

Nicholson, Edward Basil

Publication/Creation

1912-1913

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April 9, 1913

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

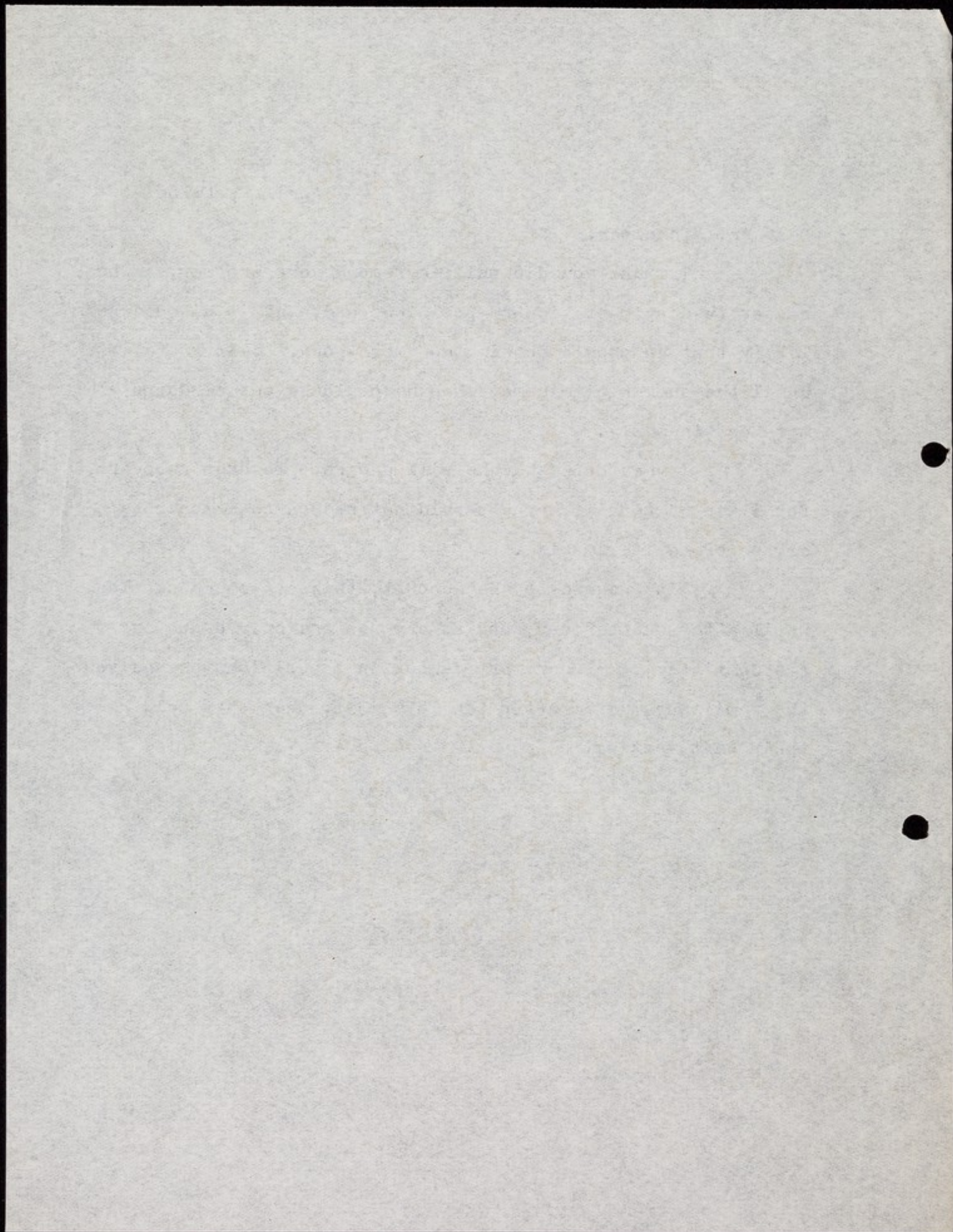
I think you did well to remove your brother, as he had arrived at a stationar position here, and it did not seem likely that we should do him much more good, at any rate until the summer time came, when he could be out of doors more continuously.

I much hope that he will progress towards recovery, for I see no reason why he should not return to a moderate degree of health in time.

With regard to the account, this cannot be settled until after quarter day, and as cheques are only drawn by the Committee, the Secretary is not in a position to send you the remittance until after the 15th inst, when they hold their next meeting.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,



that respect, & until this
last week there has been
quite normal behavior, &
even cheerfulness on occasion.

The main difficulty seems to
be the obscure malady of
the will, which makes every
decision a terror to him?

I have written I fear
rather at length, but I thought
the future of an old patient
might be of interest to you.

With kind regards to
yourself & Dr. Mackenzie
Believe me

Yours truly
W. F. Nicholson

TELEPHONE:
4-794 CITY.

244
4, PAPER BUILDINGS,

TEMPLE. E.C.

8 Apr - 1913

Dear Dr. Pierce,

When my brother E.B.
Nicholson left the Retreat,
now nearly two months ago,
Dr. Mackenzie told me that
the balance of the payment
made in advance on his
behalf for the first quarter
of the year would be repaid
without further trouble on
my part, subject to formal
approval at a meeting of

the Committee - I think the matter must have escaped notice, as I have heard nothing further -

I was sorry that you were away when the question of removing my brother became acute - Doubtless you have heard from Dr. Mackenzie the circumstances in which it seemed on the whole the wiser course to let him come away - On the whole the move seems to have been

a success - until a week ago I should have said an unquestionable success, but unfortunately during the last week he has had to see Dr. Russell (who by the way was much pleased with his progress) and has been urged to go away into the country or abroad, & the discussion of plans seems to have agitated him & set him back - However I hope the relapse is temporary - His appetite & physical condition are good - no retrogression in

5 p.m.
a week

4, PAPER BUILDINGS,
TEMPLE.

20.1.13

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am sorry I cannot
give you absolutely
definite figures for my
brother's income, but if
it is at all in excess of
£220^{per annum} (i.e. at this rate for
this half year) it is under
£230. I take it his
expenses at the Retreat
may be put at £250 p.a.
on the present scale.

He writes me very dependently
and says (on Saturday)

"No action of bowels
since Monday" - I

suppose this is a
delusion, but I repeat it
as it is so ^{specific}

Yours sincerely

W F Nicholson

TELEPHONE:
4794 CITY.

4, PAPER BUILDINGS,
TEMPLE.

14.1.13

47
Dear Dr. Pierce

Thank you for your letter. I will try to get you exact figures of my brother's income before the Committee meeting. To the best of my belief it now at the rate of between £200 - £220 a year. I quite recognise that, not being a friend, he may be considered fortunate to enjoy the benefits of the Reheat, & that the claims

of patients, who are friends
would come first -

I am sorry you have no
improvement in spirit, or
my brother's part to report -

* The idea naturally suggests
itself that some definite
external change will be
required to shake him out
of his depression, if it is
remediable. I think you
have suggested that the
spring will be the most
hopeful time from that
point of view. You will
no doubt be summing up

his case again at the end of
February (for you will remember
that the Museum authorities
want a further report for a
meeting at the beginning of
March) and perhaps then
or thereabouts might be a
convenient time for me
to see you and ask your
advice -

Yours sincerely
W F Nicholson

progressing - If you think
it would be of any particular
help for me to come up to
York & see him perhaps
you would let me know, &
I would come as soon as
I can - In the ordinary
course I don't think I should
be coming at present.

Yours sincerely
W H Nicholson

TELEPHONE:
4794 CITY.

24
4, PAPER BUILDINGS,
TEMPLE.

✓ 9.1.13

Dear Dr. Pierce

In forwarding the cheque
in payment of my brother's
account, may I take the
opportunity of asking you,
to if and when you see
fit, to put before the
Committee the fact that
he is now on half-pay
leave, & his $\frac{1}{2}$ salary & small
private means do not

Cover the amount of his
bills at the Retreat. Should
he not have recovered by
June at any rate ^{or possibly earlier} he will
receive a pension which
will be much less than half
his salary, and the deficiency
to be made up will therefore
be still greater. I don't
know on what principle
the Committee go in assessing
payments, and the fact
that I am able at present
to make up the deficiency may

be held to justify the
maximum rate. If however
the patient's own means
are the principal criterion
I suggest that some reduction
in the rate would now be
justified. I leave it to
you to judge whether it is
too early to ask the Committee
to reconsider a decision
to which they came (I think)
in October.

My brother's letters to
me show no sign of
improvement, but I suppose
his bodily health is still

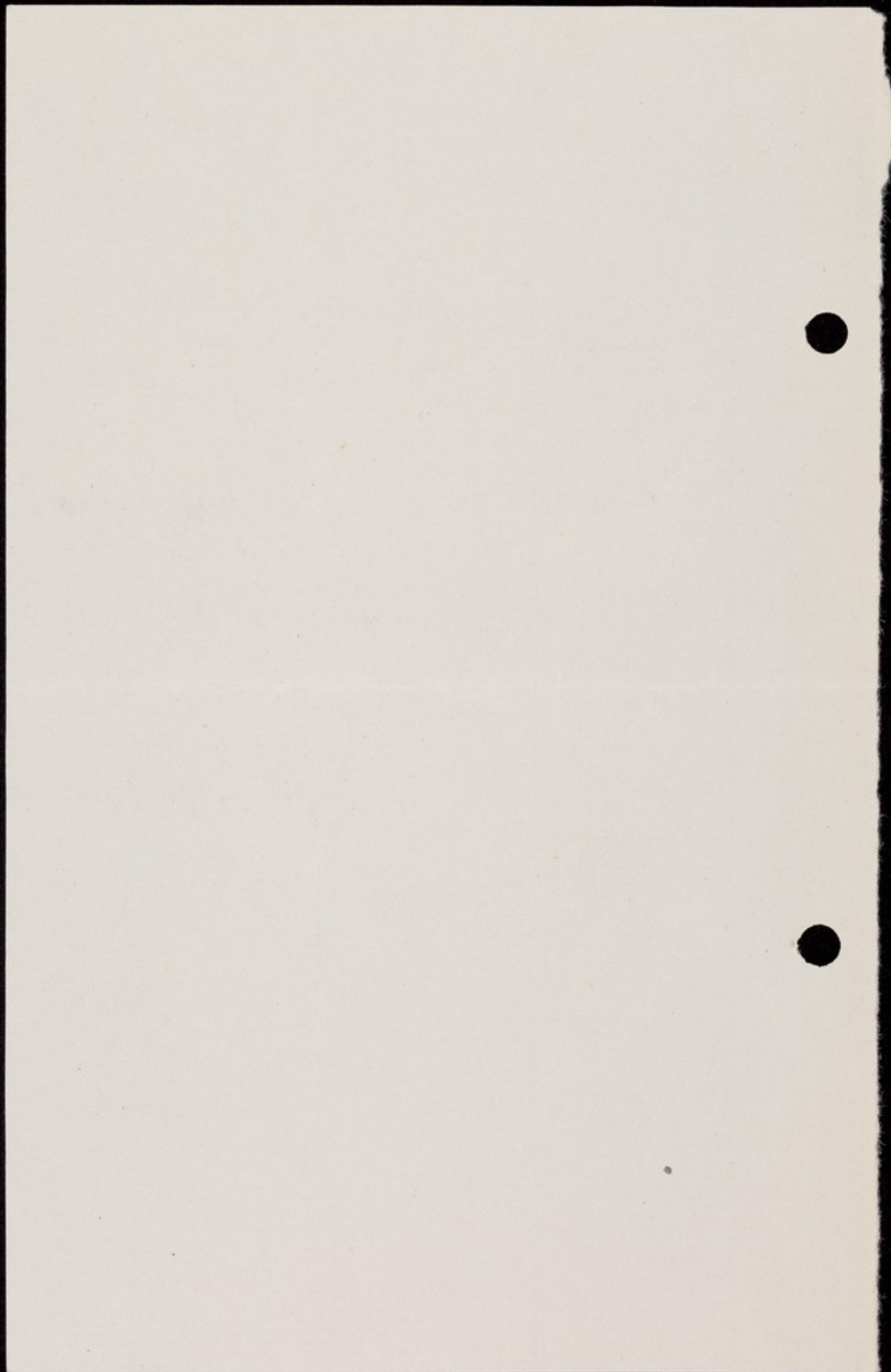
Dec. 7, 1912

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I believe your brother undergoes the hardship of sleeping with his window open at night, but seeing that he has a fire in his bedroon, two hot bottles, and five blankets, I do not think you need be anxious about his being warm.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



1237
4 Paper Buildings
Temple St.

5.12.12

✓
Dear Dr. Pierce

Many thanks for your
letter & report. I hope the
Museum authorities may
grant an extension of sick
leave, but we shall have
to wait a week or so for
the decision.

As regards my mother's
complaints of the cold
I hope that, now the winter

is at hand, you will (within the limits of what you consider medically advisable) make some concession to the weaknesses of a poor South-countryman! I know he thinks he is among a sterner race, and so in fact no doubt he is. So long as his horror of the cold lasts his recovery is I suppose practically postponed to the spring, & if you have ~~any~~ any hopes on natural warmth of the

season perhaps some artificial coddling during the cold weather would not be altogether amiss? But of course I leave the matter entirely to your judgment, & only mention it in account of his own repeated exclamations on the subject in his letters to us.

Yours sincerely
W F Nicholson

Has he shown any disposition to play on the piano? If he could do so when the room is empty I think it might comfort him.

Dec. 4, 1912

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I enclose a report which I hope will answer the purpose. Your brother is very despondent about himself still, says he is not in the slightest degree better, whereas it is obvious to us all that he is steadily improving. He dislikes the cold very much, and I think this is a factor in the case. We are now encouraging him to do more and more daily, but it is unfortunate that he does not care for games, and the frivolous resources of patients are largely closed to him.

Yours very truly,

LAMEL BEECHES,
HESLINGTON ROAD,
Y O R K

Report on Mr. E.B.NICHOLSON

I hereby certify that Mr. Edward Basil Nicholson is suffering from neurasthenia, and is unable at present to return to his duties.

Since being here he has gained 18 lbs in weight, and is decidedly stronger. The signs of indigestion from which he suffered have largely disappeared. He has not yet, however, regained his normal activity, either of mind or body, though he is now able to take an interest in all that goes on.

It is difficult to say how long he will need to be under special treatment. I, myself, hardly expect him to be better until the warm weather comes.

13
4, PAPER BUILDINGS,

TEMPLE.

28 Nov. 1912

Dear Dr. Preece

The enclosed (which please return) is from the Assistant Secretary of the British Museum, who is my brother's immediate chief. I had written to him more or less in the sense which you advised when you last wrote to me. You will see that

he asks for a full report.
I am sorry that you should
be troubled for this, but
I had rather expected that
they would want something
of the kind.

The letters I have had
from my brother recently
seem to indicate that
he is still very depressed

Yours sincerely
W F Nicholson

on full pay that have nearly expired.


But the circumstances of the Museum Office are peculiar, and something like definite data are necessary in order that the Director may approach the problem of its being carried on during a prolonged period of short-handedness.

Yours sincerely,

A. R. Dykehurst.

Any medical report you send can perhaps arrive not later than 9 or 10 December?

1213


BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

26 Nov: 912.

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I have consulted the Director about what you say in your last letter.

He thinks that the Trustees at their meeting in December will expect



to have before them some medical statement as to your brother's health - not so much a mere certificate, but a full report on which they can arrive at some conclusion as to the length of absence your brother

may yet require for the recovery of his physical strength and his normal alertness of mind.

I am loth to write thus plainly for I can imagine that you are thinking it is rather soon to require so much, seeing that the Order in Council allows of six months' sick leave on half pay as well as the six months

11/4

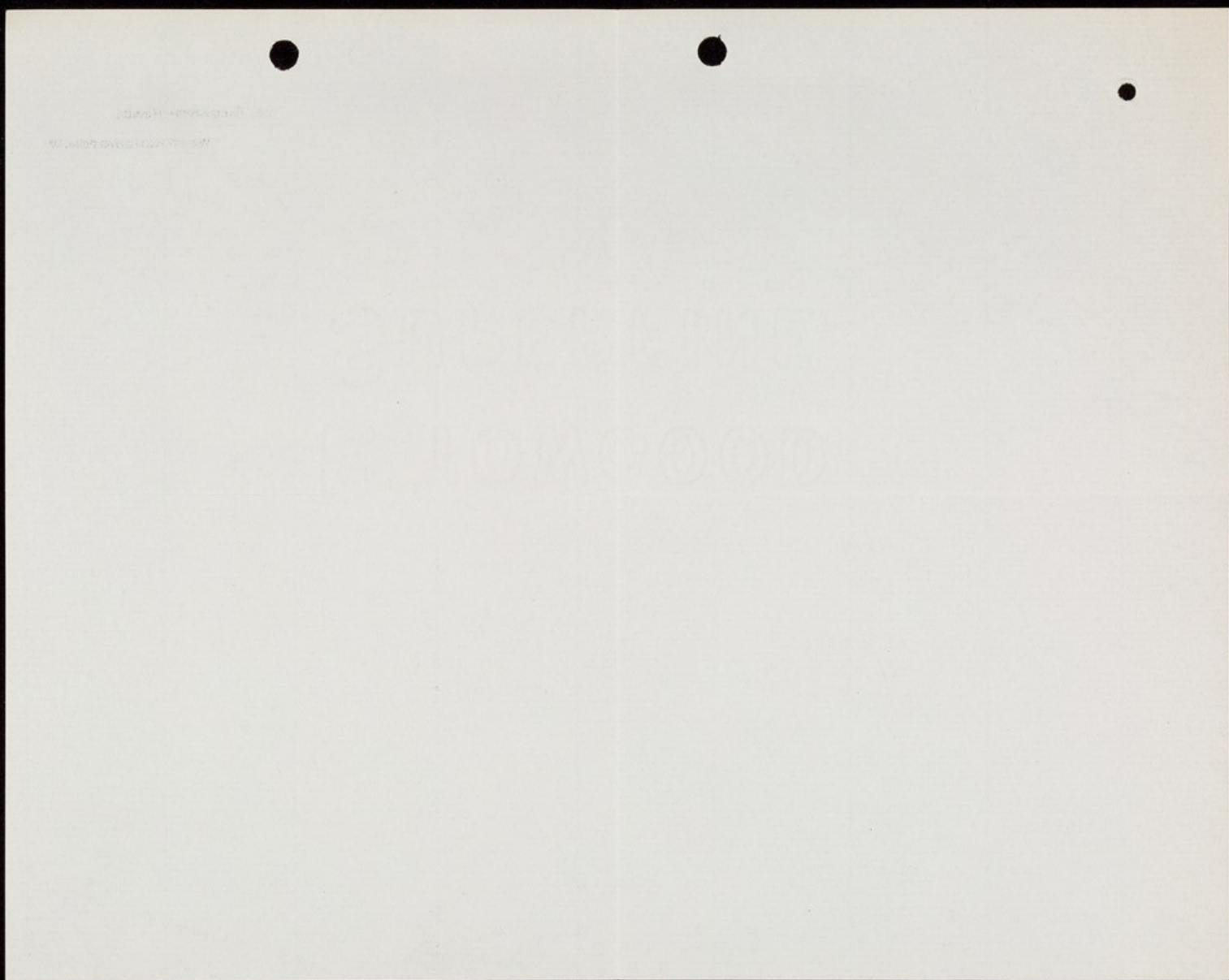
26, TALGARTH ROAD,
WEST KENSINGTON, W.

30-10-12

Dear Dr. Pierce

My father died this
morning & I have written
a line to my brother to
let him know - I thought
I had better tell you
also.

Yours sincerely
W. F. Nicholson



me some guidance as to
the time it would be fair
for me to adph - i.e.
whether I can speak as if
there was fair chance of his
recovery within (say) a few
months -

Yours sincerely
W F Nicholson

4 Page Buildings^{11/10}
Temple St
26, TALGATH ROAD
WEST KENNINGTON, W.
28 Oct. 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce

I think that perhaps
you ought to know that
the letters my brother has
written recently to the
members of his family
are very melancholy -
possibly he is merely writing
now more freely what has
been in his mind all
along, but if so I think

there must at least be an increased lack of self-control. There is however so far as I can judge no new phase.

We have kept him informed of his father's serious illness. Probably in a few days' time we may have his death to report. I don't think it will be any shock to him - he has been sending farewell messages - but I fear the general effect would not be likely to

help his recovery.

I am likely within the next month or so to be approached by the British Museum authorities with an enquiry as to what chance there is of his returning to work. By the beginning of December he will have had six months' sick leave, after which he has at any rate to go on half-pay, & the question of his retirement naturally becomes acute. Perhaps you could give

✓ 988
TELEPHONE:
4794 CITY.

4, PAPER BUILDINGS,
TEMPLE.

30.9.12

Dear D. Pierce,

I have returned to
England, & propose to call
on you tomorrow (Tuesday)
afternoon. I should of course
like to see my brother if
you see no objection.

My sister has I believe
written to you asking whether
it would be wise to tell my

brother of my father's complete
break down in health. This
is a matter I should wish
to consult you on, and if
you have not yet written
in reply to my sister (who
did not know I was returning
so soon) it will perhaps
be unnecessary for you to
do so, at least in any detail.

I enclose the form of guarantee
signed & attested -

Yours sincerely
W F Nicholson

must all news be kept from
him, even if my Father becomes
dangerously ill?

My second brother is still abroad,
but we expect him within a very
few days.

I had intended to ask you before
whether my brother is allowed to
sleep alone in his room, or whether
there is an attendant with him.

Faithfully yours,
Marguerite Nicholson.

26 Talgarth Road,
West Kensington, W.

29. ix. 12.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you

for another report written by
Mr Whitby on Sept 24th.

We are glad that the progress
appears satisfactory, even if it
is slow, and we are specially
pleased to hear that Be is

beginning to take walks.

Since last I wrote to you my Father has been ill with a combination of heart, chest & digestive trouble, and though he is getting better Dr Turnbull (who, I think, said he knew you well) & the nurse evidently do not expect him to recover his bodily or mental powers - He seems in a state of hopeless confusion

about all sorts of things. He may possibly get a little stronger, but as one of the valves of the heart is affected it is quite likely that he will not live more than a month or two longer. Now I suppose my brother must know nothing of all this? In my letter to him I merely said that my Father was engaged in recovering from one of his usual chills -

Sept. 11, 1912

Dear Madam,

On the whole Mr. Nicholson is doing very well. He has already gained some three or four lbs. in weight, but he does not seem much more encouraged about himself. I think that there is no doubt that the continued application of heat is assisting his digestion.

There is no objection at all to your coming to see him, but what I thought undesirable was that you should stay any length of time in York, as we find that in a case of this kind patients really settle down best, and generally do better when left in the sole charge of the staff here. On the contrary I think he would appreciate an opportunity of talking things over with you.

There is no lack of books and magazines at the Retreat, but we are not encouraging him to read much. An indolent, apathetic state of mind is really the best for him just at present.

Yours very truly,

his weight show any increase?
Do you yourself think there
is nothing seriously wrong with
the digestion? No doubt you
know that he thinks himself
dying of some internal complaint.
Do you find him unnaturally
depressed? Is he allowed to read,
Does he show any inclination to
do so? If there is any dearth
of books we can easily send some.
We shall be most grateful for any
information you can send in your
next report. Faithfully yours,
Marguerite Nicholson.

899
26. Talgarth Road.
✓ West Kensington. W.
10. ix. 12.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for
two notes, one about my proposed
visit and another written by
Mr. Whitby about the treatment.

As you do not think it would
be good for my brother, I will
certainly not visit him at present.
I only suggested it because the

doctor at the nursing home asked my ~~other~~ brother to come down during the first week, and that visit had a very good effect on the patient who had before been very restless.

He was entirely in my charge during the interval between the rest. cure & his going to York.

We hope the treatment you are adopting may do good - It sounds very much the same as what he

has had for the last few months (with the addition of constant applications of heat, and the omission of the massage & physical exercises for strengthening the muscles of the abdomen). I am glad the breakfast is early, as the lying awake for hours before having any food must have been very tiring.

We shall of course look forward anxiously to your report after you have tested this treatment. Does

the Retreat where I could stay?

We hope very much that he
may make a good recovery
~~in~~ such favorable surroundings.

Faithfully yours,
Marguerite Nicholson.

878

26 Talgarth Road,
West Kensington, W.
5. ix. 12.

Dear Sir,

My brother, W. F. Nicholson,
tells me that he spoke to
the Doctor in charge yesterday
of my suggestion that I would
gladly come up to York for a
week or so, if you thought this
would be any help to the

brother who has just come
to you as a patient.

My work does not begin
again till Sept 23rd, but
if I am not wanted at York
I may arrange to leave town
before long.

May I therefore ask you

to be so kind as to let me
know by Saturday morning

whether you think my companion
-ship would do my brother any
at present

Goodⁿ, if so, perhaps you
would add to your kindness by
telling me of some quiet and
inexpensive house not far from

TELEPHONE:
4794 CITY.

4, PAPER BUILDINGS,

TEMPLE.

6 Sept. 1912

✓
Dear Sir:

My friend, Mr. W. F. Nicholson, has been
abroad, and asked me to attend to his letters in
his absence, and I have consequently opened your
letter which with agreement enclosed. He is on
a walking tour, and at present I have no
address at which to catch him, but as soon
as I hear one I will forward your document for
his signature.

Yours truly

H. C. Hunt

H. C. Hunt

4. PARKER BUILDINGS
TENNIS

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1914



Small savings of his own.
I am the only relation who
can afford to assist him to
any extent, & my income is
a personal one. Consequently
expense, though not for the
moment a first consideration,
would be a material object
if his illness is prolonged.

May I add that I have
read your remarks in the
last Report of the Retreat, &
that it seems to me probable
that my brother is one of the cases
where the curative advantage
of such liberty as is admissible
would outweigh its slight
attendant risks.
Yours truly
W F Nicholson

TELEPHONE:
4794 CITY.

Sold
8.10.12

879

4, PAPER BUILDINGS,
TEMPLE.

4 Sept. 1912

Dear Dr. Pierce

I enclose filled up
the form which Dr. Mackenzie
gave me today, when I
brought my brother to the
Retreat.

It may be convenient
if I put in writing one or
two temporary details,
which I mentioned to Dr.
Mackenzie.

(1) I am going abroad
tomorrow probably for a

month, & during that time
I should be glad if any
communications could be
sent to my sister ^{Miss Nicholson} at
26 Talgarth Rd, West Kensington W.

(2) For the first two or three
weeks I should be much
obliged if some short report
of the patient's condition
could be sent to her weekly.

(3) If the patient is at first
very restless, & it is thought
that it might help to quiet
him to see a relative and
know that one was near

him, my sister would come
& spend a week or two at
York & see him as often
as thought advisable. This
could only be during the
next two or three weeks.

She is sensible & her
influence would be sedative.

(4) My brother's post is
for the moment held open
for him. How long this will
be I cannot say. If (as is
quite likely) he is retired
shortly his pension would
not I think appreciably
exceed £100 a year, & his
only other means come from

Person responsible to
The Com. Ling.
Jas. Smith
Ch. Phillips.

To
The Medical Superintendent
The Retreat, York. 21

Wickham

TELEPHONE
270 PADDINGTON.

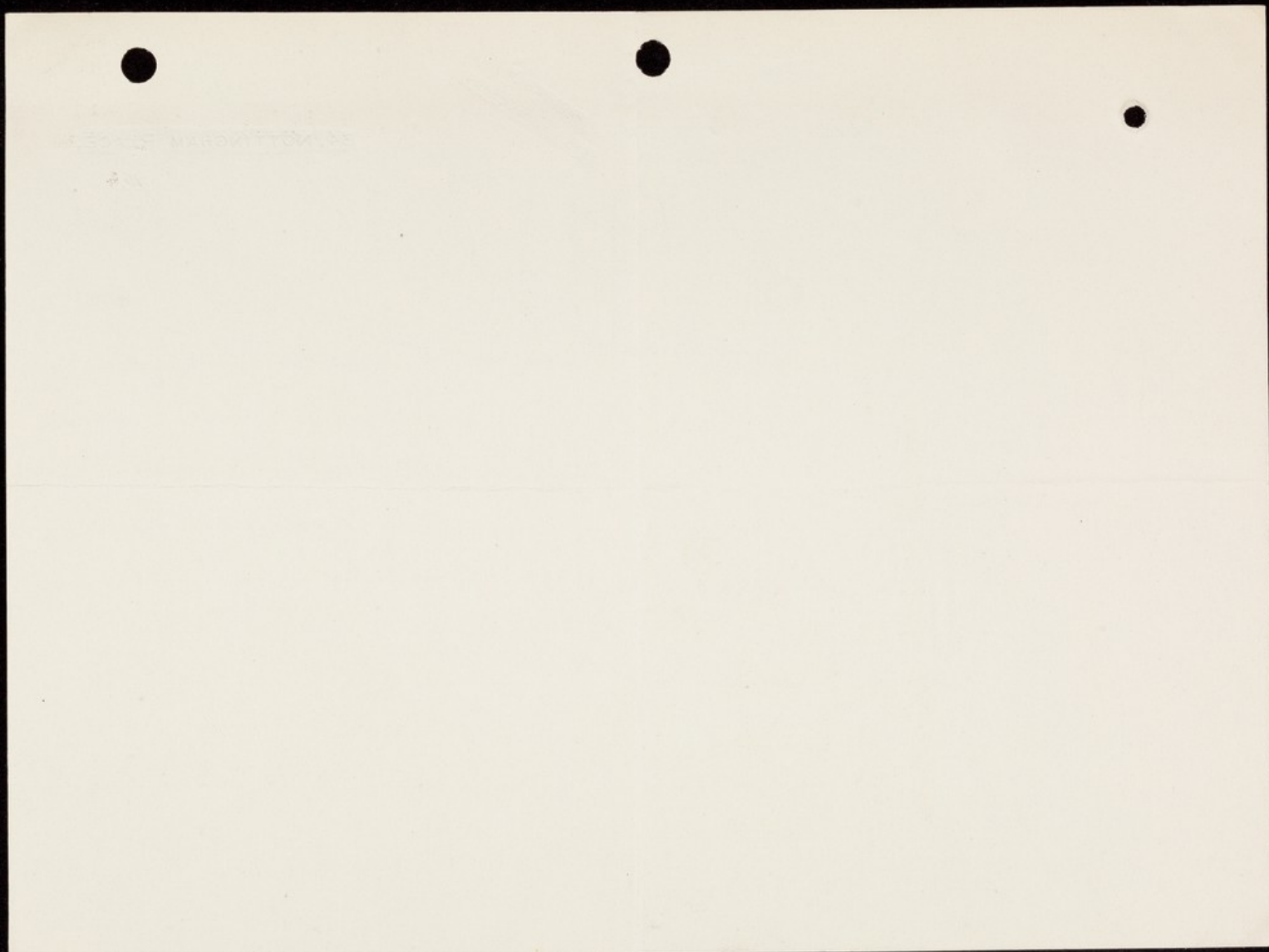
867
34, NOTTINGHAM PLACE,
W.

20.8.12.

Dear Sir
With reference to
Person responsible
Whether there is a vacancy
for a male patient suffering
from General Paralysis.

Also what the inclusive
fees are.

The patient is at present
in a private room here
and the fees
with his other expenses



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.

consideration of the Directors of the York Retreat Hospital for the Insane agreeing to

Edward Basil Nicholson of *26 Salgaith Rd., West Kensington,*
London W. as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE

AND AGREE with *Richard Thompson*
of *Dringcote, 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 *30th* day of *September* 19 *12*

Name *W. F. Nicholson*
Residence *4 Paper Buildings Temple EC*
Occupation *Civil Servant*

SIGNED by the said *William Frederic Nicholson*

in the presence of

Witness's Signature,	} <i>F. S. Salter</i>
Address, and	
Profession.	

30 Great St. Helen's, EC.
Solicitor

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.



30th
W. F. Nicholson
4th of July
Civil Service
with future mission

W. F. Nicholson

to General Nelson

1862