is it not necessary?  
He does not take  
much for Breakfast  
now - when he was  
here before he always  
made a good meal  
there. We are having

Every party, & so jolly  
full of fun - but  
I must confess, he  
had had fits of  
depression, at times -  
Did he like the  
Puzzles?

Yours very truly  
Emily Thornton

Jan: 22<sup>nd</sup>

Dear Sir -

Will you very  
kindly let me know  
how poor Mr. Higgins is,  
I have not heard from  
him for about 10. days.  
& I fear he is not  
so well, I fancy he is

WADSWORTH HOUSE,  
BEDFORD.



leaving you very shortly,  
do you consider him  
any better than he  
was when he went to  
you? & are you  
still hopeful of his  
recovery? I should  
be so glad to hear

your opinion, it is  
one of the saddest  
cases I have ever  
heard of - & it is  
almost impossible  
to realize, that he  
can be the same  
person. He was  
always the life of

THE WHITE COTTAGE,  
NEWENT,  
GLOUCESTER.

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce

I see no reason why my nephew shd. not see Dr. Derrin's opinion of his case, after which please let me have it again.

He is already agitating, as I expected, to go to Zurich & has written me at length on this line. I know why he wants this, & feel the idea must be firmly refused as impossible in his case.



Now that it is arranged for him to return to Norwich, it is quite likely he will feel sorry he is leaving York. This changeableness only proves how necessary it is to be firm with him & not to encourage these frequent moves. Unhappily he writes to his mother & sister, who are at length carried by his importunity

& say they wish him moved. This has occurred already several times.

I think you would assist at this juncture by telling my nephew that he must put out of his mind the thought of a journey abroad. I shall be at home again on Wednesday.

very truly Yrs,  
Dennis L. Higgins

High pressure Reciprocating Machine, driving  
an engine on other side can hydrophane  
with differential 1000 volt ampere meter.

December 32<sup>nd</sup>. 1911.

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Pianoforte Recital

by  
Mrs. G. F. Higgins. C. L.

1. The Lunatics' Lament.
2. The Peraldehyde Polka.
3. The Gallery Galop.
4. The Commissioners' Quadrille.

Interval of Two Years.

5. The Padded Polka.
6. The Lunacy Lancers.
7. Two Step. 'One foot in the Grave.'
8. Grand Finale. 'A Lunatic's Life.'

---

Harrowsted Grand Piano.





30<sup>th</sup> Jan as the time  
for the transfer.

Yours sincerely  
A. S. Peden. Warden

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TELEPHONE 30.

HEIGHAM HALL,  
NORWICH.

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1911

Dear D. Bedford Prynne  
Thank you for  
your letter. I have  
also had a letter  
from Mr. D. L. Higgins  
re Higgins's return.  
I quite agree with  
you that as long as  
his mother & Sister



114H MARSH  
HEICHAH HALL  
NORWICH

gives in to his craving  
for change he has  
little chance of  
improving. They  
quite see that his  
demands for pistols  
& poison are morbid  
but can't see that  
the craving for  
change is morbid too.  
I think very much  
I shall be most

interested to read  
the german article.  
Have any english  
cases been cured  
in that way?  
I wonder if you would  
kindly let me have  
a copy of the "Agreement  
you get patients'  
friends to sign.  
I am reviewing mine  
& would be glad  
of any new ideas.  
The book mentioned

LUNACY COMMISSION,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

22 January 1912.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to inform you  
that their consent to the transfer of M<sup>r</sup> *Gustavus J. Higgins*  
from your care to *Heigham Hall, Norwich* has been given on  
condition that the Patient be accompanied, during the removal, by  
at least two efficient and responsible persons.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

*W. J. S. Rose*

*for the Secretary.*

To *The Medical Supt.*

*York Retreat*





LUNACY COMMISSION,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

18 January, 1912.

Sir,

I write, on behalf of the Commissioners in Lunacy, to inquire whether  
Mr. *Guotams Francis Higgins*  
is still insane, and in a fit mental and bodily condition for transfer to another  
Institution.

Is this patient either suicidal or dangerous, or inclined to be so?

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*W. J. S. Rose*

for the Secretary.

*The Medical Supt.  
York Retreat.*



MURKIN COMMISSION

Mr. Robert H. ...

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... to ...

... to ...

...

... to be ...

...

for the ...

...

Jan. 24, 1912

Dear Dr. Gordon-Munn,

We can arrange to send attendants as you propose. The Order for Transfer has not yet arrived, but I conclude it will be here in a day or so.

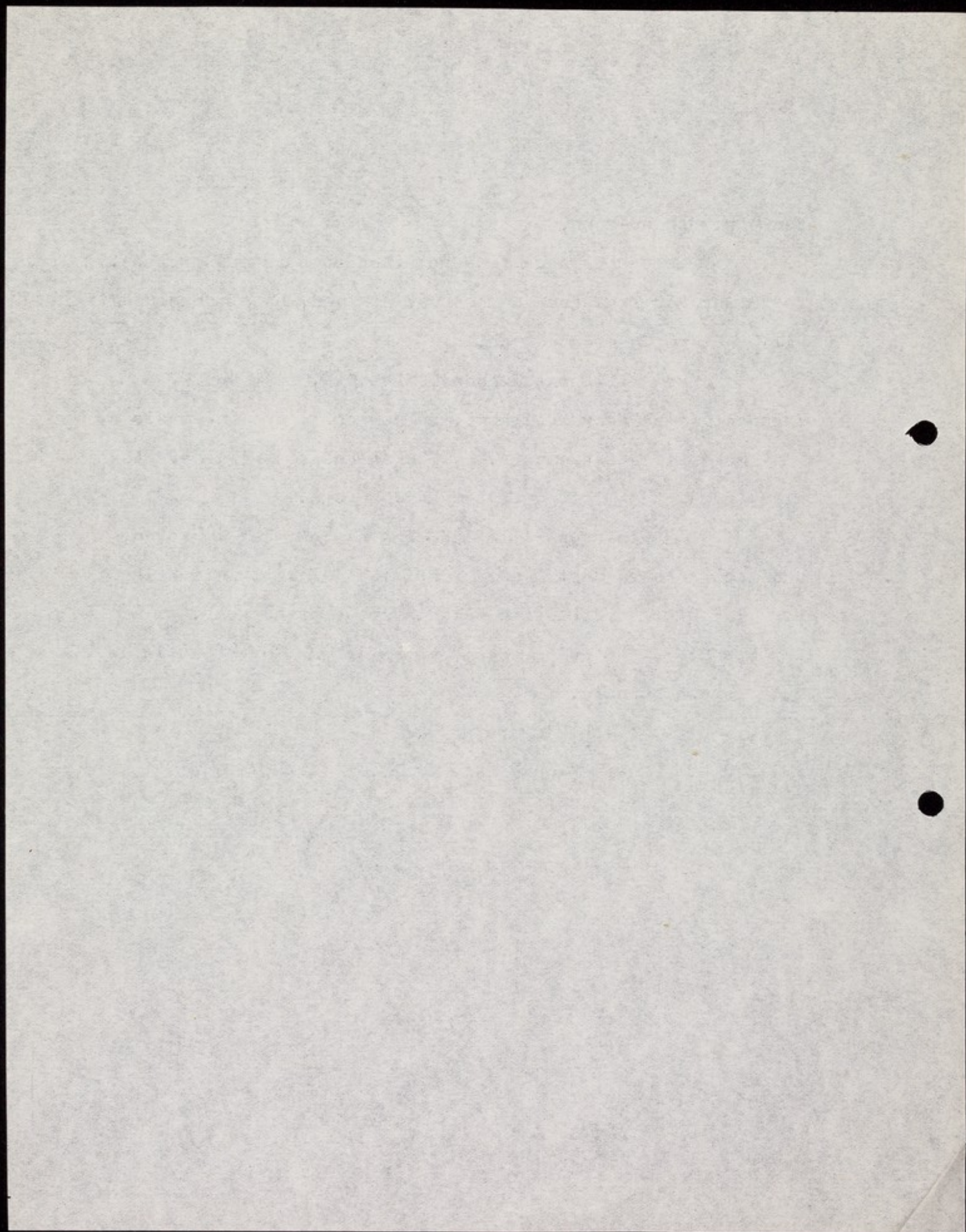
How will next Tuesday, the 30th, suit you? I expect to be away from home, but my colleague Mackenzie will make all arrangements. The attendants will have to sleep a night at Thorpe as they did before.

I think you will find Higgins somewhat improved, and though he has not made any suicidal attempt while being here I cannot say that the tendency has passed away. Perhaps it is not quite so strong as it was, but that is as much as can be said.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,







Jan. 23, 1912

Dear Madam,

By now you will have heard from Mr. Higgins, as he wrote a letter last night.

In reply to your enquiry, we do consider him a little better, and we think that he is himself beginning to have some hopes of his recovery himself.

Mr. Higgins was much interested in the puzzles, and he spent quite a lot of time over them.

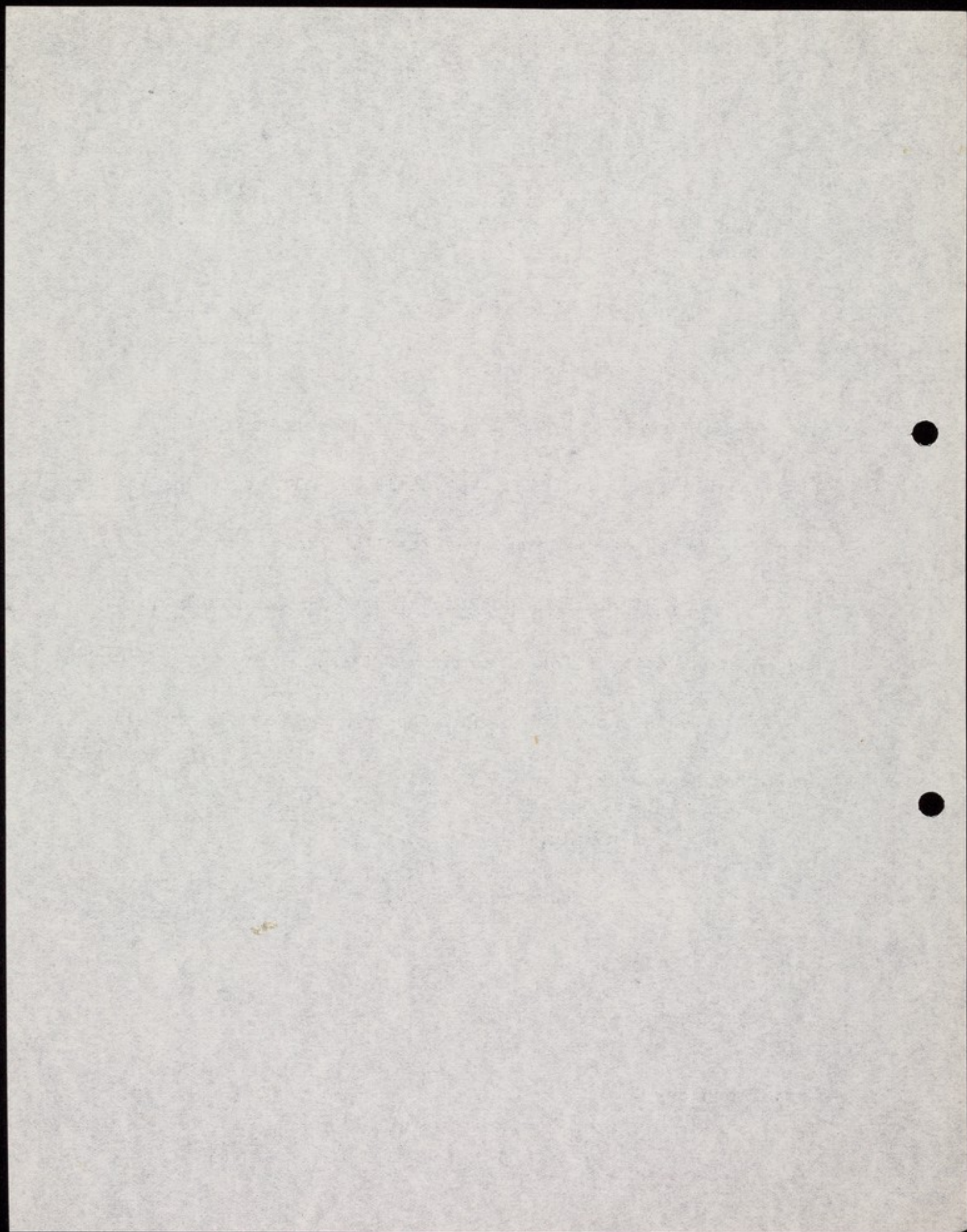
He is probably going to be removed to Weigham Hall some time next week.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Thornton





TELEPHONE 20

HEIGHAM HALL,  
LEIGHAM, NORWICH.

18. Jan 1912

Dear S. Bedford-Pearce  
Many thanks for the translation  
which I will return  
to you in a day or  
two. I am then taking  
it over. As to Skigg's  
news or at I wonder  
if you would be  
kind enough to  
let your Attendants



TELEPHONE CO. 300-1000  
HEIGHAM HALL  
MORWICH  
bring him to us  
as you have such  
a much larger staff  
than I have. To send  
3 of our men for him  
would leave us short  
with our small  
numbers. I would  
be greatly obliged  
if you would do so.  
We have our first

swan to-day but it  
is not laying.

Yours Sincerely  
J. P. Suden. Wren

Jan. 18, 1912

Dear Devine,

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad you liked the book on the Italian Lakes. If you want peace and quiet and beauty combined with the mediaeval spirit, let me commend you to the Sacro Monte above Orta. I am sending the books about Venice, which I think you will find interesting.

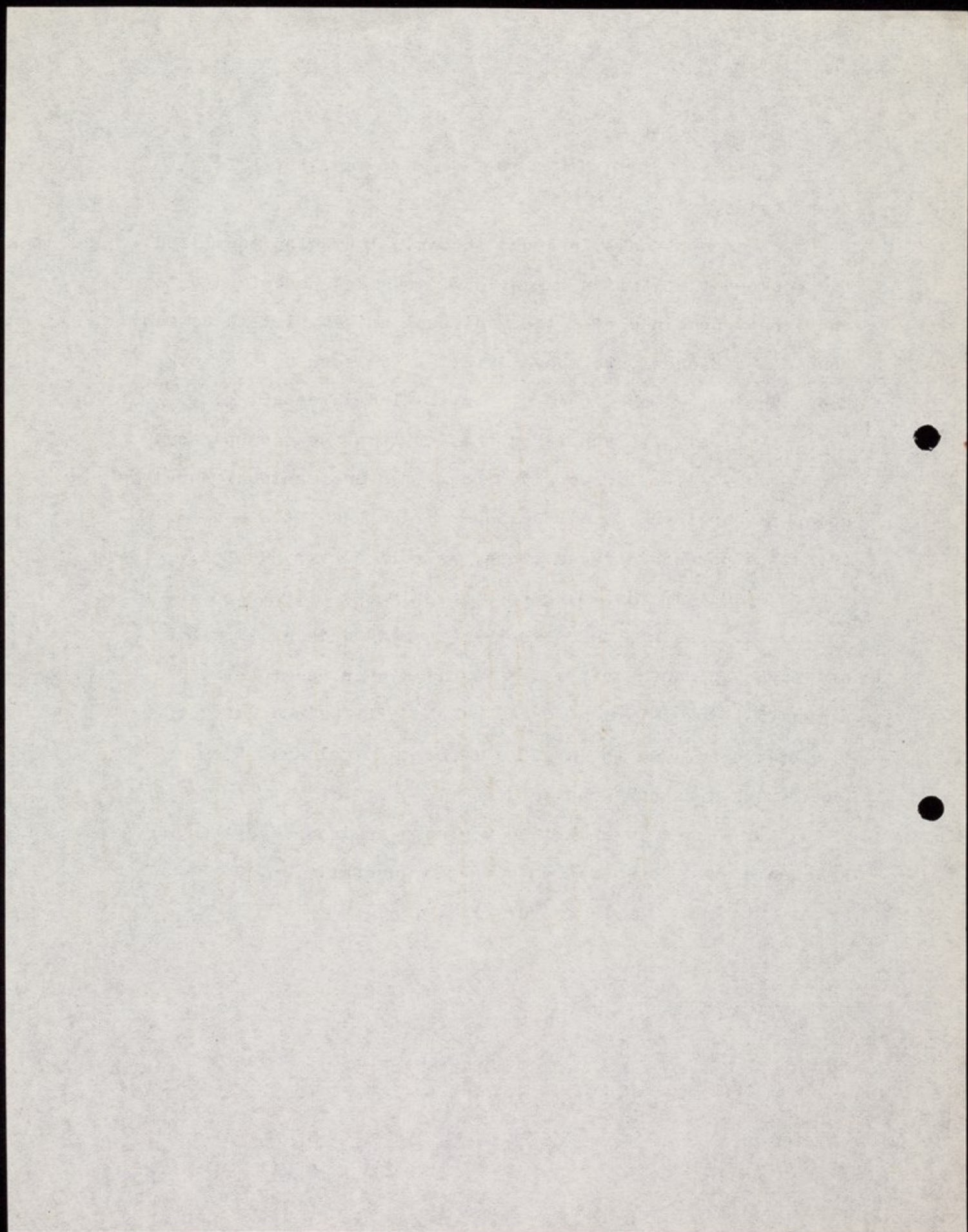
I am glad you liked the result of the conspiracy. I had some field glasses given to me for professional services under rather touching circumstances, and they have been a treasured possession ever since, as well as very useful.

Higgins is going back to Heigham Hall at the end of the month. He has unfortunately succeeded in getting his own way by piteous entreaties to his sister and mother. I myself think this a mistake, but he will be one wet blanket the less here, and the staff will be much relieved from anxiety when he has gone.

I hope we shall see you here again and that we may have some more pow-wows on things in general.

Yours very truly,





COUNTY OF YORK.

West Riding Asylum.

Wakefield Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1912

TELEPHONE NO 16.

My dear Doctor

Mr. Higgins and yourself have  
declined into a conspiracy to be very kind  
to me. I am bound to accept his "reading  
-room" is a most useful one and it would  
be idle for me to pretend anything but  
considerable pleasure in accepting it. I am  
very obliged to you for the part you have  
taken in the matter.

If your patient stays with you  
perhaps I might be allowed to come over  
again soon time and have another look  
at him with you. I shall be most interested  
to know how your analysis proceeds if you  
decide to undertake it.

By the way I am Secretary for the  
B. M. A. Neurological Section at Liverpool  
annual meeting. I think it will be a  
good meeting. We have arranged a joint discussion  
on "Clinical Insanity" - a neurologist



Psychiatrist and gynaecologist leading the discussion.  
I think it will be quite good and wonder if  
you will be coming over.

Last Thursday I started an acute convulsion  
& have only just emerged from seclusion.  
Am quite well again.

The little book on the Italian Lakes is  
excellent.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Henry. Drown

---

fully anticipate that no sooner  
there than my nephew will beg to  
go to Zurich & will be as insistent  
on this as he has been to leave  
the Retreat. In the face of Dr. Devine's  
opinion in the third paragraph  
of his report, I could not com-  
mend such a journey with its  
obvious perils. Moreover I have  
a shrewd guess as to the real  
motive underlying this new idea.  
I am extremely sorry he will  
be leaving you, but fully sym-  
pathize with the feelings of relief  
you will experience when he  
has passed from your charge.

Sincerely yours

Edmund H. Whipple

Kindly return the report of Dr. Devine

3 NORTH GROVE

HIGHGATE, N.

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 1912

Dear Dr. Devine

A telegram has reached me from  
my nephew asking me to forward  
immediately for your perusal Dr.  
Devine's report. This I hasten  
to do though I supposed he had  
already told you his opinion.  
I have heard from Dr. Gordon-Mum-  
ford that he can take my nephew  
on the 30<sup>th</sup> inst. & I have  
consequently written the Com-  
missioners for leave to transfer  
him again to Norwich. I



EVONR HTRORE  
METAKHON

& sister are much anxious to yield to his incessant cry for a return to Norwich, though I have warned them that it will only result in the most transient relief of tension, & that this constant craving for change must be viewed as part of his disease & shd. be dealt with accordingly. I have no illusions on the subject, but feel it better to yield. I therefore propose to transfer him back again (with the leave of the Commissioners) at the end of the quarter, if it can be arranged. Dr Devine tells me that he is not allowed to take a fee. Perhaps however you might be able to suggest some acceptable present which I could send him in acknowledgment of his kindness & trouble & let me

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3 NORTH GROVE

HIGHGATE N

Jan 7 13<sup>th</sup> 1912

Dear Dr. Purice

I have today examined Dr. Devine's report, written under trying circumstances as he is suffering from tonsillitis. While considering the case as a suitable one for the psycho-analysis he is unable to hold out any confident expectation of success owing to the chronic nature of his symptoms. In any case he wd. have to go abroad for it, & this seems to present almost insuperable difficulties in the case of his inveterate suicidal tendency.

Under the circumstances his mother



know the expenses to which he  
was put.

I am enclosing the account  
with a cheque for all the extras  
up to date Dec<sup>r</sup>. 31<sup>st</sup>. Kindly send  
me a further account at the  
close of the quarter, & also let  
me know the date of the close,  
so as to arrange for his removal.

truly yrs

Dennis L. Higgins

West Riding Asylum,  
Wakefield.

3/1/12

Dear Doctor.

I really do not think I can manage to get over to York this week.

I have just been away for a few days and have a great deal on in one way or another. Would it suit you one day next week?

Wednesday or Thursday would be best for me.

I should very much like to talk over the case. Unfortunately, as you say in your letter, I am unable to actually take on outside work but would be glad of the opportunity of seeing you more. I seldom get a case that is any use for psycho-analysis here.

Trusting this will suit you and regretting my inability to come before

Yours sincerely

Henry Dumas



United States District Court

for the District of Columbia

Case No. 100-100000

In re: [illegible]

[Faint, illegible text in the upper section of the page]

JOHN [illegible]

SUPPLEMENTAL [illegible]

[Faint, illegible text in the lower section of the page]

Jan. 5, 1912

Dear Devine,

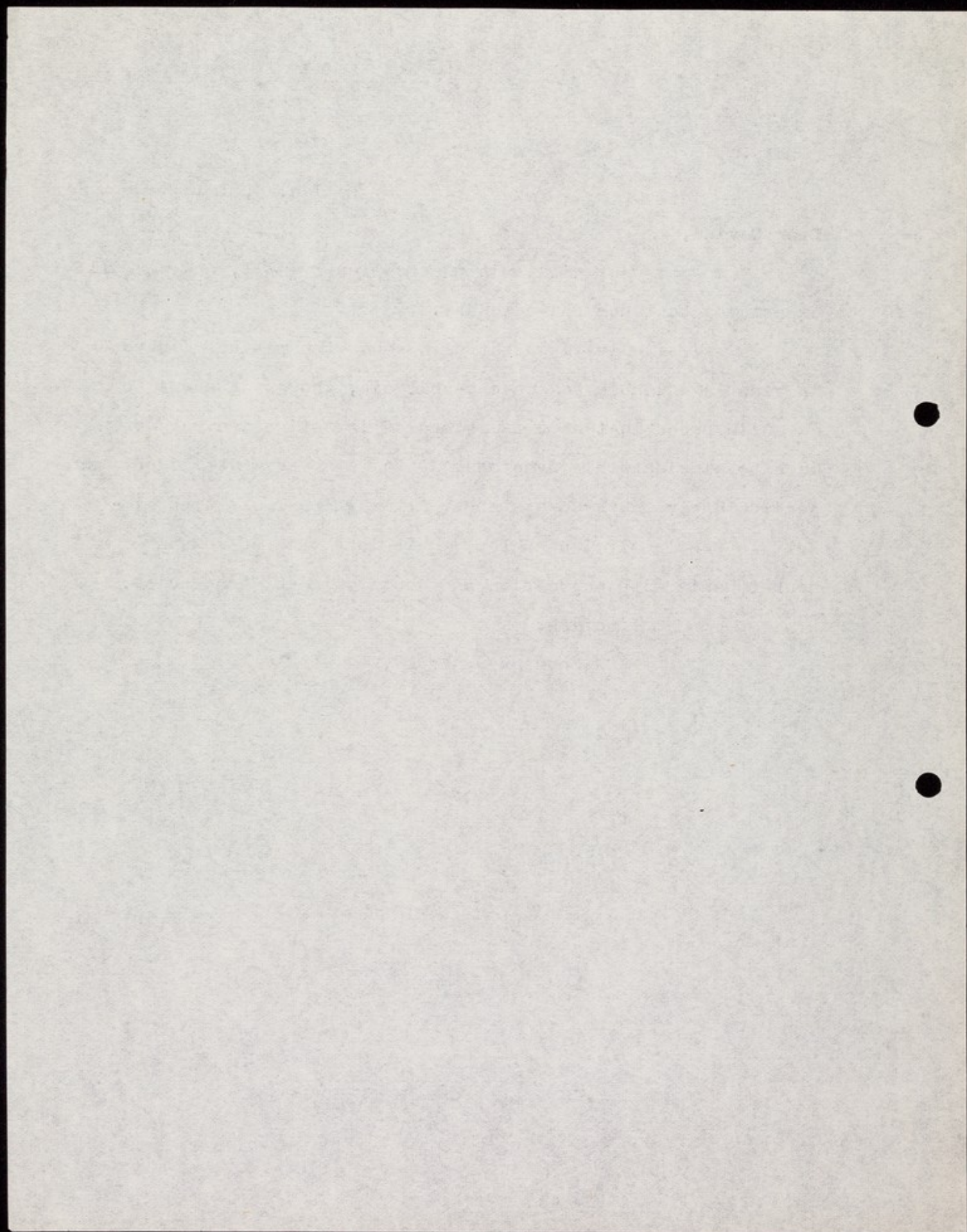
Next week will suit me excellently well, and we will expect you to lunch on Wednesday.

I am a little doubtful whether the patient I have in view is suitable for psycho-analysis, though it seems to me quite probable that this method of investigation may do much to elucidate his symptoms. He is a very intelligent man, and would give every assistance, although he looks upon himself as hopelessly incurable. It is a case of sexual neurasthenia with depression and acute suicidal tendencies.

I remain,

Yours very truly,





Jan. 4, 1912

Dear Mr. Hibbs,

It is quite impossible for any one to speak with any degree of certainty on the question of heredity.

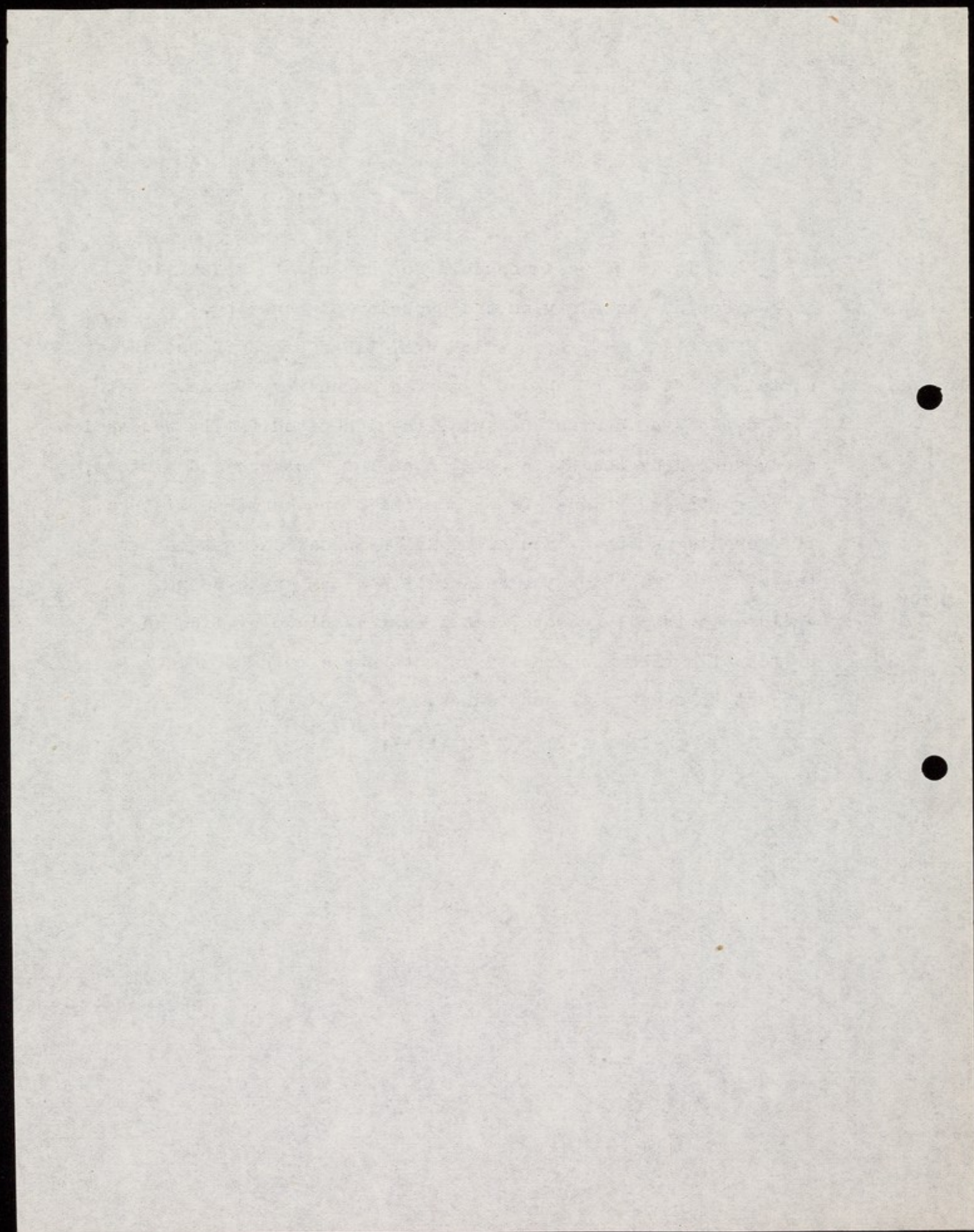
The form of insanity from which Mrs. Hibbs has suffered is certainly not one of the most marked hereditary forms.

Much depends on her antecedents, the inherited family tendencies as evidenced by the state of mind of her brothers and sisters, her parents and grand-parents and their brothers and sisters.

If there is no other case of mental disorder amongst all these, I should think the chance of any danger to your children extremely remote, but I must conclude as I began by repeating that we ~~really~~ do not know enough of the subject to speak with confidence.

Yours very truly,







Jan 2, 1912

Dear Devine,

Would it be possible for you to come over and consult with me as to whether a patient here would be a suitable case for psycho-analysis?

I have been much excited over the report of a case of melancholia in the Yahrbruch by a man named Moeden, which case is not unlike my patient here.

If you should think it a suitable case for this kind of investigation, would it be possible for you to help me with it from time to time, assist me with the technique, and give suggestions as to further lines of enquiry? I do not think there will be any difficulty as to fees in this particular case, but I know full well that you are already over-worked, and indeed it may not be possible for you to take up any outside work of this kind.

In any case, I hope you will be able to come and talk over things. Would Thursday next suit you? I would make any time that day fit in. Will you come and have lunch, and tackle it after?

If Thursday does not suit you, I could manage tomorrow late in the afternoon, or next Saturday.

With all good wishes for the new year,  
Yours very truly,



Jan. 2, 1912

Dear Mr. Higgins,

I enclose you a copy of the returns of the night attendant respecting Mr. Higgins, from which you will see that on the whole he has not slept badly although he has had no sedative of any kind.

With regard to his general health, that has improved, and he has gained between six and seven pounds in weight since being at the Retreat.

He has not done so well mentally the last fortnight, as he has been persistently worrying about being removed. He tells us that his reason for wishing to leave is to go back to the paraldehyde, which he says relieves him to some extent.

I do not wish unduly to minimise his distress of mind, but there is no doubt whatever that he exaggerates his discomforts until they become acute pain and that he generally magnifies anything in the least disadvantageous.

As I told you, I look upon the case as one that ought to recover as there is no sign of mental enfeeblement, unless the silly way in which he writes letters asking for poison is evidence of this.

There seems to me, moreover, a reasonable hope that the modern line of treatment by psycho-analysis may be beneficial in this case, and I have recently met with a case, in German literature, not at all unlike his, with depression of a year and a half's standing, with suicidal tendencies, which was successfully treated in this way. I am hoping to arrange for a medical friend, Dr. Devine of Wakefield, who has had experience of this particular line of treatment, to come over and see Mr. Higgins with me; and I will write to you later, reporting what he says.

One thing is to me quite clear; that it is not fair to Mr. Higgins to allow him to think he can move from place to place whenever he begs to be moved. The unsettlement of his mind prevents the physician in charge from having a fair chance of treatment, whilst from the physician's point of view, the knowledge that he may not be staying more than a short time discourages effort. I would, therefore suggest that when you have decided where Mr. Higgins will have the best chance of recovery it shall be understood by all parties concerned that he is not to be moved for, say a period of six months, unless perchance he should happily improve within that time, sufficiently to have a trial elsewhere.

Yours very truly,

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STATION AND  
TELEGRAPH OFFICE,  
GOLDSBRO'GOLDSBRO' HALL,  
KNARESBOROUGH.

Dec. 12 '1911

Dear Sir

My son has received  
a most-pleasant letter from  
Mr. Frank Higgins my nephew  
cousin, the boy is only  
20 just home on leave from  
his regiment. The letter is  
asking him to come & see  
him at once & bring his



& a revolver that he may put  
an end to himself, I think  
it will be best if you will  
stop all <sup>correspondence</sup> addressed here  
from him, I want to see  
him once, but I know it  
did him no good, as  
all he wanted was for  
me to give him something  
to put an end to himself

I should be only too glad to  
go & see him if I thought  
it would do him any good.

I do hope there is a chance  
of his recovering, he seems  
in a most deplorable state

Yours faithfully  
W. R. Lamb

Dr Pierce

The Retreat-  
York

Dec. 29, 1911

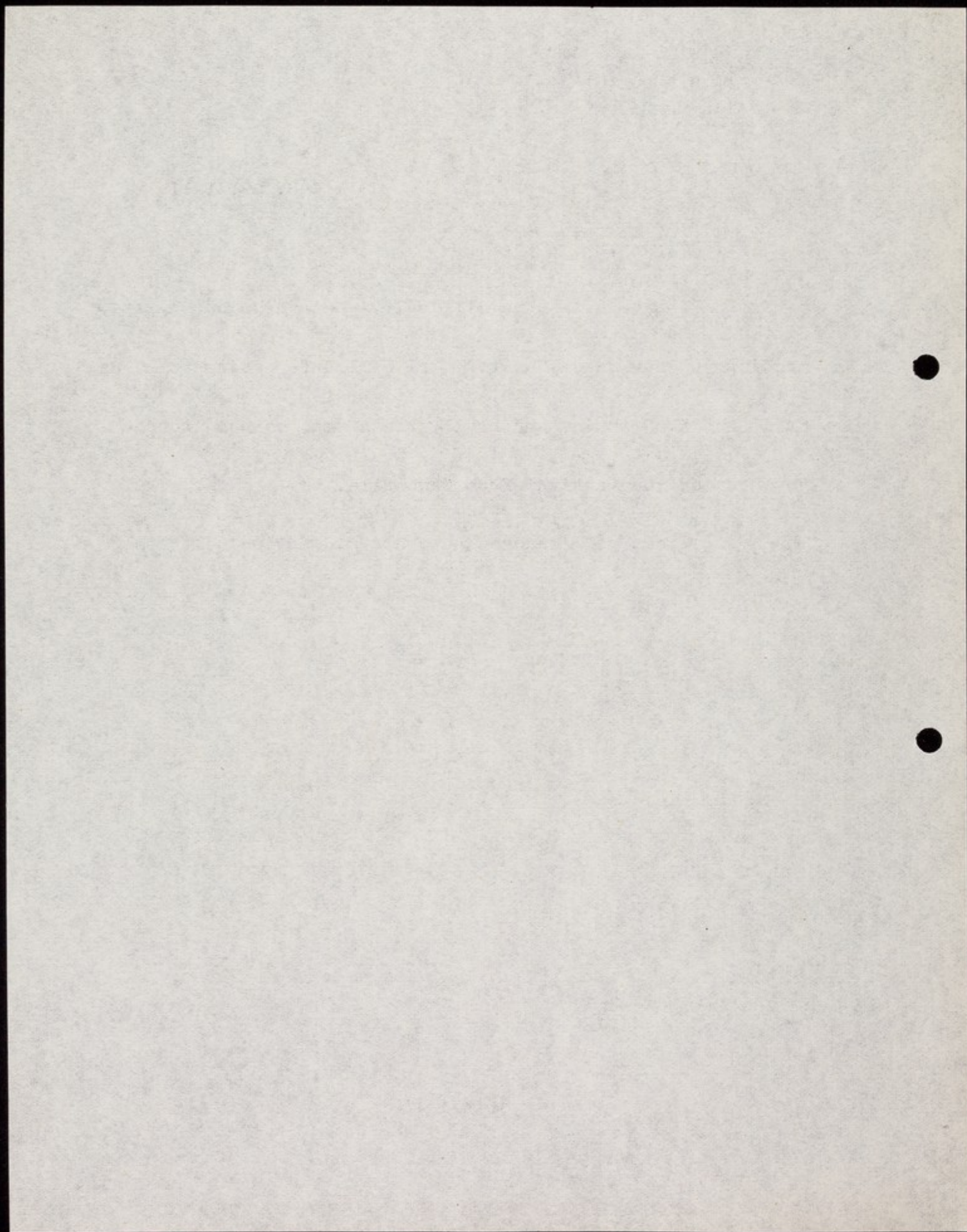
Dear Mr. Higgins,

There will be no difficulty whatever about my meeting you on Tuesday next. I will defer going to Leeds until the 2.30 train, and shall, therefore, be able to see you here on your arrival from Newcastle.

I can well understand that Mr. Higgins's letters to his mother and sister are most distressing to them.

Yours very truly





on Wednesday morn<sup>g</sup>. as early as  
 wd be convenient to you. If this  
 is not suitable I wd leave Newcastle  
 so as to arrive at York <sup>on Tuesday</sup> at 12  
 noon if you cd meet me there  
 before leaving for Leeds. I  
 wd like to see you before seeing  
 my nephew. I am glad to hear  
 you think him better & that he is  
 sleeping well. His letters are very  
 doleful, & his restlessness is con-  
 tinual which finds expression  
 in agonized entreaties to be  
 moved somewhere else, & these  
 affect his mother & sister prejudicially  
 as I believe. I leave <sup>Saturday</sup> ~~on Sunday~~ by the 10.8  
 from Kings & going through to Newcastle where my  
 address will be Findhorn, Heaton R<sup>d</sup> North.

Sincerely Yrs,  
 Dennis L. Higgins

5 NORTH GROVE  
 HIGHGATE N.

Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 1911

Dear R. Bedford Pierce

I shall not be going direct from  
 London to York on Tuesday, but  
 shall be coming from Newcastle  
 where I spend the week end  
 & have engagements on Monday.  
 Furthermore I am staying the  
 night on Tuesday at York  
<sup>having an engagement in the eve</sup> with a friend. I think therefore,  
 as I am very desirous of seeing  
 you on this occasion, having  
 missed you the last, that  
 I can arrange to look in



EVORR WTHOWE  
METZSCHKE

Dec.27, 1911

Dear Mr. Higgins,

I am glad to hear that you are coming to see Mr. G.F.Higgins before long.

I think you will find him somewhat better. When he talks about himself he is still miserable in the extreme, but in between times he takes quite a keen interest in what goes on. He came to a patients' party on Saturday, and on Christmas day joined a number of patients at a party at my house. He certainly joined in what was going on in a most pleasant way.

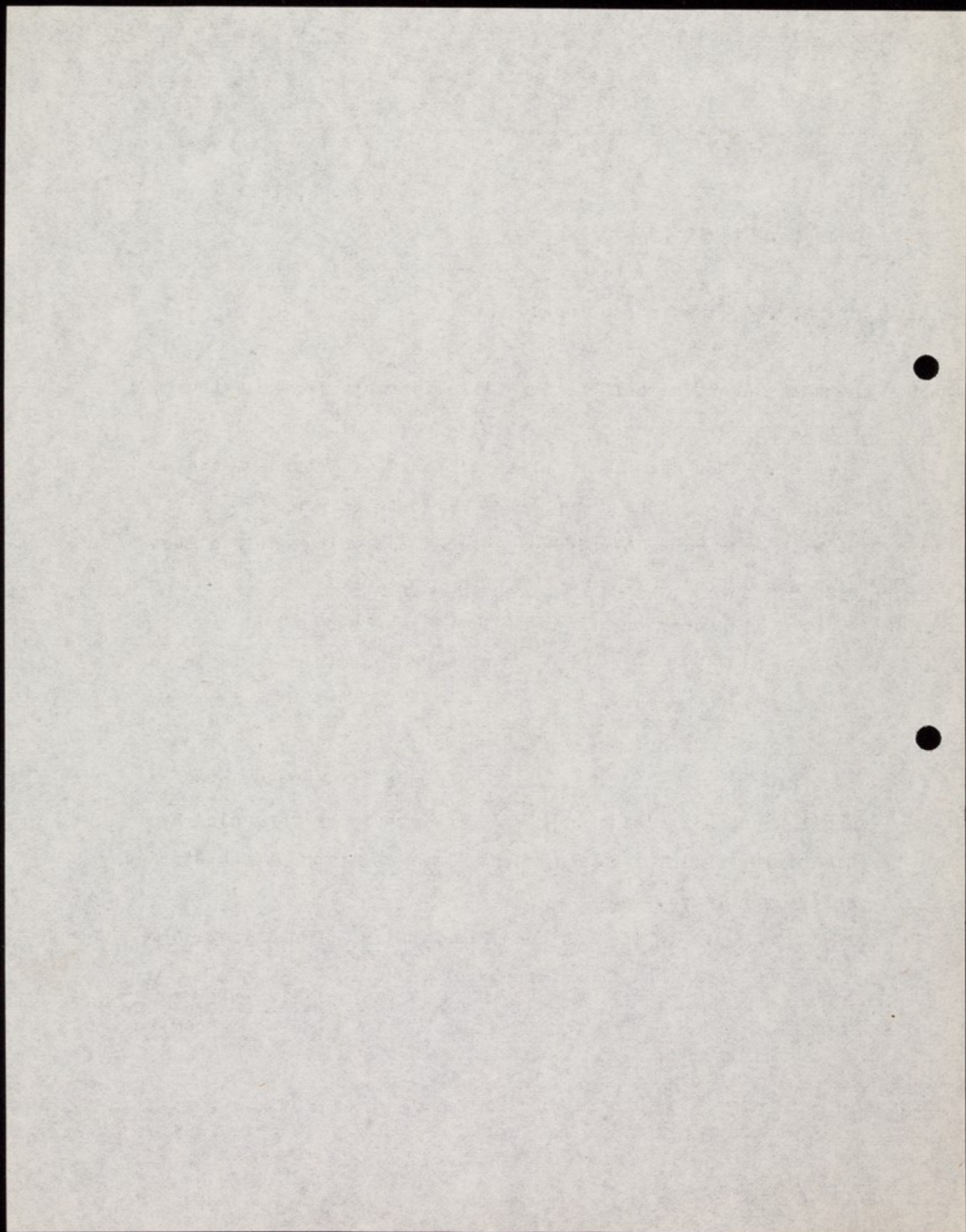
No doubt there is still a background of misery, even in his brighter moments, but we do not think this is so dark as it formerly was.

I may not see you if you come on Tuesday, as I shall probably be going to Leeds, and I do not get back usually until about six o'clock. If you should be returning by the dining train at 6.50 perhaps I may meet you at the station before you leave.

Mr. Higgins has been sleeping quite well lately.

Yours very truly,





STATION, TURVEY, M.R.  
TELEGRAMS, TURVEY.

H. Dec

804  
Theophile Masson

— THE CHANTRY HOUSE,  
TURVEY,  
BEDFORD.

Dear Dr. Perci —

I am writing to ask  
what you really  
think of my poem —  
he tells me you  
think I read all his  
relations take a  
hopeless view of his



condition, while there — I have not  
it very far from the written hope, as I  
see — and I don't know my daughter  
think you can have had, and I do not  
said so. I am afraid to trouble you  
it is one of the delusions too much — but I  
does he occupy should be grateful  
himself at all, and if you would let me  
do letters give him hear once a week  
please either  
writing or receiving

Yours very truly  
Adela Higgins

their leave. Now I do not of course  
give credence to all he says in support  
of this last whim, & take it as very  
probable that he has given some soothing  
remark of yours a turn by no  
means justified; but I feel some-  
thing sh<sup>d</sup> be done to check, if possible,  
his raking his poor mother's feelings  
in the way he is doing, & I cannot  
help thinking the constant letter  
writing in the strain he is doing is  
injurious to himself <sup>as well</sup>. Dr. Gordon -  
Mum found it to be so, & assigned  
one day a week as his letter writing  
day, which worked as a great relief  
to everyone. Perhaps you may see  
your way to suggest something  
of the kind, as he only works  
himself up into exasperation

833

3 NORTH GROVE  
HIGHGATE, N.Dec<sup>r</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup> 1911

Dear Dr. Bedford. Pierce

My poor nephew keeps on writ-  
ing to me & to his mother begging  
to be allowed to go to a Doctors' Uni-  
versity in his own Parish, & be looked  
after by two attendants. The thing  
is impossible to be even contempla-  
ted, and were it to take place it  
would drive his mother & sister  
out of their home, as they could not  
live there in peace.  
He gives it to be understood that  
you sanction the idea, & he has  
written the Commissioners to beg



EVONB HTHOR'S

REYASHDIN

by these constant appeals to his relatives to do what they have the sense to know is foolish, and what, if allowed, would leave him just as discontented, just as restless, & in the same hopeless condition of mind in which he is now. I have told him the thing is out of the question, & that he must make up his mind to remain where he is.

He complains of hearing other patients which distresses him, finds fault with his food, & so on. I take little notice of this, as if he wishes to gain an end he must make out some plausible case in order

to do so, & these allegations will do as well as others. I dare say there is next to nothing in the complaints.

What is wanted is a kindly firmness in assuring him that the best thing <sup>for him</sup> is being done, & that he must submit to be guided by those who are in a position to judge of what is best for him. He must however do something to prevent him making his mother ill with his appeals.

Perhaps you may be able to do something to restrain the exuberance of his pen. Truly Yrs

Deems L. Higgins

I am afraid he  
plays the Piano, he  
used to play a little,  
without any music.  
I would go at once  
to see him if you  
thought it necessary -  
that Mr. Higgins really  
wanted to see me -

Very truly yours  
Emily Thornton

846

Wadsworth House  
Bedford  
Dec: 15<sup>th</sup> 1911  
Dear Sir.

I thank you very  
much for so kindly  
writing. I heard from  
you Mr. Higgins today.  
he seems to have  
made up his mind,  
that I am going to see  
him tomorrow, & that



that I am staying at  
some hotel until  
Monday, I cannot  
possibly go, I do not  
like to write to him,  
as you only write me  
to write once a week.  
Supposing he would  
be disappointed, will  
you tell him I hope

to go after Christmas if  
you will allow it -  
I am afraid he is  
very very ill, he asks  
me for all sorts of  
impossible things, while  
only news the Lord  
that he is in, I am  
afraid I feel very  
hopeless of his recovery.

Dec. 14, 1911

Dear Madam,

I fear I cannot report any improvement in Mr. Higgins's general condition. He has gained a little in weight, and he really is not doing badly, but just now he seems more discouraged than usual and he is writing terrible letters to people, asking them to send him poison or a revolver.

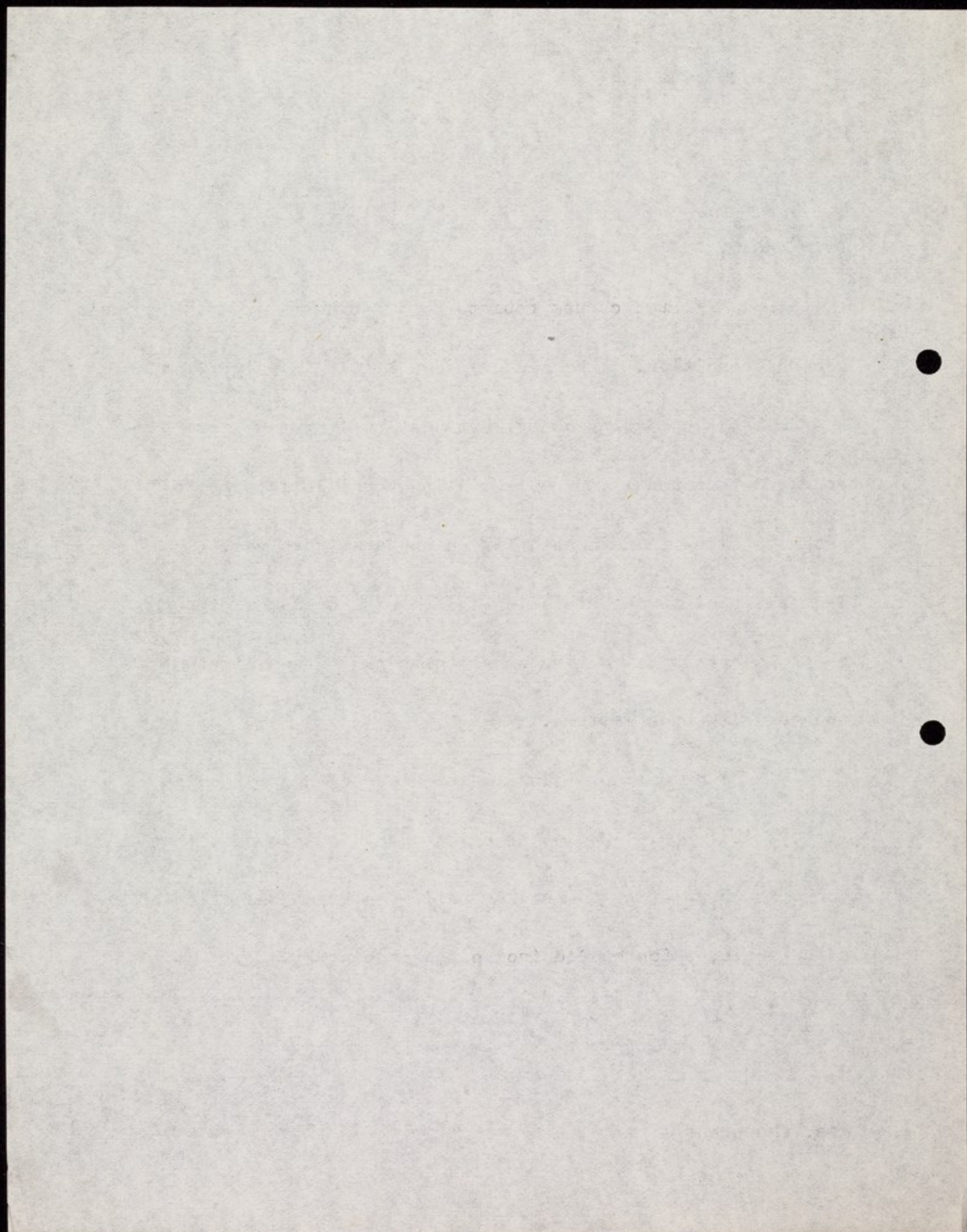
I am disappointed at his doing this. I should have thought he would have had too much sense to think it the slightest use to write such letters.

You must not think he is quite so unhappy as the letters indicate. The other night when I was down at the Lodge he was playing to another patient a great selection of dance music, which he did from ear exceedingly well.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Thornton









So, but I dare not <sup>do it</sup> undertake such a long journey this out, if it would give  
 time of year, I shall <sup>be</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>early</sup> <sup>spring</sup>, of course  
 if he particularly wishes me to. I shall  
 be able to see him any pleasure.  
 As I fear he is too  
 ill to care to see me,  
 he tells me he is  
 losing sight, & getting  
 weaker, but I know he

disturbed by his anxiety to be off again to Norwich, though I should be glad enough were he reconciled to remain where he is. I know perfectly well that this incessant desire to go elsewhere is the outcome of his mental condition, and that to yield to it is rather to strengthen the latter than otherwise. In writing to his sister just recently he spoke of his determination to commit suicide spite of all efforts made to prevent it, & told her that he had hoped to here find opportunity on his journey to York from Norwich. His anxiety to make the return journey must be viewed in the light of this admission & determination.

As regards letters to Mr. Winston Churchill & others I think you must exercise a wise discretion and not send them. If you are in any doubt to

789

3 NORTH GROVE

HIGHGATE N.

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 1911

Dear D. Pierce

I am obliged for your letter as to my nephew, who seems at present to be passing through a period of extreme depression & mental suffering judging from his letters. So far as I am concerned you may rely on it that he will receive no encouragement in his thought of returning to Norwich. I think too that his other relations will not <sup>encourage him</sup> do so either. In my last letter I told him that any thought of another change was quite out of the question at present. I think I told you that he would wish to leave again almost immediately, and I am therefore not in the least



Kindly send the letters to me & I will  
take the responsibility of dealing  
with them as may seem for the best.

Dr. Gordon Munn followed this plan  
with success. Public men have  
in general enough cares without being  
disturbed by unbalanced minds  
whose grievances neither they nor  
anyone else can alleviate.

In his letter to his sister he alluded  
to a fear lest he might be violent,  
and to the pain it was to him to  
express the sensation. This may be  
only said to produce an effect,  
but still it is well you sh<sup>d</sup>. be aware

of what is passing through his mind  
lest there sh<sup>d</sup>. be something in it.

You omitted to enclose Mr. Falland's  
letter which you said you were for-  
warding. My nephew was examined  
at Norwich for the same thing & with  
the same result. It is therefore established  
that there is no disease other than what  
is of a nervous nature in this regard,  
for which I am thankful. I trust  
he may soon again emerge from the  
mare of depression which, since my  
visit, has seemed to overwhelm  
him, but I dare say these ups & downs  
are to be expected.

Sincerely Y<sup>rs</sup>

Dennis L. Higgins

76. Launceston Mansions. 774  
Victoria Street S.W. -  
STATION, TURVEY, M.R.  
TELEGRAMS, TURVEY.  
THE CHANTRY HOUSE,  
TURVEY,  
BEDFORD.  
25. December. 1911.

Dear Dr Pierce,

Will you very kindly write  
to me by return & tell me how  
my brother, Mr Higgins  
is, as I had a terribly  
distressing letter from  
him this morning, and  
Jack is very ill again. -



He tells me Mr. Cooney has had better again -  
weight, is thro so. -

How is his appetite, and  
does he sleep at all still  
with out a draught. -

We are very anxious about  
him, which I am sure you  
can well understand. -

He seemed so much better  
last week, and it is such  
a disappointment to get

Yrs truly,

Arthur Higgins.

---

Ready to write him,  
Very truly yours  
Emily Thornton

764  
WADSWORTH HOUSE,  
BEDFORD.

Nov: 24<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dr. Purce -

Mr. Briggs wishes  
me to write to him  
often than once  
a week, I do not like  
to do so, unless I have  
your permission, I am



afraid the poor thing  
is not any better.

It get very lifeless.  
If his ever recovery  
for this most  
terrible illness - we  
cannot believe he  
was once the most

lively person - & always  
up to anything. I should  
very much like to hear  
what you think of him.  
He tells me ~~you~~ you are  
all most kind, if it  
gives him the smallest  
chance, I am always

command of himself & his subject,  
and when he did speak of his pains  
& afflictions he did so without giving  
way to tears & hopeless despair, as  
on nearly every previous occasion when  
I had seen him. I told him I was  
sure he was better, & was much encour-  
aged by my visit.

I have always endeavoured to occupy  
him with matters outside himself  
whenever I have seen him, & have again  
& again failed in keeping him off him-  
self for long. This time I had no trouble  
of the kind. I thought it would inter-  
est you to receive these impressions  
of my visit.

Sincerely  
Hiram L. Higgins

748

3 NORTH GROVE  
HIGHGATE N.

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1911

Dear D. Bedford Pince

I was sorry to have missed seeing  
you on Friday. I did not get yr.  
letter till my return, though I saw  
a copy of it at the Retreat.

I was distinctly of the impression  
that my nephew had made progress  
since last I saw him, & that the  
more, treatment, or change of air,  
had certainly benefitted him for the  
time being at any rate. He conversed  
with me for more than an hour  
on the affairs of his estate & relations  
without once branching off to speak  
of himself, and this with perfect



EVORON HTRON'S  
NORTH GROVE  
MICHIGAN

Nov. 28, 1911

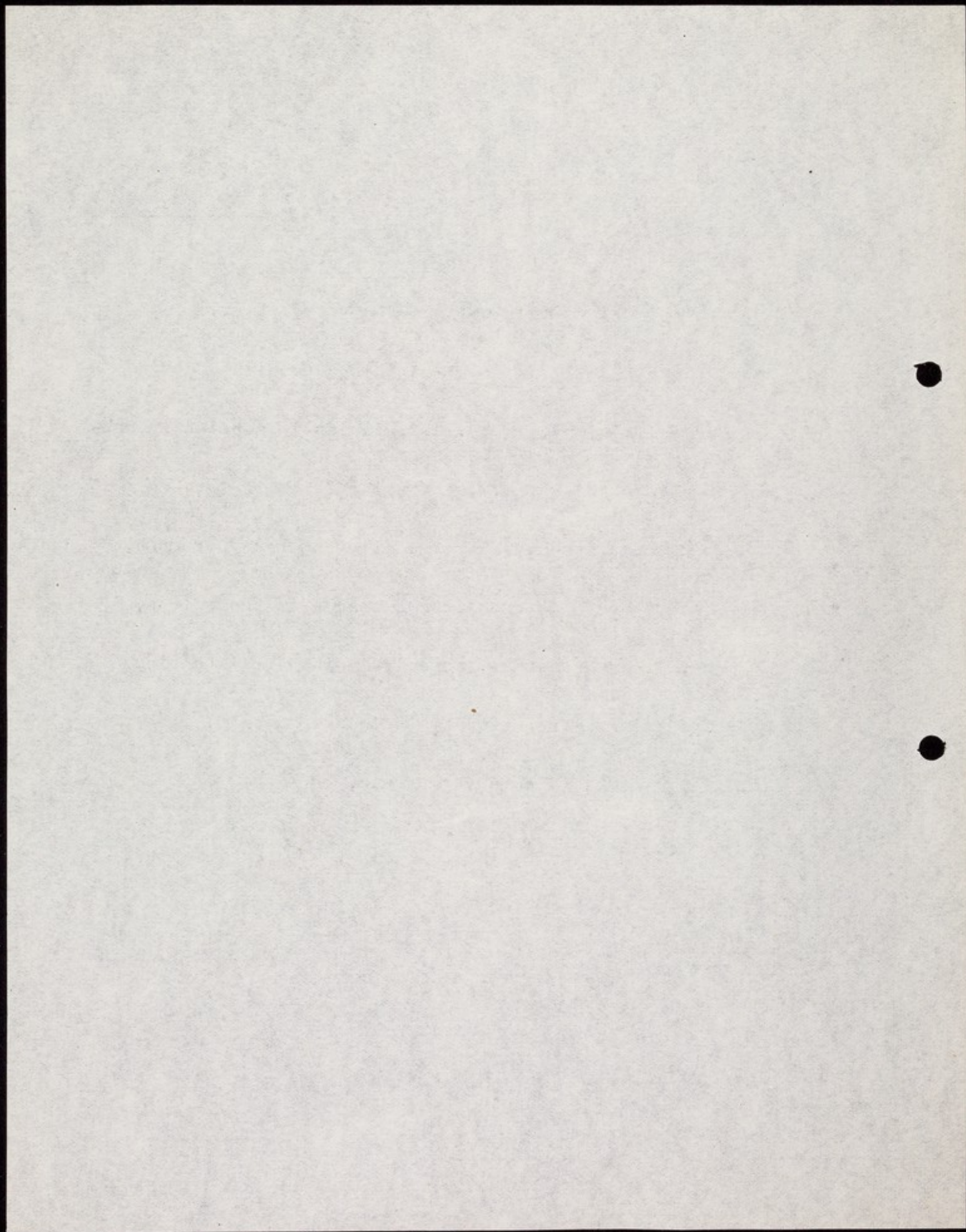
Dear Mr. Higgins,

I am much obliged for your letter.

I fear there is no doubt as to the continued desire for self injury. Mr. G.F.Higgins is constantly asking to do things, e.g. attending football matches, going an extended walk or calling on Lora Deramore, which, though apparently reasonable in themselves, are, I have no doubt, conceived with the intention of finding an opportunity to injure himself.

Yours very truly,







Dennis L. Higgins Esq

Nov 27 1911

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of  
the Retreat Committee the terms for  
Mr G. F. Higgins were fixed at 10 pence  
a week -

Enclose the usual form of Agreement  
which kindly return to me when  
Completed

Yours faithfully

W. E. Waller.



Jan 27 1891

Samuel L. Huggins

Dear Sir

At the recent meeting of  
the Robert Committee the letter for  
Mr. L. F. Huggins was placed at Huggins  
a card -

Enclosed the several forms of agreement  
which might be used for other

Completed

Yours faithfully  
W. E. Waller.



Nov. 16, 1911

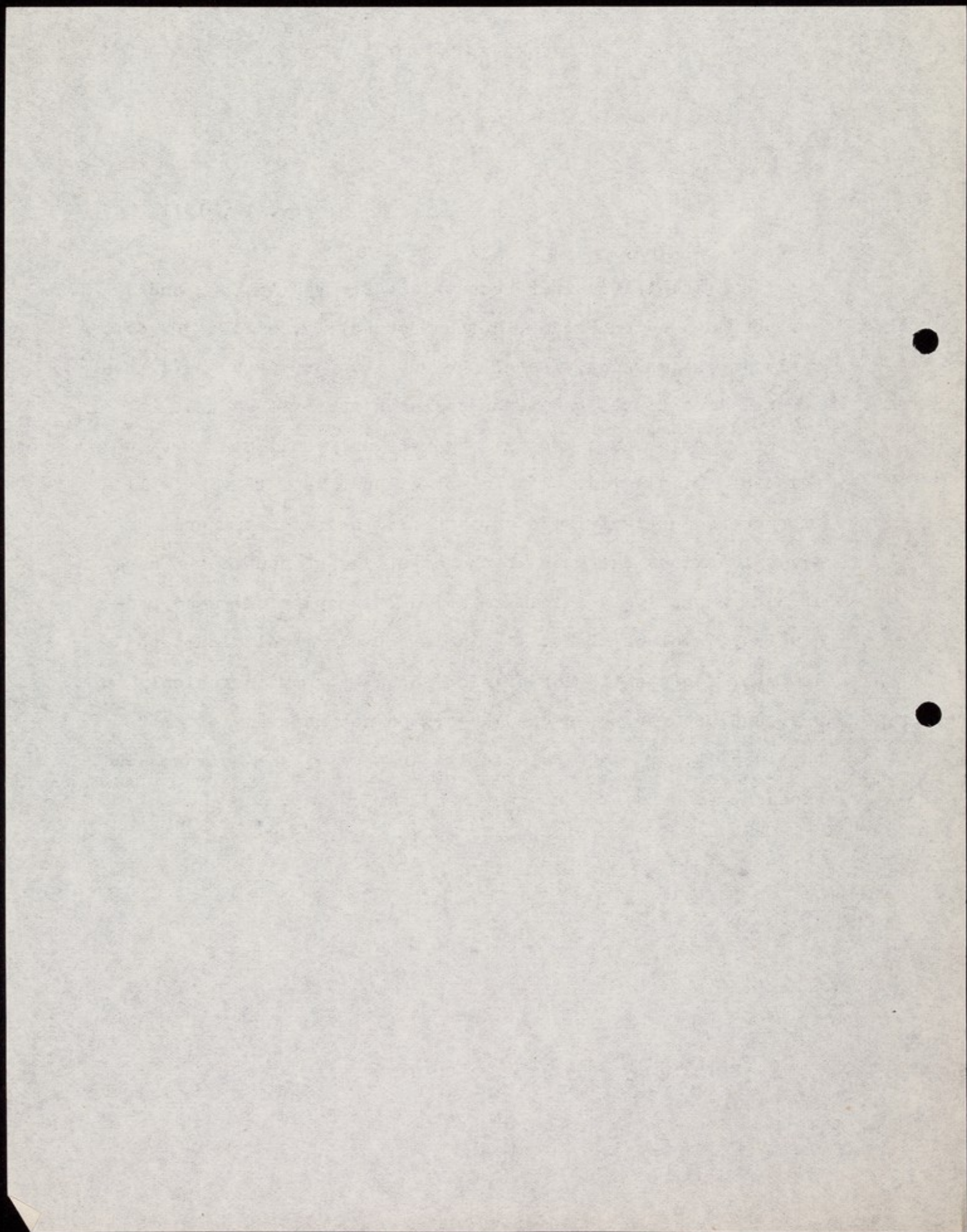
Dear Mr. Higgins,

It will be quite convenient for you to come and see your nephew on Friday, but unfortunately, unless you come early in the morning, I shall be unable to see you, as I have several important engagements in Leeds that afternoon.

One of my colleagues who will be here will tell you what we think of Mr. Higgins. I am not without hope that he will improve and entirely recover, but I am aware that there are several anxious features in the case, and of course the care of such an actively suicidal patient, in spite of every precaution, involves risks. He is not at all difficult to do with, accepts the supervision in quite a philosophical way, and, so far as we can judge, has not made any attempt to elude it. He frankly admits that he wishes he were dead, because, he says, he can never be any better.

Yours very truly,





5 NORTH GROVE  
HIGHGATE NNov 15<sup>th</sup> 1911

Dear P. Bedford Pierce

Though still suffering from a rather  
severe cold I hope to be well enough  
to run down on Friday to see  
my nephew and learn your  
impressions on his case. I shall  
arrive about 2 o'clock.

truly yrs  
William L. Higgins

---



EVORCH WTHON'S  
H. ETADH2IR

699

TELEPHONE 90

HIGHAM HALL.  
NORWICH.

10 Nov 1911

Dear S. Bedford Pierce

Thanks for  
your note I am glad  
Higgins arrived all  
right as I expected.  
I felt anxious about  
him. He is no sooner  
at our place than  
he wants to be off  
to another. I never



told him the names  
of any other Anglons  
as he would want  
to try them all in  
turn. As you say  
he is not easy to  
clarify.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely  
J. S. Padua.

Nov. 9, 1911

Dear Madam,

On the whole Mr. Higgins has done quite as well as we could expect since coming to the Retreat. He seems to have a glimmer of hope today. This is perhaps in part due to the weather being very brilliant this morning and also to the fact that he had quite a good night, sleeping almost to the whole night without any sedative medicine.

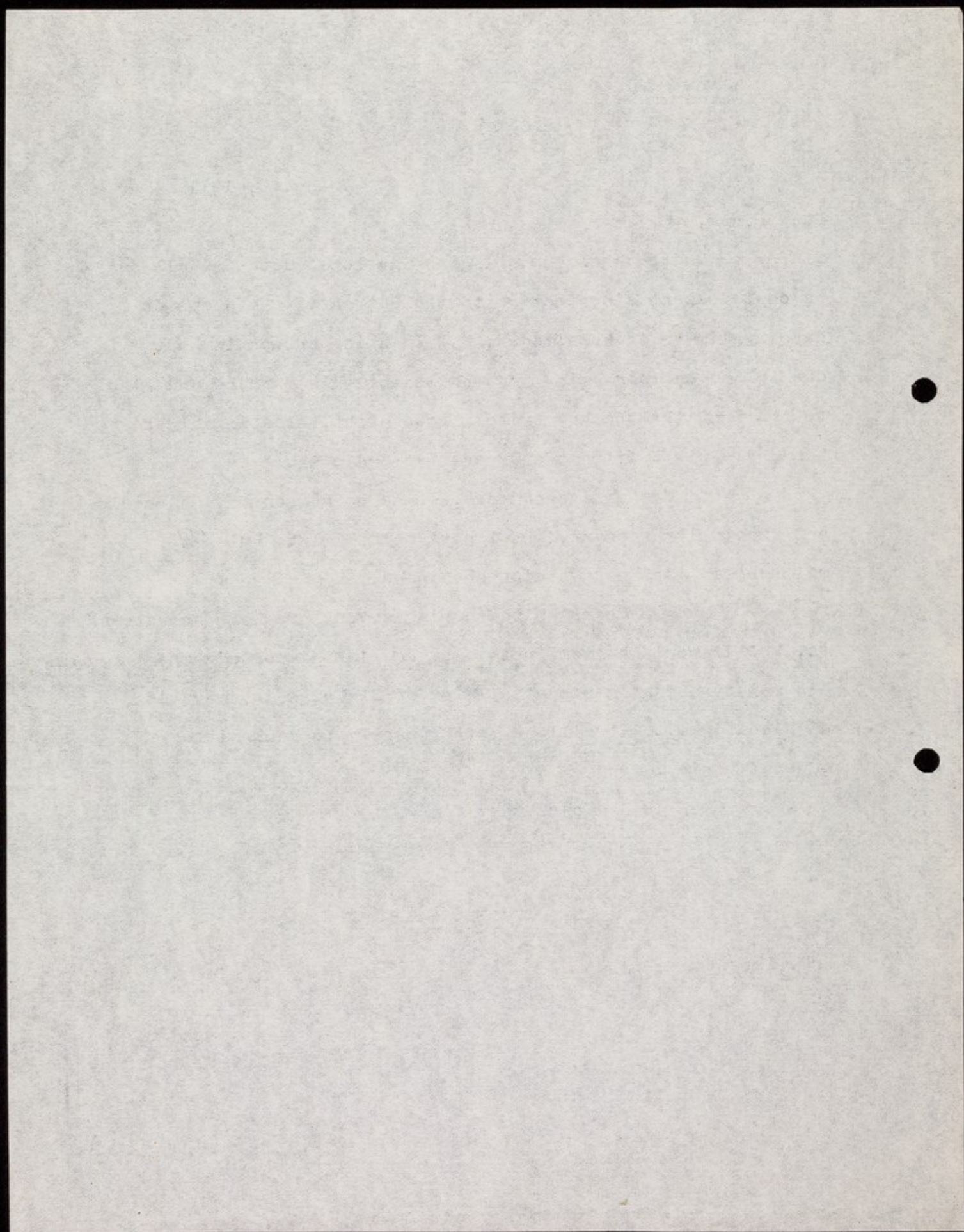
So far as I can judge, I see no reason why he should not eventually recover, and I have told him so; but ~~with~~ melancholia is a very tedious business.

By all means write to him as you have been accustomed to, but it would be well not to argue with him or discuss his malady and ailments at all, or try to explain away his difficulties. It will be better merely to deal with general topics.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Thornton







Nov. 8, 1911

Dear Sir,

Your nephew, Mr. G.F. Higgins, arrived here yesterday afternoon. He had a fairly comfortable journey, and there was little trouble on the way. He regretted leaving Heigham Hall, and cried about it sometimes, but he seems to be settling down here fairly well. He had about two hours sleep last night without any sleeping draught. He complains of headache and pains in the eyes, but this appears to be nothing new. I hope he will settle down well and that we shall be able to make him as comfortable as his condition allows.

Yours very truly,

D.L.Higgins Esq.



Nov. 8, 1911

Dear Madam,

I have received your letter of yesterday's date.

Mr. Higgins arrived here yesterday afternoon. He seems to have had as comfortable a journey as could be expected, although at the end he regretted leaving Heigham Hall.

He had some sleep last night without a sleeping draught, and we are anxious that he should not be dependent upon draughts if he can do without them.

I gave him your letter last night, and I think it will be quite suitable for you to continue writing every week as you have been doing.

Yours very truly

Miss Kathleen Higgins

684  
Jb. Carlisle Mansions.

STATION, TURVEY, M.R.  
TELEGRAMS, TURVEY.

S. He.

THE CHANTRY HOUSE,  
TURVEY,  
BEDFORD.

*delete to his lady's friends*  
7. November 1911.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter  
for my brother. He is going  
which I hope you will be able  
to give him, on his arrival  
a rather late morning.

I shall be glad when you can  
let us know that you think



best about writing to him. From the beginning of his  
sore have been doing is all illness. -  
a week is that left me  
letters on Thursdays, but perhaps  
I may visit the vice. -

No trust

Ruthless Higgins.

---

We shall be most anxious  
to hear how he is, but I feel sure  
I will let my uncle Mr. Davis  
Higgins know all particulars.  
I have been with my brother

I shall be very  
anxious to hear  
your opinion -

Very truly yours  
Emily Thornton

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir

Thank you very  
much for the telegram  
which I was much  
relieved to get. I hope  
from Mr. Higgins is  
fairly well this morning  
after his long & trying.

686  
WADSWORTH HOUSE,  
BEDFORD.



journey - I have been  
asked to write him  
every Wednesday, &  
hope I am not doing  
wrong in enclosing  
a letter for him, in  
this. He has been  
most anxious to go

to "the Retreat" for some  
time. I expect I have  
written to go Turci about  
it. He has every hope  
that you may cure  
him of this terrible  
illness, I only wish  
such could be possible.

3 NORTH GROVE

HIGHTCOTE

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 1911

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce

I am leaving the matter of  
my nephew's transfer to be  
arranged between you & Dr.  
Gordon. Mum, & No doubt he  
has written you on the subject.  
Tuesday next has been named  
as most convenient.

After he is settled in with you I  
shall probably wish to pay him  
a visit to see how he is getting on;  
but I do not expect to find him  
otherwise than still restless.

truly yrs

Darius L. Higgins



EVORSE HTHON'S  
MICHIGAN

Nov. 1, 1911

Dear Dr. Gordon-Munn,

Many thanks for your letter. I have received this morning the usual notice from the Commissioners, saying that Mr. G.F.Higgins is actively suicidal.

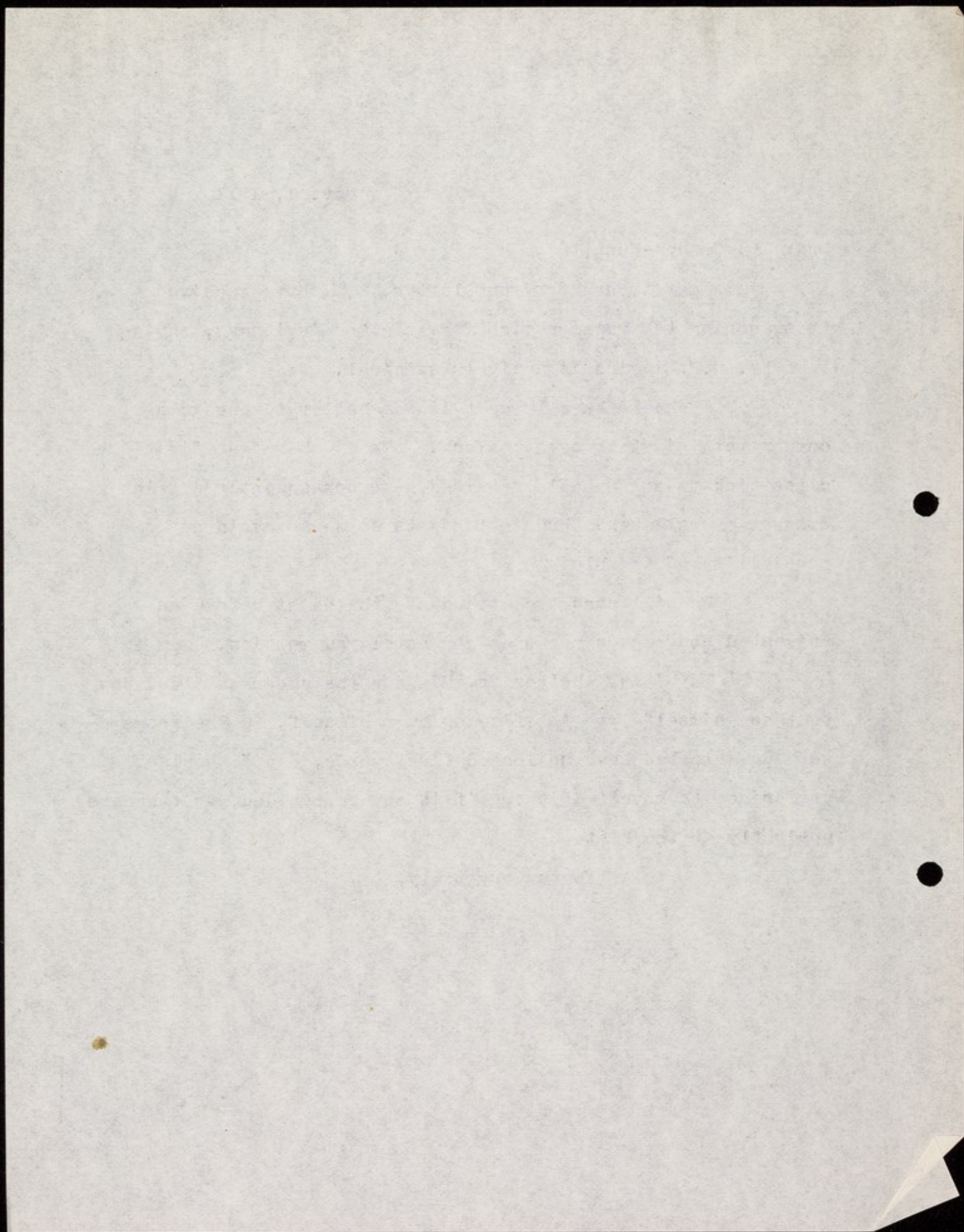
I should have thought it was better to engage a compartment right through to York. To do this four first class tickets are usually required, and consequently I think I might as well send three attendants so as to avoid any possibility of trouble.

We will send the attendants the night before as suggested and engage rooms at the hotel you mention.

May I ask whether Mr. Higgins has shown any tendency to throw himself into the fire or burn himself. The rooms we have selected have no locked fire guards, and I should prefer not to have to fit one if it can be avoided, as they are unsightly at the best.

Yours very truly,





647

LUNACY COMMISSION,

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

31 October, 1911.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to  
inform you that M<sup>r</sup> *Gustavus J. Higgins* who is about to be  
transferred from *Heigham Hall, Norwich*  
to your care, is reported to be <sup>*acutely*</sup> Suicidal.  
*n*

I am,

SIR,

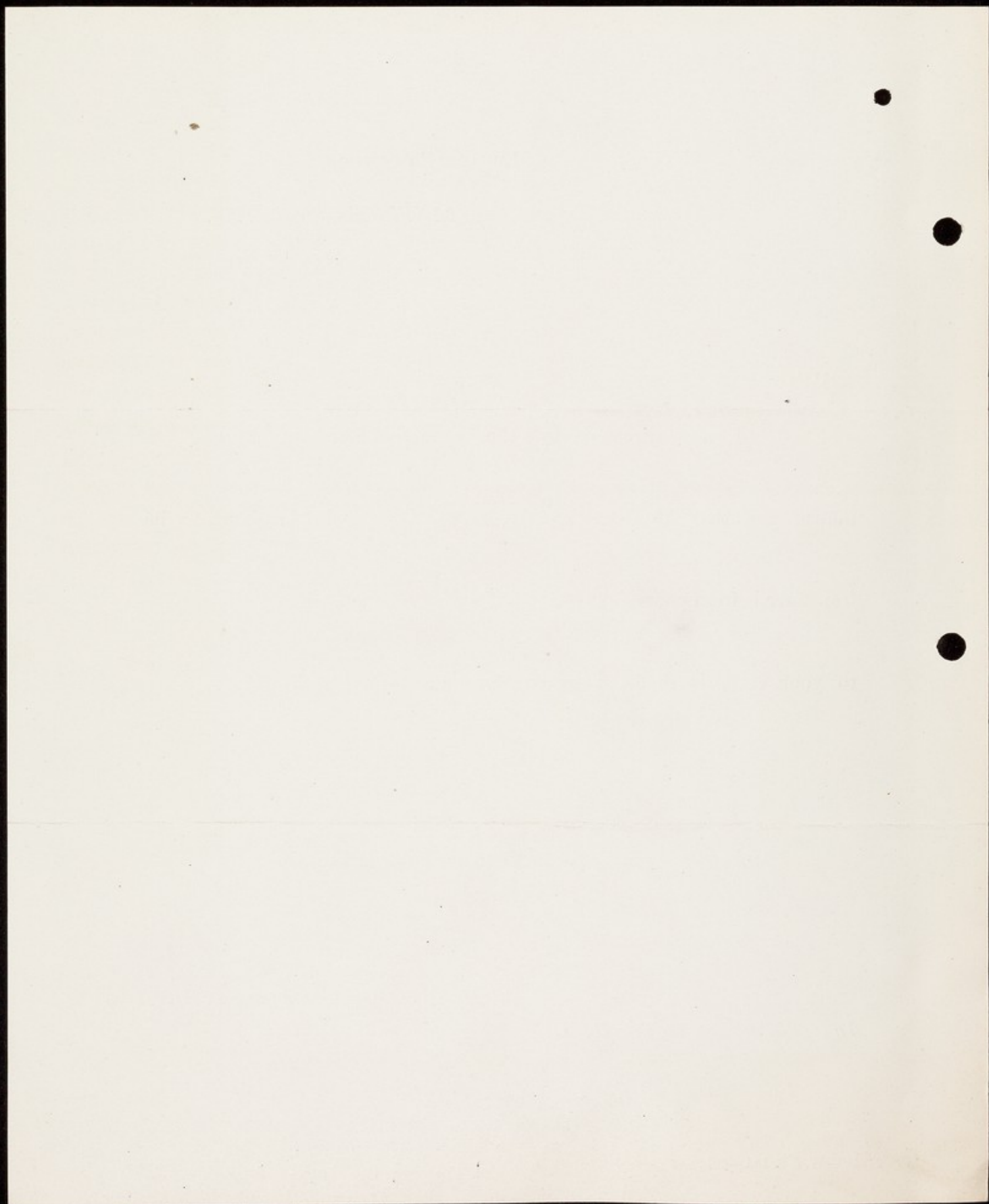
Your obedient Servant,

*W. H. J. Rose*

*for the Secretary.*

To *The Medical Supt.*  
*York Retreat.*





once before when she was  
 with Miss Graham at—?  
 Cambridge Wells? Miss Holmes  
 used to scream in a curious  
 way & was altogether in  
 a terribly bad state, so  
 I trust this will all pass  
 away again, as then.  
 I shall be most grateful if

I may have a card now & again to say how  
 I feel about you. Believe me I am truly  
 your friend.

19 Oct 1911—  
 A.S.

Villa Marie  
 VENCE, A.M.  
 FRANCE.

Dear Mr. Marley  
 Your letter has just  
 reached me here & I  
 hasten to thank you  
 for kindly telling me  
 about poor Miss Holmes.  
 I am indeed distressed



at four news & grief  
to think of her in such  
a deplorable condition.  
I sincerely trust the  
treatment at the Retreat  
will soon restore her  
to her more normal condition.

I greatly regret not having  
been able to carry out the  
plans made for her in Sept  
& fear that having proposed  
them & then having  
to leave them, proved upon  
her mind made her  
more despondent poor  
dear. I believe that

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 Eustace J. Higgins of The Chantry House, Tisbury, Bedfordshire as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dringate, 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 1911

Name Dennis L. Higgins  
Residence North Grove, Highgate N.  
Occupation Independent Gentleman

SIGNED by the said Dennis L. Higgins  
in the presence of

Witness's Signature,

Address, and

Profession.

Betha L. Higgins.  
3 North Grove Highgate.  
Spinster.

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.



