

**Romney, John E. W.**

**Publication/Creation**

1909-1910

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Maaduell  
Hogue Hill Avenue  
Maadenthead

Nov: 11<sup>th</sup>/10

Dear Sir

Thank you for cheque  
received this morning  
which is 4 too much.

Enclose receipt given  
to my nephew.

It is scarcely surprising  
that one such item  
should be forgotten  
where there must be

To contact a strain  
on the memory of  
every attendant.

With I yours

James R. Stoney

Nov 7 1910

Dear Madame,

I have made further enquiries with reference to the 20/- you wrote about - Mr Smith has also showed me your letter to him - I am sorry to say I have not been able to trace it - Neither Mr Smith nor the Head Attendant have any recollection of having any money of Mr Romney's but as you have the receipt there must be some mistake, tho they are most careful

men with regard to such matters.  
If Mr Romney is quite clear that he had the money that it was handed over he will see that the matter is put straight -

Yours faithfully  
W. E. Waller Secy.

Dear Mr. [unclear]  
 I have made further enquiries  
 with reference to the [unclear] for [unclear]  
 about - Mr. [unclear] has also shown  
 me your letter to him - I am  
 sorry to say I have not been able  
 to trace it - I think Mr. [unclear] has  
 the best chance of finding it and I am  
 Mr. [unclear] but as you have  
 the receipt for the [unclear] at [unclear]  
 I think, the [unclear] is not [unclear]

Jan 7 1910

Dear Mr. [unclear],  
 I have made further enquiries  
 with reference to the [unclear] for [unclear]  
 about - Mr. [unclear] has also shown  
 me your letter to him - I am  
 sorry to say I have not been able  
 to trace it - I think Mr. [unclear] has  
 the best chance of finding it and I am  
 Mr. [unclear] but as you have  
 the receipt for the [unclear] at [unclear]  
 I think, the [unclear] is not [unclear]

Beachell  
Lyons Hill Avenue

Nov 9<sup>th</sup> / 10

Dear Sir

There can be no  
possible doubt as to  
the fact that £1-4- $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
- so the acknowledgment  
states, was taken from  
my pocket on his arrival  
at the Retreat. He told  
me of it in the presence  
of my niece Mrs. Walden.

Who is now with me.  
perfectly recollects it  
and the receipt I hold  
is on a piece of Tulee  
paper.

" Nov 18<sup>th</sup> / 09  
Received from Mr. Kenney  
£1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> one Pound  
1/2 halfpenny  
W. Smith "

Here Mr. Kenney differently  
circumstanced I should

not trouble you about  
the matter.

I shall of course send  
you receipt on receiving  
amount.

Yours faithfully  
James W. Hoare

Leahwell  
Loyne Hills  
Maizebrook

Nov: 4<sup>th</sup> / 10

Dear Sir

Will you kindly tell  
me so soon you headed  
the 1st letter from my  
nephew Mr. Monney  
on his arrival at the  
"Retreat." in Nov: last?  
It has not been

returned though I  
wrote to the Secretary  
on the subject.

The acknowledgment  
of it which was  
since signed by  
Mr. & Mrs. probably  
will be able to tell  
me to whom to  
apply for the return

of it.

The last account  
of my husband was  
more cheering and  
he has written more  
elegantly and seems  
to have settled down  
contentedly.

Yours truly  
Jane W. Stowe

a Treasury of Kindness  
and devotion.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Jane M. Hawley

188  
Leachwell  
Boque Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Dr. Edward Price

The more I think of  
the possibility of having  
to remove my nephew  
Mr. Ramsey to a less  
expensive abode, the more  
I dread the effect it would  
almost certainly have  
upon him owing to his  
great dislike to change.

He is really due to the  
great kindness care and  
attention with which he  
is now surrounded.  
To place him amongst  
strangers, strange methods  
& surroundings is probably  
longer & less kindly  
attendants would keep  
and bewilder him to  
a disastrous extent -  
of this I feel sure.  
It gives me courage to

ask you if you think  
the committee would add  
to their present kindness  
by a little further reduction  
of the term?

We have no claim upon  
them and it is not in  
my power to acknowledge  
in any practical manner  
such kindness during my  
own or my nephew's life.  
but afterwards it would  
be a satisfaction if in some  
small way we could throw  
our vote into such a

find more suitable  
place nearer home.

I am in dread, after seeing  
him to-day, of another  
attempt to hurt himself.  
Hoping that your holiday  
has been an enjoyable one  
Believe me

Yours sincerely  
Jane W. Hawley

Dr. Gill seemed to think that he  
was settling down quietly & I did  
not see him after being with my nephews.

480  
12 Spring Terrace  
Shelley

August 30<sup>th</sup>/10

Dear Dr. Leonard Pierce

The transfer of my nephews  
to Seabrook Park, does not do  
far, promise to be a success.

It is introduction to a  
gloomy corridor & a more  
gloomy room containing a  
few miserable looking old men  
had a bad effect on him &  
hurt with, so much so that  
I at once made his removal  
to a better & brighter part of

the house, a condition of  
his remaining, and S. Gile  
very kindly at once arranged  
it.

I went again to-day &  
found that he had slept well  
but his happy look has  
faded & tears were in  
his eyes most of the time.  
He was very listless and  
hopeless looking and had a  
nervous twitch of the head  
which I did not like to see.  
I could only leave him to  
any interest by telling him

that he should not remain  
if he was unhappy but  
that I wanted him to give  
the place a trial for the sake  
of the air.

I am very anxious about  
him and am writing to ask  
if you would receive him  
back <sup>on the same moderate terms</sup> (at any rate for a  
time) at the end of a  
few weeks, should he  
not be in a happier  
state before I leave him?  
It would give me time to

Wheatfield  
Doyne Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead

Oct: 6<sup>th</sup>/10

Dear Dr. Bedford. Pierce

I do not know if it  
is your thought to trouble  
with the matter, but I shall  
be very glad if the Secretary  
at his earliest convenience  
will pay so very much  
at the National Provincial  
Bank York, the balance of

Mr. Kenney's pre-paid  
account (from 30<sup>th</sup> to Sep 30<sup>th</sup>)  
the amount in pocket  
for which Mr. Kenney received  
acknowledgment on his  
arrival.

As they have not been sent  
I fear his traveler has a  
Cardigan jacket has not  
been found.

His few letters have been  
satisfactory but I have

not yet had Dr. Filmer's  
report as to Mr. Kenney's  
state. He had sunk into  
a much more apathetic  
state & had not been  
roused from it when  
I left him. At the  
same time Dr. Filmer was  
surprised at the  
acuteness of his intellect.

With kind regards  
Yours very truly  
Jesse P. Howley

1st September, 1910.

Dear Miss Howey,

I am very sorry to hear that you are concerned as to the wisdom of the step taken in respect to moving Mr. Romney. I myself think there is little doubt that the change was a right step to take, and you certainly ought not to allow yourself to be influenced by a mere temporary change in expression. I do not think we could receive Mr. Romney again here, at any rate until the change to Skilmore Park has had a proper trial. It would not be fair to that institution, and besides, as I have already said, I feel it was a good plan that a change of scene should be tried. I am very sorry for all your trouble, and only wish that the stay at the Retreat had been more beneficial.

Yours very truly,

REPRODUCED

ORIGINALS AVAILABLE

J  
June 14/10

Goodell  
Hogues Hill Avenue  
Waldenhead

Dear Dr. Bedford Morse

The last account  
paid was sent in in  
May - & paid up to  
31<sup>st</sup> March. I have had  
none since. If the  
Secretary has sent  
me I have not received  
it. I am not sure  
I missed it as I have

not been from home  
but it may have  
been lost in the post.  
I enclose cheque for  
the present quarter  
but may I have the  
particulars and the  
inclusive date which  
it clears as I wish  
Mr. <sup>Moroney's</sup> relatives to see it?  
I hope he is somewhat  
better, and reconciled

to the loss of tobacco  
which he never took  
in moderation; also  
that he is causing you  
less anxiety?  
He has not written  
lately but I feel sure  
he can do so.  
I hope I may soon be  
able to come & see him.  
Believe me  
Sincerely yours  
Jack W. Howe

July 4, 1910

Dear Miss Howey,

I fear I am not able to give you any improved account of Mr. Romney, and we certainly look upon the future as being grave, although it would be rash to say there is no hope of recovery in so young a patient. Without entering into many technical details I could not explain the reasons for this unfavourable view of the case, but he presents many symptoms which indicate a bad prognosis and suggest progressive mental disease.

Strange to say it is not incompatible with the disease that the patient should be able to write a good letter and clearly understand his position; and moreover not a few patients suffering from this, temporarily improve in a most deceptive way.

With reference to your remarks about the treatment of patients in other asylums, I must say from my own experience I do not agree with you. I believe patients in our public asylums are treated with great kindness, the difference between these and a hospital such as the Retreat being largely one of comfort, social amenities, and the amount of individual attention that can be given to each patient. Moreover your nephew is not violent in the sense that he tries to injure other people,

but he needs very close observation to prevent his injuring himself. As I explained before, I do not think the advantages that the Retreat can give are really appreciated by your nephew in his present state, and as the expense is so considerable I should arrange for his transfer to one of the institutions receiving private patients at reduced rates, viz. Bootham Park, York; Scalebor Park, Burley-in-Wharfedale; or the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.

Yours very truly,

cheaper & beautiful carpets  
floors & hard seats. These  
things my nephew fully takes  
as well as the windows. When  
I saw him last. The only  
thing he did not like was  
seeing his bag on another person's  
bed! He was then at any rate  
acutely alive to such things  
tho' he would speak of them  
to me. In any case, as  
long as it is possible to find  
the means I shall try to give him  
all that is possible.

I hope to be in York soon &  
shall hope to see you.

Yours very truly  
Jane W. Howe

420  
Leadwell  
Hoyne Hill Arms  
Maidenhead

July 14<sup>th</sup>/10

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce

Thank you for your  
letter. I much cling to  
the faint hope that remains  
tho' it almost breaks  
one's heart to think how  
faint you seem to think  
it. The Institutions  
you mention - at least  
Dunfries, is too far.

I must as long as I  
have strength to travel,  
be able to see my nephew  
from time to time.

I have an unpleasant  
recollection of the damps  
of Dotham and am sure  
my nephew did suffer from  
it. He has always needed  
a bracing air.

It was the head doctor  
of an asylum who not  
long ago told me how glad

he had to have acted as  
Lunacy Commissioner &  
he now knew where not  
to send his poor patients  
when moved, & there were  
many that he should be  
sorry to place there in.  
Another informed me that  
a cheap place meant  
less well-paid and much  
rougher attendants and  
inferior food & comfort.  
I have seen over two or three  
hospitals built and found that

attendant? If not & if  
a change is desirable I  
must be quite near to him.  
Within the next two weeks  
I hope to be able to come  
up but I shall be glad  
to learn all you can  
tell me about his state  
as soon as you have  
leisure.

The enclosed is a comparative  
recent letter & does not  
confirm the impression that  
Mrs. Haldane has received.

Believe me

Sincerely yours  
Jane Weston

Leadwell  
Hogue Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>/10

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce

I am greatly distressed  
by a letter from my niece  
Mrs. Haldane. The  
account the gives of my  
poor nephew is so much  
worse than I hoped for  
and she seems to think  
that you despair of  
recovery! Please let

We hear from you and  
cautious opinion and  
what change in his  
mental condition you  
anticipate.

Mr. Baldwin seems to  
have been struck by his  
pale flabby appearance.  
Has he fallen off since  
your last letter from  
which I hoped that in  
that respect at least he  
had improved.

I have asked him if he  
has any wish for a  
change? I very much  
dread one and do not  
know where he could  
go. Enquiries I have  
made only confirm the  
fear that it is difficult  
to ensure kind treatment  
to a patient that gives  
trouble. Would it now  
or would it soon be  
possible for me to have  
him here with a careful

242  
Leahuel  
Loyce Hill Avenue  
Maldenhead

May 18<sup>th</sup>/10

Dear Dr. Leonard Pierce

I have had two such  
good clearly expressed  
letters from my nephew  
(the last this morning) that  
I hope you can tell me  
that intellectual, mental  
as well as ~~these~~ physical  
is going on - they are  
written without depending

allusion even.

He is very anxious to  
have a new pipe and  
I know would like to  
choose it himself.

If Mr. Darley or Stephen  
could arrange to have  
a few sent to him  
to select from - not  
to exceed 3/6 in price  
I should be grateful  
for I am no judge of

them, besides it would  
give him great pleasure  
to do it for himself.

I hope soon to hear  
what I am in debt  
for my kept as  
I have had no account  
for April or May.

Much hoping for a  
good account

Believe me

Sincerely yours  
Jane W. Howey

May 22/10

251  
Leadwell  
Byre Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead

Dear Dr. Hedford Pierce

I am greatly disappointed  
at your report, having hoped  
to receive from my nephew's  
letters. This morning  
I heard again from him.  
He tells me nothing of what  
you mention, but seems  
indignant at Dr. Ferguson's  
having sent him away

at my giving consent  
as "There was no more  
reason than for reading  
half the University over".  
Then he talks of following  
in his father's footsteps  
- that it is late, heredity  
etc. It will be terrible  
if he begins to crave for  
stimulants, and I do  
not know what else he  
can mean.

I tell you this in case  
he is still attached in  
speaking, and it may  
be well so to leave what  
is running in his  
thoughts.

Love me

Very truly yours  
John H. Stowell

DRINGCOTE,  
THE MOUNT,  
Y O R K

April 21, 1910

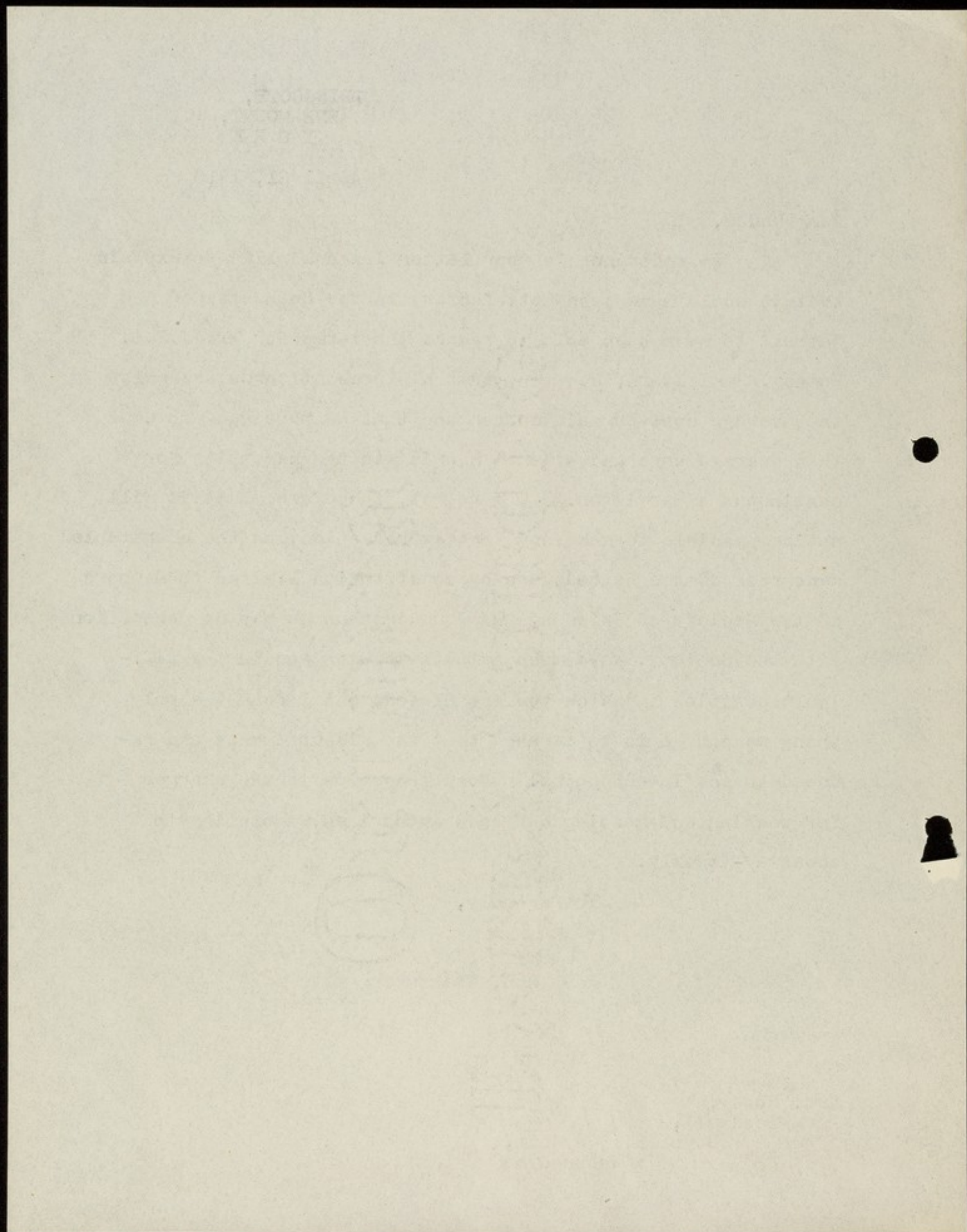
Dear Madam,

In reference to your letter I should like to explain that it would have been satisfactory to the Committee of the Retreat to have been able to reduce the terms for Mr. J.E.W. Romney. I learn, however, that his present terms are below the average cost of maintenance and that he receives more than average care and attention owing to the necessity for continuous supervision. I regret, therefore, that it will not be possible to make any further reduction, as the charitable resources of the Retreat are by constitution limited to members of the Society of Friends, and I understand he has no connection with the Society. We much sympathise with you in the difficult position in which you are placed, but I fear the only thing we can do is to arrange that the disbursements are reduced to the lowest point. Some reduction in the charges for washing and mending has been authorised, amounting to about 2/- weekly.

Yours truly,

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Howey,  
Beadwell,  
Boyne Hill Avenue,  
Maidenhead



50  
Heathwell  
Wynne Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead

Feb: 8<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Dr. Mackenzie

Thank you much  
for your letter and the  
paper you kindly got  
my nephew to sign.

I am very sorry  
you cannot give a  
better account of him  
but I cannot help

hoping that improvement  
is coming & that I  
shall overcome a  
difference when I  
return to see Min.  
I will write and  
ask Miss Perry to  
call soon if you  
will kindly give orders  
as to length of visit.

It might break the  
monotony for Min  
to see her if only  
once.

Believe me

Sincerely Yours

James R. Hawley

Will you kindly give  
the enclosed to  
Mr. Conway?

KIRKGATE HOUSE  
THIRSK

18<sup>th</sup> Novemb 09.

Dear Dr. Perce

I am much  
obliged for your letter  
about Mr. Binnay.  
His <sup>am</sup> mother has taken responsibility  
herself in educating him,  
and so was anxious  
to know about how long  
it would be necessary  
for him to remain under  
care, so that she should  
be able to arrange for  
the payment. She herself

THIRSK  
KIRK GATE HOUSE  
would not be able to pay  
for more ~~the~~ than three  
months or so at 3 pence  
a week — which I

presume is the charge you  
will make for him —  
but if it seems likely  
to be of benefit for him  
to remain longer she  
said she would endeavor  
to make some arrangement.

His aunt is Miss Honey,  
and I understood she  
used to live in York, but  
she will probably be  
coming to see you before

she leaves this neighborhood.

Yours very truly  
W. P. Ferguson

KIRKCAVE HOUSE  
THIRSK

15<sup>th</sup> November 09.

Dear Sir

A very gentleman called Romney will come to the Reheat tomorrow afternoon. His cousin Miss Honey will accompany him and will arrange about passengers. I have put the address of both as "Brimley Farm, Herton-le-Street, Thirsk" but that is not their home address: they have only been staying there

of late.  
Kindly let me have  
some fresh papers, as  
I have used up the ones I  
had by me for this case.

I am anxious to  
arrange for him to leave  
Aush at 1.5.

Yours faithfully  
C. P. Thompson



21, GROSVENOR TERRACE,  
YORK.

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 1909

Dear Sir

I have heard from  
Miss Howey to day  
who wishes me to  
call and see one  
of your Patients, Mr.  
J. E. W. Bromley,  
but before doing  
so, I should like

I have your candid  
opinion, as to  
whether you think  
it would be advisable  
for me to come  
at present, or  
wait till Mr. Romney  
has been longer  
under your care?

I shall be guided  
entirely by your  
advice.

Yours faithfully  
(Miss) E. A. M. Percy

would much like to see  
him occasionally. She  
is a great father and  
perhaps a short visit  
might be best if you  
allow one. She will  
call & enquire  
My nephew is anxious  
about a letter he wrote  
to Mr. Scott. Chadd & Co  
which he had no reply.  
It would be quite right  
to let it & any other letter  
be posted.

The Vicarage  
Shouster-6-Street  
Shrewsbury

579

Nov 26<sup>th</sup>/09

Dear Dr. Leonard Mier

I think, it is perhaps  
well to tell you that  
my nephew Mr. Romney  
has a great deal of  
coming into near contact  
with your other patients.  
There he met our Mrs  
Jick arrival seem to  
have made a most  
painful impression upon

him which you will  
know how to deal with.

Please do not trouble  
to acknowledge this.

I know it because you

were so kindly interested  
in all details of his case

and might not realize how  
acutely sensitive he is.

He alluded many times  
to his supposed enemies

and would touch none  
of the chocolates I took

him until assured that  
that they had been in to  
other hands. He said  
however that he was doing  
his best to forget all  
that he feared.

Very truly yours  
Jane W. Howey

I will post Cheque for \$20  
on Monday as I reach  
home late to. Tomorrow.  
A relative of my nephew  
- Miss Percy of 21, Worcester  
York

Headcote  
Boyne Hills Avenue  
Maidenhead

July 28<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Dr. Redford Pierce

I am very anxious  
to know how my nephew  
Mr. Ramsey is - is making  
any real progress toward  
recovery? I heard from  
him a few days ago.

The letter was very short  
but I do not think he  
could have written it when  
I left. There was however  
heard again. He said  
that he had been having

a good time lately, if  
somewhat nervous,  
so I hope he is more  
settled and happy.  
I am the more anxious  
about him as these electric  
have set aside all efforts  
at present for a season  
for him and if it is  
not given I do not know  
what can be done.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

James M. Hodgson

Leadwell  
Boyes Hill Avenue  
Maidenhead

Feb: 21<sup>th</sup>/09

Dear Dr. Medford Pierce

I hope to come up  
to you on Thursday  
as I am very unhappy  
about my poor nephew.

I will call at the Rectory  
on Friday morning  
in the hope that you  
will not think a visit  
so soon likely to be  
harmful. (May do

not reply to this but  
if you or Dr. Mackenzie  
will kindly leave a message  
in case of your absence  
I shall be gladdened by it.

Believe me

Yours very truly

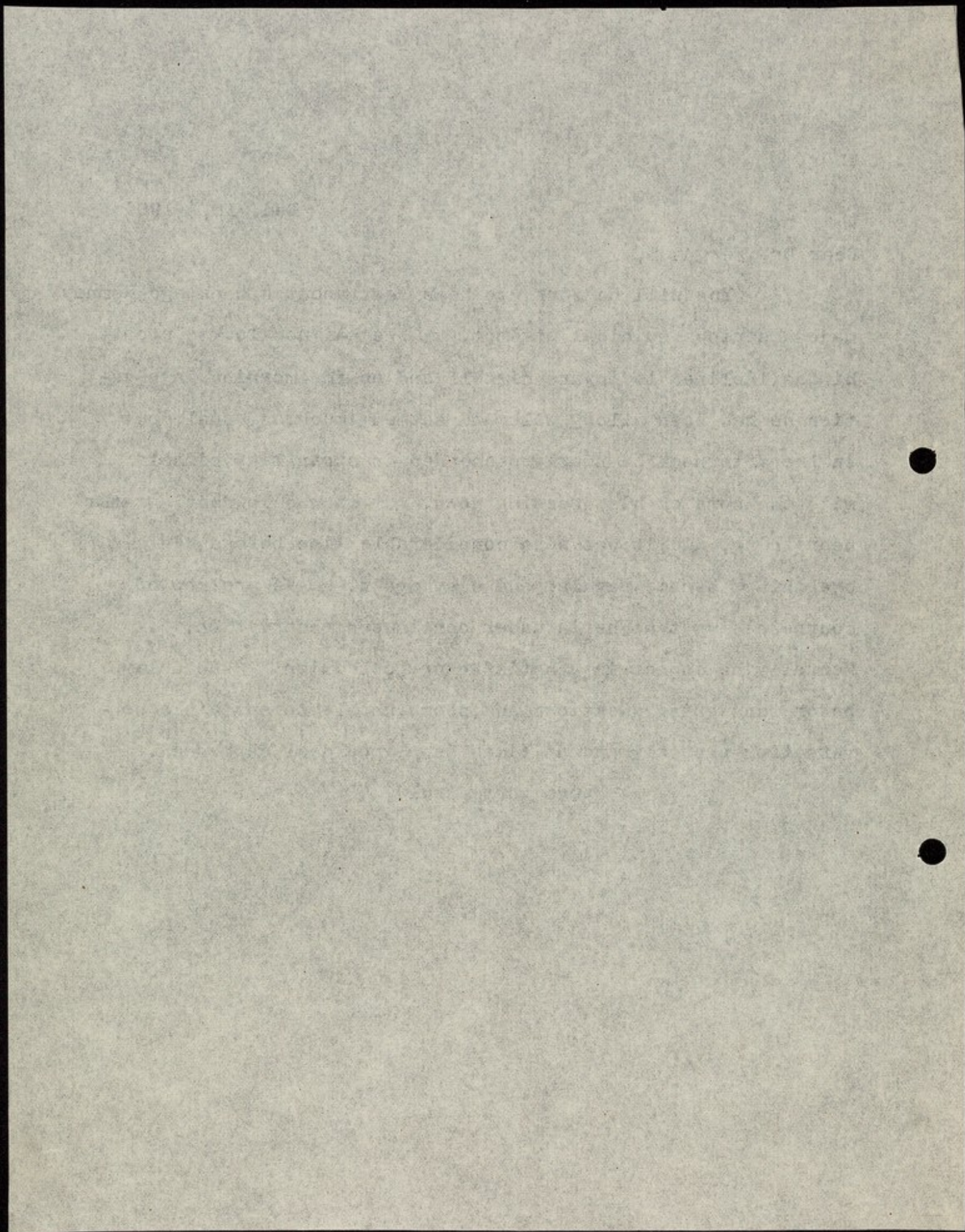
James M. Howley

Dec. 16, 1909

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

You will be sorry to hear that about a week ago Romney made a serious suicidal attempt. We had not looked upon him as inclined to injure himself and on the morning in question he had been a long walk and seemed much as usual, but in the afternoon he nearly succeeded in strangling himself with the cord of his dressing gown. It was in fact a rather near thing, and it was some considerable time before his breathing became regular and easy again. We are now of course seeing that he is under continuous observation. Mentally he is not in a satisfactory condition. He delays before answering questions and seems unable to sustain a conversation properly and at times is a good deal depressed.

Yours very truly,



KIRKGATE HOUSE  
THIRSK

17<sup>th</sup> December 09.

Dear Dr Pierie

I am much ob-  
liged for your letter.

It is a pity about poor  
Pomroy, but alas I can  
see just he was taking  
a good deal with him

that day in answering  
questions was very marked  
while he was here, so I am  
afraid he has not improved.

I suppose you will know  
that he is a descendant

of the parish.  
Yours very truly  
Ch. P. Terhoun