Seelig, Elita Louise

Publication/Creation

1912-1915

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8th December, 1915.

Dear Sir George Savage,

I am glad to hear that Mrs. Seeli g is discharged. I should think this is quite right, and yet I cannot help having misgivings as to the future. Still her present state concerns us, and the future often turns out better than one anticipates.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

FROM
W. E. WALLER,
SECRETARY,
THE RETREAT, YORK

COPY OF THE MINUTE OF THE RETREAT COMMITTEE,

Held

382

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOC[illegible]"
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

Aug. 7. 1915.

Dear Bedford Pierce

Soulsby has
discharged Mrs Seely
with a clean Bill of Health
&
from Lucy
G. A. Sanger

BARNWOOD HOUSE,
GLOUCESTER.

2 Nov 1915

Dear Pierce,

Thank you for the copy of the original certificates in the case of Mrs Seelig. She arrived here last night, and I hope some time today to have the opportunity of making a preliminary investigation of her mental condition.

Please do not send me any of the correspondence.

I daresay I shall begin to suffer myself in the same way as you have.

Things are very difficult here owing to the reduction of our male staff. Like you we rub along with 18 instead of 28 attendants and some of these are not up to our standard in quality.

It is very unsatisfactory that asylum work has not been so far recognised as an essential part of national duty. This recognition will no doubt come when all our most valuable men are gone.

With kind regards

Yours very truly

H. Crichton Greig Smith

207.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

29th October 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I have now obtained the consent of the Board of Control to Mrs.Seelig's transfer to Barnwood House. I enclose the duplicate order, and I have of course sent the other order to Barnwood.

As Mrs.Seelig does not leave Richmond until Monday when her leave of absence will as a matter of fact have expired, I think it would be just as well if the leave were extended as suggested in your letter of the 28th.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

28th October 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Seelig

I was much relieved to get a letter from Mrs.Seelig this morning stating that she was willing to act on my advice. I was rather in hopes that this might be done by extending her leave of absence, because I quite hope that she may be discharged at the end of the period of observation but I find that you cannot give leave of absence to another licensed house, so that I am getting a formal order for transfer from the Board of Control. I expect you will feel relieved at this termination of your connection with the case.

I have had a long letter from Dr.Savage which shows that he has been very carefully into the case, and I confess that, but for the strong expression of opinion on the part of the Board of Control, I should be rather inclined to follow

my own inclinations and discharge her at once, but the arrangement I have made is on the whole the safer and wiser course.

Yours faithfully,

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

184.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

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Office Stamp.

YORK 28 OC 15 T

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } Royal Courts of Justice 1.45 P.M., Received here at } 12.39

TO { Pierce Retreat York

Mrs Seelig consents to to Barnwood please extend So leave of absence for six weeks as I do not propose placing her on the Books at Barnwood Official Solicitor

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

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

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Office Stamp.

YORK 2700 15 T

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Royal Courts of Justice

Charges to pay — s. d.

Handed in at 11.50 a.M. Received here at 12.36 P.M.

TO { Peirce The Retrent York

Certainly not Please adhere to my Instructions Received this morning am writing

Official Solicitor

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

27th October 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Seelig

Your letter to me has crossed one that I wrote to you yesterday, and I wired you in reply that I must carry out my programme. I think I should be doing wrong if in a case of this kind I acted against the advice of the Board of Control.

I have heard nothing this morning from Mrs. Seelig, but I will wait until tomorrow morning and will then send you a telegram. If, as I anticipate, I get no reply or an unsatisfactory one I shall ask you to take her back to the Retreat on Friday morning under suitable escort.

I need hardly say that I should be as well satisfied with a month's close observation by you as I should with the report from Dr. Soutar. It was only with a view of removing any possible prejudice she might have, and applying an entirely fresh mind to the matter, that I suggested she should go to Barnwood House.

2. Pierce.

I feel it my duty to enclose a copy of a letter I have today written to Sir George Savage on the subject. Obviously it increases my difficulties in this case.

Yours faithfully,

John Bruce Bolton

Encl.

Copy

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

27th October 1915.

Dear Sir George,

re Mrs.Seelig

I was very much surprised this morning to hear from Dr. Pierce of The Retreat, York, that you have written to him stating that, in your judgment, this lady is of sound mind.

Having regard to the fact that I have been substituted as petitioner, and am also receiver of her estate, I certainly imagined that you would have communicated in the first instance with me. The case has given me very great anxiety, because owing to the disputes between husband and wife, coupled with the fact that the husband is a German, I was with his solicitor's concurrence substituted as petitioner in order that his feelings with regard to the matter should not influence the decision. Since I have had charge of the lady I have not only seen her and arranged forher to have leave of absence from the asylum, but I have enquired closely into the case and I have seen the whole Board of Control. Their opinion is that, having regard to the family history and to the past history of this case, it would not be wise of me to rely upon

the report of any medical man, however expert, resulting from one or two personal visits - that the lady has very great power of self-control, - and that she ought to be under close observation by an expert medical man for some weeks before it will be possible to arrive at a conclusion with regard to her case, and they advise me to adopt this course and not to discharge her at the present moment. They went so far as to say that they would not feel justified themselves in discharging her.

As you know I have never pretended to medical skill or knowledge, but the judgment of the Board commended itself very much to me, and knowing her very strong objection to returning to York I arranged to place her for a month on trial at Barnwood House under the immediate supervision of Dr. Soutar, with the express purpose of obtaining a considered report from him on the case before dealing with the question of her discharge. In the meantime she has been at a boarding house at Richmond selected by me, and I understand that she has paid you one or more visits. She did not ask me to pay your fee, but I understand she has pawned her jewellery for the purpose, and now I find that you have written to Dr.Pierce expressing your opinion without any consultation with me or with anyone else who has had charge

G.B.

of the case. I cannot go into the matter at length in this letter, but I should like to ask you whether you have had any reports from the Medical Superintendents of The Lawn, Lincoln, or St.Andrew's, Northampton, where she was for some time, or whether you know her family history, which in itself is sufficient to make it necessary to move with the utmost caution.

A great deal of prejudice has been introduced into this case from which I am thankful to say I have held myself aloof, but my difficulty is added to if the case is dealt with by medical men of your standing and experience in this way.

I should like to add that her own solicitor has urged her to adopt the course which I am pressing upon her by the advice of the Board of Control, but obviously if you have expressed your opinion to her it will make my task still more difficult.

Believe me,

yours faithfully,

W. H. Winterbotham

Sir George H. Savage, M.D.,
26, Devonshire Place,
W.

Copy.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

26th October 1915.

Dear Mrs. Seelig,

I am very much disappointed that I have not heard from you accepting the proposal that under the advice of the Board of Control I made to you to go for some weeks to Barnwood House to be placed under close observation there. You know full well that the question of your discharge is a medical question and that I must act on medical advice in deciding what I ought to do. Surely if you are of sound mind as you allege you cannot reasonably object to the proposal that I should have the opportunity of obtaining a considered opinion from one of the best experts in the country given after you have been under close observation for some weeks.

I have reason to believe that Mr.Acton has urged you to act on my advice. Why then have you not done so?

The alternative I have already explained to you. The extended leave of absence granted by the authorities at the Retreat, York expires on the last day of this month. Unless therefore I hear from you by tomorrow, Wednesday, that you are prepared to go down to Gloucester on Thursday I shall have to wrire to the authorities [redacted] at York to come and fetch you.

Can I not make you understand that the course which you are taking in forcing this action upon me is the best possible evidence that you are not looking at the matter reasonably?

Yours faithfully,

Wm. H. Winterbotham.

Mrs. Seelig,
8, Downe Terrace,
Richmond Hill, S.W.

Copy.

Mrs. Seelig,
8, Downe Terrace,
Richmond Hill, S.W.

Wm. H. Winterbotham.

Yours faithfully,

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Dear Mrs. Seelig,

26th October 1918.

Copy.

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OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

26th October 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.E.L.Seelig

I do not think I can rightly do otherwise than act on the advice of the entire Board of Control.

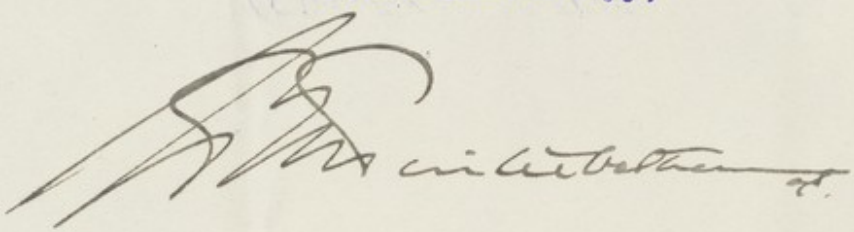
I wrote to Mrs.Seelig last week a conciliatory letter explaining, but she has taken no notice of the letter. I enclose copy of one I have written to her today. If I wire you on Thursday morning that you must take her back to York before the leave expires, will you send two determined and competent persons on Thursday afternoon to take her back early on Friday? I do not like leaving it to the last day lest there should be a hitch.

If I have to send her back to you, I should like you to keep her for a month under close observation and then make me a report, and if on that the Board of Control think I am justified in discharging her I shall do so. If not then we must consider the question of her removal to some other

2. Pierce.

asylum.

Yours faithfully,



Encl.

1st November, 1915.

Dear Soutar,

I send you a copy of the original certificates under which Mrs. Seelig was received at the Lawn. The certificates have been copied correctly from the copies in our possession, but judging from the dates it is quite clear that they refer to the Lawn and not to St. Andrew's, the necessary alterations not having been made in the copies. The Order for transfer from the Lawn to St. Andrew's is dated 8th September, 1914, and the Order for the transfer from St. Andrew's to the Retreat is dated 4th March, 1915. I also ought to say that on the 29th June, 1915 the Official Solicitor was appointed Petitioner in this case instead of Mr. Alexander Seelig.

On the 1st June Mrs. Seelig left the Retreat, and went to London for an operation for fissure of the cervix uteri. This was performed by Dr. Phillips of 68 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W, and was, I understand, successful. Since then she has been staying in quarters arranged by the Official Solicitor, and I have not seen her.

I can send you one and a half inches of correspondence about this case if you wish to see it. I daresay that Dr. Rambaut could do the same. This I

hardly expect you will want, and if you ask Mrs. Seelig to tell you all about the Retreat I have but little doubt you will soon realise that we are not sorry that she is no longer on our books.

How are you getting on? Our indoor staff is now reduced from 39 to 19, and yet we just manage to rub along. There is now only one unmarried attendant. I certainly think that the men engaged in Asylum work ought to have been remembered when they were starring those engaged in necessary duties.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

29th October, 1915.

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

I am much obliged for your letter respecting Mrs. Seelig, and I note that the patient is to be formally transferred to Dr. Soutar's care. This is, no doubt, the best arrangement.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

20th October, 1913.

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

I am much obliged
for your letter respecting
Mrs. Seelig, and I note that
the patient is to be formally
transferred to Dr. Souter's
care. This is, no doubt,
the best arrangement.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

28th October, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Seelig.

I have been from home, but I was very glad to receive your wire to-day saying that Mrs. Seelig had agreed to go to Barnwood House. I need hardly say that I am very glad that she is not returning here, and, moreover, I think it would be fairer to the woman that she should see someone entirely fresh.

I had assumed that Sir George Savage's interviews had been arranged by you, and it is quite news to me that Mrs. Seelig has been seeing him on her own account. It certainly complicates the matter. I wrote to Sir George saying that I should be quite willing to discharge her on his recommendation, but if I understand the situation rightly I cannot do this without the consent of the Petitioner, or at least without giving him ample notice of the intention.

We are arranging for the prolongation of the leave of absence in accordance with your wire.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dear Sir,

re Beatty.

I have been from home, but I was very glad to receive your wire to-day saying that Mrs. Beatty had agreed to go to Harewood House. I need hardly say that I am very glad that she is not returning here, and, moreover, I think it would be fairer to the woman that she should see someone entirely fresh.

I had assumed that Sir George Tatton's interviews had been arranged by you, and it is quite news to me that Mrs. Beatty has been making his own account. It certainly complicates the matter. I write to Sir George saying that I should be quite willing to telephone her on the recommendation, but if I understand the situation rightly I cannot do this without the consent of the Petitioner, or at least without giving him ample notice of the intention.

We are arranging for the prolongation of the leave of absence in accordance with your wire.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

27th October, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs. E. L. Seelig.

DR. Pierce has asked me to thank you for your letter of yesterday. If you wire to us on Thursday we shall be prepared to send two competent persons to bring Mrs. Seelig back here, but we trust that this may not be necessary.

I presume the Board of Control have issued a formal Consent to her transfer, though we have not had the usual enquiries about it. Copies of the papers on which she was received here will be sent when we hear definitely that the transfer is to take place.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, W.C.

25th October, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have now received from Sir George Savage a paper stating that he considers Mrs. Seelig is of sound mind. I conclude, therefore, that you will wish me to discharge her as "recovered", and I will do so on hearing that you authorise this to be done.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand,
London, W.C.

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO"
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

22nd October 1915.

Dear Mr. Pierce.

I will send a certificate to you stating that having seen Mrs Seelig on many occasions I have come to the conclusion that she is now of sound mind, and on the strength of that I presume you will discharge her.

Kind Regards
Yours sincerely
J. H. Lamb

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO."
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

Having seen & examined
Mrs Ellis Reilly
on several occasions and
having interviewed those
with whom she is living
I have to report that I
find her of sound mind.

Ruth Sawyer M.D.
D.P.H.

Oct 21. 1915.

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO."
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

19th October 1915.

Dear L. Pierce.

Just one word more in reference to Mrs. Seelig.

Suppose I sign a Certificate that at present she is well, and fit to have her discharge, will you upon that, grant her a discharge?

Of course, with you

I think she will be a trouble to everyone, but at the same time I cannot quite think she ought to be under control, or rather, ought to be restricted so that she cannot proceed for a divorce. If she tries & fails to prove her case, then I think things will be more easily managed.

Yours truly
G. H. Sharp

19th October, 1915.

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

Mrs. Seelig.

I am very sorry to find that this patient continues to give you so much anxiety and trouble.

In reply to your enquiry I may say that I never discussed with Mrs. Seelig her accusations against her husband, feeling that it was a matter upon which I could get no trustworthy evidence, and trying as far as possible to exclude from my mind all reference to it when I considered the question of the justive of her detention at the Retreat. I had no doubt whatever that she had been of unsound mind and that she had not properly recovered, but I also felt that she was well enough to have a trial, and I did not protest against the decision of the Visiting Commissioners that the trial should be permitted. As she has now had a prolonged trial and apparently has behaved well and given no trouble, it would seem not unreasonable that she should be discharged, though my own feeling is that she should be discharged as "relieved" and not as "recovered".

I am aware that this is a lame conclusion,

and gives little assistance in respect to the custody of her children. Would it not be possible for her to consent to her children being placed under the care of trustees appointed by yourself or the Lord Chancellor.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Private & Confidential

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

18th October 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

This case is continuing to give me very great anxiety. I have been interviewing the Board of Control and I have been at the Home Office about her case, and about the custody of her children.

At the moment I have only one question to ask you, in strict confidence, namely:- Assuming the charges against her husband to be true, and assuming that he has committed adultery and is living in adultery with the lady under whose care the children now are, and therefore that Mrs. Seelig is justified in the charges she makes against him, would this affect your judgment as to her fitness to be discharged?

Yours faithfully,

Lewis Bolton

16th October, 1915.

Dear Sir George Savage,

Just a line to acknowledge yours, and to say that we shall be very glad for Mrs. Seelig to be discharged from our books as soon as you give the word. I shall want to know whether I am to discharge her as "recovered" or "relieved".

I purposely refrained from discussing with Mrs. Seelig the particular matters referred to in your letter, as I always felt it was a matter upon which I could not expect to obtain trustworthy evidence on either side.

I much doubt whether she will be likely to keep to any arrangements suggested for her manner of life, but still I do not think this matters very much, as now that her husband is interned it does not much matter what she says about him or what proceedings she takes. I can only say that I am thoroughly sorry for the children to have a mother like that.

With kind regards.

Yours very truly,

Confidential

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO."
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

Oct 15. 1915.

Dear Bedford Pierce

re Mrs Sellis

The more I see & hear the more certain am I that the husband & not the wife has been very severely tried & I feel personally that if we could be the means for her discharge if she will consent to live in some panicty with

Yesperiance

I am getting tasker too
many letters & references
& please me don't ask
professional work & slack
& keeps me occupied

Kind regards

I am
Yours truly
S H Sarg

26, Devonshire Place,
October II 1915 W.

Dear Bedford Pierce

I have perused the documents and Ihavd had two more interviews with Mrss Seeling and still I am in doubt. She promises me piles of evidence of her husband's immorality.

She says she did not mean to suggest that he had given her any veneral disease but that his abnormal sexual relations caused all sorts of uterine and ovarian troubles.

I have met with several cases in which " fraudes conjugales" have cause general and local troubles.

I have said apply forthe divorce, prove your facts, and then we may procede furtherShe certainl is plausible enough.

I am inclined to think there is mental istability at lest but that it will be difficult to establish inher present state I do feel however that she is hardly thebest person to have change of the children.

I have been almost driven off my head with a couple of the Social incopabable Kind regards

Yours Truly
S H Savage

8th October, 1915.

Dear Sir George Savage,

Perhaps it would be better for me to send you extracts of a letter recently written to the Official Solicitor respecting Mrs. Seelig. I must admit that I am rather fed up with this case, and I have some solid two inches of correspondence in the matter. I am also sending you particulars of the case received from her husband's solicitor, from Dr. Rambaut, and from the doctor who certified her last, which three please return when read. The letter from the solicitors was sent to me in confidence, and I must, therefore, ask you to consider it as such.

I am inclined to think that her accusations against her husband are untrue, but it is obviously impossible for anyone to judge on a matter of this kind, and so I think one must exclude that as far as possible from the consideration. I have seen him and have also seen Mr. Briggs, and I satisfied myself as to their bona fides, and Mr. Briggs seemed to me to be a thoroughly trustworthy man who had sincerely tried to do his best for the patient.

It is a great pity that the woman cannot be shipped off to Germany where she has lots of relations, and she would be nicely out of the way.

If you would like any further particulars I will,

of course, gladly give them to you, but I doubt very much whether details of history will do much to help in the present difficulty.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO."
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

Confidential

Oct 6 1915

Dear Price

I have had a long talk with Mrs Selig & I have heard from her Gynecologist & the Matron & others. I could detect no sign of mental disorder I may be wrong but I read this Russian emotional Southerner married to head of the German household immorality caused separation. He bullies her & says she would poison Kill herself

than returns to her.
The most is made of this
threat she is entrapped &
then on a similar plea
re entrapped. & passed
from one Hospital to another
& retained on professional
etiquette till she reaches
York & here she is on leave.
Sparkled out to her that
her accusations against
her husband might be
delusions. She fears me
references to isolation the
fact. The weak point are
that she was so long in
Hospitals under trustworthy
men & that the board
of Control as it

REGENT'S PARK STATION
"BAKER LOO."
TELEPHONE:
2075 PADDINGTON.

26, DEVONSHIRE PLACE,
W.

Dear Miss Wicks

I am sorry to have
mistaken or misled
you also mentioning that at
Lincoln no negotiations
have
the Day Nurses at the Hospitals
support her contention

You can you in confidence
send me your opinion

Kind regards

Yours truly

S. A. Savage

24th September, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs. E. L. Seelig.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, Dr. Pierce wishes me to say that the Committee of the Retreat have extended Mrs. Seelig's leave of absence for a further period of one month.

Yours faithfully,

Asst. Sec.

Arthur J. Williams, Esq.
Official Solicitor's Department,
Royal Courts of Justice,
London, W.C.

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OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

23rd September 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Seelig

Mr.Winterbotham, who is away on his holiday, has sent me his letter to you of the 17th and your reply of the 18th.

He has asked me to see the Board of Control, but the case is a difficult one and I am not at all sure that I shall be able to come to a decision until the end of the month, by which time the certificates will have lapsed. I shall be extremely obliged therefore if the Committee will extend Mrs. Seelig's leave of absence for another month, although I imagine that Mr.Winterbotham will have come to a decision as to the steps he is to take long before the expiration of the further month.

Please let me hear from you whether this leave has been granted.

Yours faithfully,

for W.H. Winterbotham

18th September, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I can well understand that you find Mrs. Seelig's case to be a difficult and perplexing one. She caused me a good deal of anxiety when she was here, and I found it difficult to disentangle the reasonable from the unreasonable in her statements. I had, of course, to satisfy myself that she was rightly detained at the Retreat, and the following is a summary of the conclusions I came to.

Evidences of Insanity.

(1) Unreasoning prejudice against her husband and his solicitor. I have seen the latter, and am satisfied that her prejudice against Mr. Briggs was unjustified.

(2) Distorted recollections of what happened previous to her return to the Lawn. She denied facts in the certificates. I wrote to the doctor of Parkstone (Dr. Drew) and satisfied myself as to the need for her re-certification.

(3) At the Retreat. Evidence of vindictiveness against anyone concerned in her detention, abuse and deliberate misrepresentation of myself, the staff, also the medical officers of the institutions she had been in. A capacity for making mischief so marked that I would not take her back unless actually obliged to do so, and even then I

would advise the Committee to have her transferred in the interests of the other patients.

Making allowance for excitability due to her nationality we satisfied ourselves that the querulous distortion of facts was due to mental infirmity.

But though I had no doubt as to the mental disorder the more difficult question arises as to whether this is sufficiently marked to justify continued detention. I gather that since leaving the Retreat there has been little evidence of definite insanity, and this being so I should have advised her discharge but for the fact that she will naturally take steps to recover the control of her children, and apply for the management of her own affairs. I myself much doubt whether she is able to do this, and I think she would easily be imposed upon by designing persons wishful to make business.

The suggestion I would make is that you ask one of the London consultants, say Dr. Percy Smith or Dr. Craig, to see her on several occasions, both at Richmond unexpectedly and at his own rooms in London. I feel sure you would find that the advice of an independent man of standing would assist in deciding this perplexing question.

I do not think the Committee would, under the circumstances, raise any difficulty about a longer leave of

absence, though, of course, it would be more satisfactory to us if she was transferred to the care of a medical man, and taken off our books altogether.

I am inclined to doubt whether it would be wise to transfer her to the care of a medical man, but it is quite possible that the physician who may see her may make the suggestion, so as to get further evidence as to her conduct day by day. Of course I would glad send particulars of history to anyone you may name.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.
Craig y Mor,
Abersoch,
Carnarvonshire.

16th August, 1915.

W. H. Winterbottom, Esq.,
The Official Solicitor,
Royal Courts of Justice,
London, W.C.

Dear Sir,

We have not heard anything of Mrs. Seelig since she left the Nursing Home and I do not know whether it is to be concluded that all is going well. You are aware that she is on leave of absence from The Retreat and, unless there is any definite reason to the contrary, I think this leave of absence should terminate at the end of this month when the 3 months will have elapsed.

On the contrary, if it is desirable in her interests that the leave of absence should be prolonged, I expect the Committee of The Retreat would be quite willing to extend it on hearing definitely from you.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALL LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:—
THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

Craig y Môr
Abersoch
Carnarvonshire
17th Sept 1915

Dear Sir

I am writing on the 20th inst. letter as I cannot read it

Yours faithfully
Official Solicitor

The Registrar
The Registry
York

Mrs Seely

I have (as I think you know) been substituted as Petitioner which in view of the relations between husband & wife I could not well avoid - apart from the fact that the husband is a German - now in prison for 8 months for dealing with the enemy - a harsh sentence as I read the evidence.

Naturally having the right to discharge her I wish to allow no prejudice of husband or wife to affect my judgment - though it is I fear pretty clear that as soon as she is free to do so she will start litigation. The only question however I have to consider is her state of mind is such as to legally & properly justify her further detention. She has behaved exceedingly well at Richmond where she went at my suggestion and has really given me no trouble and she appeals to me to accept the judgment of the lady in charge of the Boarding House who I have known for some years - & to allow her money to consult an expert on her own account.

I have been hoping that the Board of Control would give me guidance as she has seen Dr Needham in August who has taken interest in the case - but I have no report from him tho he is away. My manager has seen Mr Trevor but he can find no note by Dr Needham on the case. Her own recollection however is that such an interview would in his opinion (speaking as a layman & not as a Medical expert) probably not be sufficient to justify the Board in advising

the patients' discharge". & appears the opinion that "nothing but a probationary period under a doctor who knew the case could really enable either the Board or myself to come to a decision."

This very much accords with my own feelings - as a lawyer. I am no medical expert & a Shoemaker should stick to his last.

What am I to do? Mr Trevor suggests her return to you for a time - in any event that I should take your advice. I had thought of getting some reliable man (such as Dr Edwards of Camberwell House) to see her & report - but Dr Trevor points out that "little good could result from a short interview as Mrs S would be quite capable of disguising any traces of insanity if only examined in this cursory manner". Naturally the past history of her case & the family history must be known to those who have to judge the case.

I have told Mrs S plainly that I shall not only exercise the power I have of granting her discharge except under the advice of mental experts - but I think it is my duty to get that advice now.

Will you advise me? Shall I place her with a Doctor? I fear I have not the means to pay a sufficient fee to induce a really Skilled Mental doctor to take her into his house - except a limited time. If I send her back at the end of the month to you I fear She will resent it very much.

Please deal with the case as your own judgment & knowledge of the case suggests. Kindly reply to this to the address at

936.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

6th September 1915.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.E.L.Seelig

I am obliged by your letter of the 3rd instant, and note that Mrs.Seelig's leave of absence has been extended for one month from the 1st instant.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. Winterbotham
S

1

6th September 1915.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

Re Mrs.E.I.Seelig

I am obliged by your letter of the 3rd instant, and note that Mrs.Seelig's leave of absence has been extended for one month from the 1st instant.

Yours faithfully,

4th September, 1915.

Sir,

re Mrs. E. L. Seelig.

At the request of Mr. Winterbotham, the Petitioner, the leave of absence for Mrs. Seelig was extended for one month from the 1st of September.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,
The Board of Control,
66 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

916.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.

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

In reply please quote

No. 58601.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,

66, *Victoria Street, S.W*

3rd September, 1915.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Control to ask you to be so good as to inform them how matters stand with regard to Mrs. Ellita Seelig's discharge; whether her leave of absence has expired or has been extended.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A Monro

Assistant Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat, York.

3rd September, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs. E. L. Seelig.

The Committee of the Retreat have granted an extention of the leave of absence for Mrs. Seelig for one month from September 1st. It is not necessary to apply to the Board of Control.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.
Official Solicitor's Department,
Royal Courts of Justice,
London, W.C.

3rd December, 1920.

Dear Sir,

Re: [illegible].

The Committee of the Veterans Fund granted an extension of the leave of absence for [illegible] for one month from 30th October last. It is not necessary to apply to the Board of Control.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. Winterbotham, Esq.,

Official Solicitor's Department,

Royal Courts of Justice,

London, W.C.

914.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

2nd September 1915.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Seelig

Would you kindly let me know whether the Board of Control has granted an extension of Mrs. Seelig's leave of absence?

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Winterbotham

922

8 Donna Terrace
Richmond Hill
Richmond upon Thames
August 30th 1915

Dear Doctor Pierce,

On Sept. 1st my three months trial is over. Will you kindly let me know if I am going to be signed out by then and so with receive my absolute freedom.

Since I left you my husband who was tried on a charge of stealing with the jury was pronounced guilty at the Assizes and sentenced to 8 months imprisonment without hard labour.

I cannot affy for the Curtosity of my 2 children while I am in your hands, as my husbands Lawyer

Mr. Briggs says
that until I get
my freedom he will
not let me have
my two children.
Hoping to hear from
you very soon
I am
Yours truly
Nelita Sedig

AND
6, PARK SQUARE,
LEEDS.
BY APPOINTMENT.
TUESDAY, FRIDAY } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
TELEPHONE { YORK No 112. LEEDS No 3877.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

August 28, 1915

Mrs. Seelig

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter recommending an extension of Mrs. Seelig's Leave of Absence, and thank you for the same.

I am applying to the Committee of the Retreat for the Leave to be extended another month.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Official Solicitor

902

ALL LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

ack: we have applied to Committee for month's extension

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

August 26th 1915

To the Medical Superintendent
The Retreat, York

Dear Sir,

Re. Mrs Seelig

It is a little difficult dealing with this matter while Mr. Winterbotham is away and I am not clear as to whether he has been in direct communication with you.

I have however, received a telegram from him from which I understand he thinks it would be wise to obtain a month's extension of leave of absence and I wired to you to this effect. last night.

The Commissioners may of course consider that Mrs Seelig is now entitled to her discharge, but pending their decision on the point, it would seem to be highly desirable to keep the certificate on foot.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur J. Williams

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

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

928.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than ½d. being reckoned as ½d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

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YORK 24 AU 15

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Chancery Lane

Charges to pay s. d.

Handed in at 3.5 P.M. Received here at 3.44 P.M.

TO Medical Superintendent
The Retreat York

Please if possible obtain one months Extension of mrs Seeligs leave

Official Solicitor

884.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

August 21st 1915

To the Medical Superintendent
The Retreat
York

Dear Sir,

I sent your letter of the 16th August on to Mr. Winterbotham who is now away on his holidays.

He has asked me to tell you that Sir F. Needham has taken an interest in the case and has recently seen Mrs Seelig.

Mr. Winterbotham states that he is writing to the Board of Control asking them for their advice and he will probably write you direct as soon as he has heard from the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Richard T. Williams

6th July, 1915.

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

With regard to your letter I must admit that the charge for nursing in London in private nursing homes is an alarming business, and all I can say is that nurses cannot be got for less than £3. 3. 0 per week in London if there is any suggestion of mental disease in the patient, and I think a special nurse was required at night for about a fortnight to make things reasonably safe. I do not know that I can help any more in the matter.

With regard to the expenses here they are not large. The fee for sending Mrs. Seelig to London was Nurse £1. 1. 0, travelling expenses £2. 7. 0, and other out of pocket expenses £1. 5. 4, and the fee charged for my own services in arranging for the consultation I thought should be £3. 3. 0. I did not make a special journey to London on this account. At the same time we are sending in last quarter's account to date, which I think includes everything, unless there are one or two small disbursements, the accounts for which have not yet been sent in.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

With regard to your letter I must do it that
the charge for nursing in London is private nursing
homes is an alarming business, and all I can say is
that unless anyone ought to get for less than £3, 3, 0 per
week in London it is the only supposition of mental
disease in the patient, and I think a special nurse
was required at night for about a fortnight to make
it pay reasonably safe. I do not know that I can
help any more in the matter.

With regard to the expenses here I do
not know. The fee for sending here. Seeing to London
and back is £, 1. 0, travelling expenses £2. 7. 0, and
other out of pocket expenses £1. 5. 4, and the fee
charged for my own services in arranging for the
consultation I thought should be £2. 2. 0. I did
not make a special journey to London on this account.
At the same time we are sending in last quarter's
account to date, which I think includes everything,
unless there are one or two small disbursements, the
accounts for which have not yet been sent in.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

633.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.

LONDON, W.C.

5th July 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

re Seelig

Thanks for your letter of the 2nd.

What I feel is that the people at the nursing home ought not to have engaged an extra nurse from outside for the whole of the four weeks without a word to me on the subject or to the doctor in charge of the case. Moreover as we were paying £7.7.0 a week for board residence and nursing I think they ought to have provided all necessary nursing without an additional charge. I was particular to ascertain what the total expenses would be, and I got full particulars from Dr.Phillips; I was told that the nursing home was £8.8.0 a week. As a matter of fact it was £7.7.0, but the fee they propose to charge for the night nurse is outrageous and altogether beyond me, and I have no authority whatever to pay ~~them now~~ such a charge. You must admit that £50 is an enormous sum to pay for nursing in such a case as this.

I have assumed that you would have some additional charge to make for your journey and for bringing the

patient to London. Can you let me know what this will come to so that I may deal with it as soon as I am placed in funds?

Yours faithfully,

J. T. Conolly

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

2nd July, 1915.

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I have been away for a short holiday, and find on my return the letter respecting the anonymous communication you have had. I should think it is quite probable that this is prompted by Mrs. Seelig.

You will have heard that the operation was successfully performed and that Mrs. Seelig has done very well at the Nursing Home, and no doubt you are aware that Mr. Winterbotham is now the Petitioner in this case.

I have not heard yet as to what is likely to be done with Mrs. Seelig. I wrote before I went from home to Mr. Winterbotham saying that possibly the Lord Chancellor's Visitors would be able to suggest some home in a private family where Mrs. Seelig might remain for some months on trial, but I have not had any reply to this suggestion. You will not be surprised to hear that I do not want her back at the Retreat.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

suicide, and one must not be surprised at their taking special precautions in such cases.

I have received from the Board of Control formal notice that you are now Petitioner for this lady. No doubt I shall be hearing from you as to whether you would like the leave of absense extended. I am sending one of the usual notices for persons on leave of absense which the Committee of the Retreat have adopted. I may perhaps say that the idea underlying these small payments is that leave of absense may not be forgotten or continued indefinitely.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

2nd July, 1915.

Dear Mr. Winterbotham,

I am sorry to hear of the difficulty in respect to the nursing fees. There has been some misunderstanding in the matter. I certainly told Miss Holder that I thought a special night nurse was necessary at the time of the operation. The patient's bedroom had necessarily to be at the top of the house, and it really would not have been safe for her to be left for a moment until it was quite clear that there had been no adverse effect upon her mind through the operation. If she had been here we should certainly have given her a special nurse both day and night and not left her for a moment. Although in Institutions such as the Retreat where there is a large staff of nurses temporary arrangements of this kind can be made without and serious difficulty it is quite different in small Institutions. Outside nurses have to be engaged and the expense of this is always very serious. I should hardly have thought that the special nurse was needed for as long as a month, but as to that I must not offer an opinion. I may perhaps add that Nursing Homes generally are very chary of taking any patient coming from an Asylum for fear of

2nd July, 1915.

Dear Miss Holder,

I am sorry for the mistake about the night nurse. I certainly did not mean to request you to supply a night nurse during the whole of Mrs. Seelig's stay, but I thought one was necessary during the operation and sufficiently long afterwards for you to be quite easy in your mind as to how she would go on. The fact that the room was at the top of the house with that open window close by rendered it desirable that during the operation at any rate a night nurse should be supplied. I will write to Mr. Winterbotham on the subject.

Though I have letters from you and from him I have not heard what has happened to Mrs. Seelig, whether she remains with you or not, and as she is on leave of absence and technically a patient of mine I should like to know how she is going on. I was very glad to hear that the operation had been so successful and that you had not had any trouble with her.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE,
2605 MAYFAIR.

53, BEAUMONT STREET,
PORTLAND PLACE, W.

July 1.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am so sorry to trouble you especially if you are away on your holiday but as you will see by enclosed letter I am rather in a fix. You remember you said I had better have a night-special

to Mrs. Winterbotham. I think you jotted down the expense the day you came here. With apologies for troubling you I remain

Yours very truly
Isabel J. Holder.

Please return enclosed.

from the start for Mrs Leslie
in sending in the a/c
I told Mr Winterbotham
the special night nurse
was by your orders. & You
see what his answer is
he can know very little
about nursing bounds
like this. Mrs L did not
need a special as far
as the Diabetes was
concerned. but I was
glad you told me to come
for a Patient coming
from an Asylum. especially
as she had a top floor
room - I am quite certain
Dr Phillips will agree with
us. I shall see him tomorrow
& will tell him about
it. but Dr Conyers he never
interferes about the
nursing, leaving all that
to me - would you kindly
send me a line
when I can forward

Name Seelig, Ellita Louise. Age. 33 Date of adm. March 8. 1915
Address Rosemont, Fernside Road, Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset.
Description Married.
Religious Persuasion Church of England.

P. H.

Has always been excitable, and self-willed, and delicate.

H. P. C.

Condition alternates between excitement & depression.
Has threatened to commit suicide.
Has been at the Lawn, Lincoln and at St. Andrew's, Northampton.

F. H.

Father
Mother - eccentric & excitable.
One brother, excitable - and four sisters, one of whom has been treated in a Sanatorium elsewhere.

Abstract of Certificates.

She is worried and has a vacant expression. Talks & walks in an excited manner. States that she is unable to manage the house & the children. Has threatened to drown herself and also to cut her throat & the children's. Says she has ruined herself, and has no money to buy food for the children.

Special Features.

Fits
Habits
Suicidal
Homicidal.

30th June, 1915.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter stating that the Official Solicitor is now the Petitioner in the case of Mrs. Ellita L. Seelig.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,
Board of Control.

108.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

30th June 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

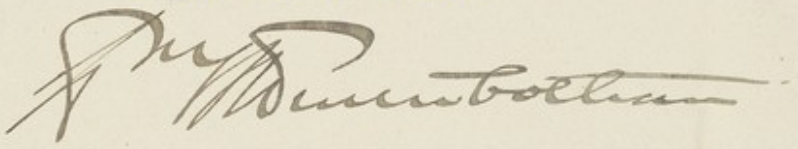
re Mrs.Seelig

I am sorry to trouble you about Mrs.Seelig's case, but I have had an exorbitant account from the nursing home for "additional nursing." I had better quote what Miss Holder says:- "Enclosed you will find our account for her 4 weeks "stay here. Dr.Pierce wished me to get a "special" night "nurse for her, otherwise I should not have done so. I enclose "that account also which would you kindly pay to the "Nurses' Co-operation." The account is at the rate of 4 guineas a week for four weeks with some other expenses, making £17.6.0 in all.

I confess that when one pays £7.7.0 a week with extras to a nursing home one does not expect to have to pay for outside nurses, but as I had to obtain the Master's authority to pay the expenses of the operation I wrote to Dr.Phillips on the 7th June before the operation was performed asking

him what the total expenses would be, and after naming his own fee and that of the chloroformist and assistant he stated that the nursing home fee would be 8 guineas a week for three weeks, and said nothing whatever about any additional expenses. I submitted this to the Master and obtained his authority to incur this expenditure, but I have no authority to pay anything more.

Yours faithfully,



57A

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

21st June 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I am obliged by your letter of the 18th.

I have concluded that I will make a personal call on Mrs.Seelig. I may be able to persuade her to take her period of probation quietly. I shall point out to her that while I am receiver she cannot employ a solicitor and incur legal expenses.

Yoursfaithfully,

J. Rueben Bolton

10 Southey St
Nottingham 19.6.15

Dear D'Pierce.

I have today received an unsigned letter that is rather disturbing. It bears the London postmark & I've little doubt that it is sent to me from Mrs Wehrhahn & is written by her companion. I draw this inference because it contains expressions that are peculiar & occur in Mrs Wehrhahns letters. It is evidently the outcome of alarm at Mrs Seelys proceedings in London, it informs me that Mrs Barham & a nurse have been visiting the Home Office & Scotland yard reporting, on Mrs Seelys instructions that ammunition is stored at Mrs Seelys home at Radcliffe, ~~that~~ the same boy that was said to contain a human body has now become an ammunition case that he is a spy, ~~that~~ that Kunning of his illness, the treatment at a camps is confidently expected to cause his death, & on his return to Radcliffe, her possession of his money & marriage to someone else. That I am being represented as his screen & am to be dealt with as an accomplice

There is no surprise in this, under stood as to the source from which the information comes. It was certain that if the opportunity presented itself, this was the real purpose for which the assistance of London for the operation would be used. I think however you should know this & endeavour to ascertain if these old associations have collected at the Hospital to assist in such mischievous proceedings.

I've sent the letter on to W Winterbotham and suggested you should see it. I've also reported the matter to the Board of Control - which on W Seelys application is about to appoint W Winterbotham petitioner.

The letter very sensibly points out that the effect of all this would be to bring trouble on W Seely who is also of German nationality & claims to be written in the interest of the children whose future, it recognises is being ruined.

I don't propose to worry W Seely by telling him of this matter but it is not difficult to account for the attention the police have paid him in the earlier stages of the war if communications of this sort have been made

An Expert from London was sent - on a representation that he had a wireless installation. His house was surrounded & watched, the place was searched from cellar to garret for hidden stores of ammunition. A lamp with a red shade on his desk caused another visit to satisfy the authorities it was not a signal light. When after some time the County Police became satisfied they had been misled the City Police began & urged the County Police to new efforts the Telephone of the business premises of the Company of which he is a director was taken away & foothot chases of trading with the enemy followed up. The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce went out of his way to see the Chairman of the Watch Committee & the Constable & the open annoyance then ceased - a remarkable watch & ward has since been exercised - On that account there can be no complaint everything is very prosperous land open for inspection & every enquiry invited - But these steps have been prompted & the prompting

has come from the wife. Of that I am now convinced.

There have been quite troublesome difficulties with little delicate since he saw his mother at York, the imputations made against his character if they have not been understood have made him unwilling to be controlled by her, the change in him is too marked to be attributable to any other cause than mind poisoning on the familiar lines. It seems too cruel to prevent her from seeing the children but next time she must not be alone with them.

Although my responsibilities are to my great satisfaction being assumed by H. Winterbotham & the Board of Control I remain personally interested in the case & for out of my way to prevent the wretchedness that this poor woman is bent on causing herself & her family if I can, my experience of her & her method is too long for her to easily mislead me. There will follow on this outburst a time of hysteria & depression as certainly as it has followed in the autumn of every year for so many years past & until then she will probably be difficult to deal with & most unreasonable. Yours very truly James Briggs.

I thank Sir Robert Biggs very much for his letter of the 20th. That he has been written about the affair I only regret. I can also add, what is really a private letter of which Sir Robert has my permission to show you, that I may be going in for County Council work myself.

18th June, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Seelig,

I had written to you before receiving your letter, and I am very glad to hear from yourself that you are going on so well.

I am corresponding with Mr. Winterbotham in respect to the next step, but I am sorry that I cannot say anything definite at present.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

18th June, 1919.

18th June, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs. Seelig.

I have a difficulty in giving a decided reply to your letter of the 17th. During Mrs. Seelig's stay at the Retreat she did not, in my opinion, exhibit sufficient evidence of insanity to justify continued detention in an asylum, but in saying this I do not wish it to be thought that I accept her statements with regard to her husband and his solicitor.

She is a strange woman; she can be and very frequently is agreeable and was often sympathetic to other patients, nevertheless her influence here was injurious, I moght almost say poisonous, and if she returns to the Retreat I should have to place her in a detached villa so that she came into contact with a limited number of patients. The combination of natural affection for her children and vindictive desire to injure her husband promises ill for the future, and I do not see how she can be allowed to have the custody of her children whilst she speaks of her husband openly as she does.

It would seem to me desirable that her husband should cease to be petitioner, and it would

be decidedly better if someone were appointed such as yourself who could take an independent view.

The suggestion I would make is that the existing leave of absnece should be extended to permit of a prolonged period of trial in a private family. It is possible the Lord Chancellor's Visitors might be able to suggest a suitable temporary home. I think I had better have nothing to do with this or Mrs. Seelig will be prejudiced against the people at once.

I may add that at the present time there is not in my judgment the slightest fear of attempted suicide, but there seems to be no doubt whatever that when she was at Bournemouth she had a definite attack of depression and was then probably suicidal, and it is of course possible that after a few weeks or months there may be another depressed phase. This, however, is not at all likely to come on without ample warning.

I may say that I am going away for ten days holiday, but Dr. Mackenzie can deal with anything in my absence.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.

TELEPHONE,
2605 MAYFAIR.

53, BEAUMONT STREET,
PORTLAND PLACE, W.

June 18.

has said very little about her husband. & when she begins I always tell her I do not wish to hear anything of her private affairs. Your suggestion that I should not "discuss" details with her is really not necessary having been nursing now for 18 years I long ago learnt to hold my tongue we have cases for D. Craig nerve exhaustion & breakdown

Dear D. Pierce

I intended writing to you before this about Mrs Leslie but we have been so busy I have hardly had a moment to spare. Since Mrs Leslie came here she has eaten well. slept well & behaved well. the only time she has seemed upset & excited was after me a two visits

from her mother (who in my private opinion is a most trying person) & I have asked her not to come at present as she only annoys Mrs Kelly by constantly upbraiding her about her marriage. I dont think I have ever heard a tongue equal to Mrs Kelly's. as well try & stem a torrent. but we take her talk for what it is worth. She evidently greatly exaggerates & enlarges on every subject. She has repeatedly asked me to answer a plain question as to whether I consider her a lunatic. the only answer I have given her was "I have seen no sign of it since I've been here" I believe D. Phillips' answer was much the same. She

TELEPHONE,
2605 MAYFAIR.

53, BEAUMONT STREET,
PORTLAND PLACE, W.

Cares, so have had a
little experience of these
cases, if I have ever
said anything that I
it has been of the soothing
nder. She of course has
to make no remark for his behaviour
is sane. Where I did speak
& told her it was useless
to discuss Mrs Wilson as
"I had ample proof
that her mind was
unbalanced -

I Suppose you will let me know what is to happen when she is ready to leave here. Which will be about a week tomorrow 26th. By the way. Mrs Lesley mentioned a few days ago that she wished to see Dr Savage & Dr Gairy before she left here. I did not take much notice at the time. but

Supposing the wishes for either of them to see her is she to be allowed to do so?

Yours very truly
Isabel G. Holder.

P.S. would you also kindly let me know to whom I should send Mrs Lesley's a/c for the Home. & Special Night Nurse -

17th June, 1915.

Dear Miss Holder,

I should be glad to have a line from you to say how Mrs. Seelig is getting on. I have had a long reasonable letter from her appealing for her discharge, but the Board of Control have written to me decidedly saying she is not to be discharged yet.

I may say that Mrs. Seelig makes the following statement in her letter. "Miss Holder under whose care you have put me has told me she is convinced that I am not in any way mentally afflicted, so has Dr. Phillips."

The difficulty in the case refers to her accusations against her husband and against Mr. Briggs, which I have reason to believe are utterly untrue. This alone would not matter so much if she did not when she was free last time vindictively persecute them. Still it is a very difficult case, and I would suggest that you do not discuss the details with her at all, and certainly do not at present say anything to her about the Commissioners' decision about her discharge, as it will necessarily upset her and create many difficulties. I do not want her back at the Retreat, and would gladly arrange

something else if I can do so.

Please let me know when you think she will be ready to leave the nursing home.

I may say that the York Police have been here asking why she has not registered, and I think that whenever she leaves the nursing home she will have to be under police supervision, being an unnaturalised alien.

Yours very truly,

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.
LONDON, W.C.

17th June 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

Dr.Phillips reports that he performed the operation on Saturday last and that everything went quite satisfactorily and that the patient had been and was behaving "in a most normal manner". I have this morning a letter from the lady of which I enclose a copy.

I am applying to the Board of Control to be substituted as petitioner in place of Mr.Seelig the husband. He and his solicitor think this will avoid friction between husband and wife and I presume therefore will be good for the lady, though personally I do not want to have more to do with the case than I can help.

My object in writing to you is to ask you whether you are satisfied that Mrs.Seelig should be practically free for the next three months, always assuming that she does not break down or do anything outrageous in the interval.

2. Pierce.

I had a long interview with Mr.Briggs the other day and he told me that she had suicidal tendencies, and he further told me that when she interviewed her children she asked the boy of 9 questions about the alleged immorality of his father which were obviously improper having regard to the boy's age. This is of all cases one in which I desire to take no responsibilities with regard to the lady's person, but I take it from your letter to me of the 22nd May that you have granted three months leave of absence because in your opinion it is desirable that her period of testing should be adequate, which, I take it, means that within all reasonable limits she is to have complete liberty during the time. I should of course insist on knowing where she is, and Mr.Briggs is evidently of opinion that she will at once consult a solicitor with a view of taking legal proceedings, but so long as I am receiver she cannot of course litigate.

Will you kindly let me have a line from you by return as I want to communicate with the Board of Control before she is convalescent, so that I may be able to make up my mind what line I ought to take?

I am sending her £2 in response to her letter.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.

Copy.

53 Beaumont St.
London.
June 16th/15.

Dear Mr Winterbotham,

I have got over my operation allright and Doctor Phillips says I shall be able to leave here in a fortnights time, he and sister Holden are very pleased how I am progressing. — I wonder if you are aware that I have not a penny with me and have had to ask Miss Holden each time for money to buy stamps —. As you are my Protector will you not please be so kind Mr Winterbotham and let me know how I am standing with my money matters, especially as arrangements must be made now to a fixed monthly allowance, so I shall know how far I can afford to pay in rooms I am going to when I leave here in a fortnight. — If you do not wish to write direct to me, will you please communicate with my Doctor, Doctor Phillips.

Hoping you will grant me my request I am with kind regards,

Yours truly,
(sd). Elkita Seelig.

5 Beaumont Str.
London June 16th/15

Dear Doctor Pierce,

from Doctor Phillipps you will have learned I have got over my operation splendid and shall be getting up later day a week. In other words I shall be well enough to leave here at the end of my 4 weeks stay from when I came.

any way mentally afflicted so has Doctor Phillipps. Still Doctor Pierce will you please let me know soon if with it all you cannot see your way to release me entirely, so I might then take at once the necessary legal steps while I am here to get my release. Before doing this and

Doctor Pierce you must know by now that I have had a wrong done and I kindly ask you having been in your charge for 3 months to release me from Commissioners, so that I may be able to regain the custody of my children legally in my custody, especially my babyboy whom I idolize. —

You see there is now only a short time left my children's holiday taking place end of July. I know from past experiences that my husband and his lawyer are unwilling to release me as it is inconvenient to them and are putting responsibilities on you. Miss Holder under whose care you have just seen has told me she is convinced I am not in

Hoping to hear soon
from you
Sincerely Yours
Elcita Seelig

Kind regards to Miss Wilson
and Miss Jane Bowman,
tell Miss Bowman please
you so sorry Cliff
was killed in action
in France, she will have
heard from her brother
He never by now. —

running myself to
great expence I once
more kindly ask you
to help me. — I must
know soon where I shall
go when I leave here
and make my arrange-
ments accordingly,
Here is nearly a fort-
night left now. —

16th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Phillips,

I am glad to hear that the operation has gone off well and that Mrs. Seelig is giving no trouble. That I fully expected would be the case as she will not wish to do anything that will interfere with her regaining her liberty. I enclose a copy of a letter which she has recently written to Mr. Briggs. There is no question that Mr. Briggs is a thoroughly honourable man, and I heard from Dr. Smith how exceedingly kind and long suffering he had been in dealing with this unhappy woman. I thought you would be interested in seeing this.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

10th June, 1913.

Dear Dr. Mullins,

I am glad to hear that the operation has

[illegible] I hope I shall be able

[illegible] that I may expect you be the same

as you will not have to do anything but visit

[illegible] relative Mr Jim Rose

[illegible] Yours, [illegible] Mr Rose

[illegible] Yours, [illegible] Mr Rose

[illegible] Yours, [illegible] Mr

551.

TELEPHONE No.
4019 GERRARD.

68, BROOK STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.

14th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I did the operation on Mrs. Seelig on Saturday: everything going well. She has been an excellent patient, and beyond the natural restiveness at being kept waiting I have so far observed nothing abnormal in her mental condition, but I will write you further when I have observed her longer.

Yours very truly,

John Phillips

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I did the operation on Mrs. Seelig on Saturday: everything going well. She has been an excellent patient, and beyond the natural restiveness at being kept waiting I have so far observed nothing abnormal in her mental condition, but I will write you further when I have observed her longer.

Yours very truly,

25, SHEEN ROAD,
RICHMOND,
SURREY.

12. 6. 15

Dear Dr Price

This letter has followed me to London. I think you should see it. Perhaps you will return it at your convenience. Post cards come addressed to the children very frequently to the office & by telling assures me that every encouragement is given to them to write to their mother & I believe they frequently do so. The difficulty is that there is so little for them to say - every bit of home news adds fuel to fire & brings letters disturbing everything Ella is alarmed lest the most innocent reference shall bring her into a false position - To the little chap, writing is a school task & abhorred if possible - I am well understand that for his health & keeping it is difficult to command always

The detachment of mind necessary to deal with matters from the point of view of Mr Sedleigh's irresponsibility -

Take this letter for instance with its assumption of active assistance from me in an imaginary system of cruelty its invention against alleged of the instruct that he was forbidden to write. Its threat of drastic steps. Its statement that the children were taken by force. That my gratuitous efforts to help her are for the sake of £ s. d. One has really to take a very firm grip of oneself to preserve the disposition to be absolutely just & make the allowances that ought to be made, but is not this letter important as evidence of the truth of the danger that I am persuaded would immediately follow a relaxation of control -

Yours very faithfully

Edward Briggs

11th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Phillips,

Many thanks for the papers which duly came to hand.

I am glad to heat Mrs. Seelig is giving no trouble, and I think she has reasonable grounds for being restive at the delay. I thought I had put everything in order when I was in London, but as you know there are exceptional difficulties in dealing with the case.

I am very sorry to say that the Board of Control have written to me to say that they think Mrs. Seelig should return to the Retreat for a further period of observation after the operation is over. We do not want her back here, and I should have much preferred that she was allowed to do what she liked to see how she goes on. If, after a longer stay in London, you can report that her conduct has been correct I will write to the Board of Control and point out the objections to her coming back here. It will be better not to say anything of this to her as she will be greatly worried at the possibility of having to come back, and it would certainly prejudice her chances of doing well under the operation.

Yours very truly,

Dear Dr. Phillips,

Many thanks for the papers which duly came to hand.

I am glad to hear Mrs. Seelig is giving no trouble, and I think she has reasonable grounds for being resentful at the delay. I thought I had put everything in order when I was in London, but as you know there are exceptional difficulties in dealing with the case.

I am very sorry to say that the Board of Control have written to me to say that they think Mrs. Seelig should return to the Retreat for a further period of observation after the operation is over. We do not want her back here, and I should have much preferred that she was allowed to do what she liked to see how she goes on. If, after a longer stay in London, you can report that her conduct has been correct I will write to the Board of Control and point out the objections to her coming back here. It will be better not to say anything of this to her as she will be greatly worried at the possibility of having to come back, and it would certainly prejudice her chances of doing well under the operation.

Yours very truly,

9th June, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Seelig,

The delay is certainly most unfortunate, b
but a triangular or quadrangular correspondence is always a tedious matter, and under the circumstances I do not see how it can be helped. I thought I had got everything satisfacoorily sdttled when I was in town, and I am sorry for the delay which you must find vexatious. I do not see what I can do further in the matter, but I am glad to hear that Dr. Phillips does not think a very serious or disabling operation is called for, and I trust you will soon be through with it, and be better.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

9th June, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Beadle,

The delay is certainly most unfortunate, but a triangular or quadrangular correspondence is always a tedious matter, and under the circumstances I do not see how it can be helped. I thought I had got everything satisfactorily settled when I was in town, and I am sorry for the delay which you must find vexatious. I do not see what I can do further in the matter, but I am glad to hear that Mr. Phillips does not think a very serious or disabling operation is called for, and I trust you will soon be through with it, and be better.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Copy.

53 Beaumont Str.

London June 9th/15.

Dear Sir,

I once more ask you to see that my children write to me, especially my baby boy. Boy reassured me at York he wanted to write but he was forbidden to do so, and that he wanted to be with me. It is a cruel shame that you still persist in helping your Client in his barberous cruel methods, and it just proves how far sane people will go for the sake of pounds, shillings and pence.

I have waited 14 days patiently for news from my boy, but none came. If I do not hear by Saturday morning you will force me to take drastic steps which I shall take as I am sick of appealing to you. You took them by force from me and it is your sacred duty from a humane point of view to at least see my boy writes to me. He never missed writing once to me before he went to his father. This severance of my children is systematically pursuit by my husband with one object in view. I know his well premeditated underhand dirty actions only too well and you are his tool. Are you never going to do what is right, are you passed al human feelings?

Yours truly,

ELLITA S.

Copy.

BELLA S.

31

Saturday morning
you will force me
to take drastic steps
which I shall take
as I am sick of appeal-
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53 Beaumont Str.
London June 9/16.

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tated underhand dirty
actions only too well any
you are his tool.-
Are you never going to do
what is right, are you
passed all human feeling &
Yours truly Ellen J.

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helping your client in
his barbarous cruel method,
it just proves how
few some people will
go for the sake of
pounds, shillings and
pence.-
I have waited 14 days
patiently for news from
my boy, but none come.
If I do not hear by

TELEPHONE Nº
4019 GERRARD.

68, BROOK STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.

8th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce,

I am returning your documents with many thanks. I am now awaiting a final decision from the Solicitor's Department, (Mr. Winterbotham), as he has asked me, in addition to my formal letter, to supply him with answers to three distinct questions.

Mrs. Seelig is behaving extremely well except that she is getting restive at being kept in the home without anything being done. I will let you know further when anything definite is decided.

Yours very truly,

John Phillips.

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce,

I am returning your documents with many thanks. I am now awaiting a final decision from the Solicitor's Department, Mr. Winterbotham, as he has asked me, in addition to my formal letter, to supply him with answers to three distinct questions.

Mrs. Reddie is behaving extremely well except that she is getting restive at being kept in the home without anything being done. I will let you know further when anything definite is decided.

Yours very truly,

53 Beaumont St. W.1.

London June 8th 1915

Dear Doctor Pierce,

just a few lines to let you know that although Doctor Phillips after having most thoroughly examined me decided to operate at once, and wrote to you as well as Mr. Winterbotham about it Friday last,

except to drive any one into despair, one just seems to get through one difficulty and another ever arises, one red tape and lawyers ped I shall be left bill in the street.- Of course my husband and Briggs on the back of it all.- My pains are growing worse.- Yours sincerely Ellith Sellig

to-day Doctor Philips informs me he has received a letter from Mr. Winterbotham asking him "did he think the operation would do me any good? etc.—
This means all more unnecessary delay and unnecessary expense, already 4 Guineas have been wasted as of course I am lying simply waiting. Cannot you push them? Doctor Philips I am sure is offended them doubting his word like this, you see he is a gentleman and well known Doctor.— It is

2, Victoria Street.

Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

7th June, 1915.

Dear Dr.Pierce,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Many thanks for your kind letter received this morning. It is much the best plan for Mr.Winterbotham to make all these arrangements and I am very glad to know that Dr. . . Phillips' report is being sent to him direct.

When Mrs Seelig was operated on before, no question whatever was raised about Mr.Seelig paying the fees but, after it was over, he went to see Dr.Smith and gave him his own cheque for the amount. But for the difficulty that Mrs Seelig has . created I am quite sure that he would have done the same this time and, when it is all over, it is exceedingly likely that he will wish to contribute. The letters that I have sent to you and the course the matter has taken have made it impossible for him to either assume responsibility for the operation or the . expense. It seems to me that the advice which Dr.Phillips gives is very good advice and, if it is followed, there will be no . chance of criticism from Mr.Seelig.

Yours faithfully,

The Retreat
York.

Thurston Briggs
Thurston Briggs

2, Victoria Street.

Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

5th June 1915

Dear Sir

I enclose a further letter from Mr Seely - It seems that Dr Phillips agrees with Dr Smith - Mr Seely will not take any responsibility either for the nature of the operation or the fees, obviously if he interests himself in either he associates himself with them other.

I can't reopen a correspondence with Mr Seely.

The only thing to be done is for you to see the matter thro'. You appear to be the only one able to do so safely.

Now that all the preliminary Expenses have been incurred there would probably be very little saving in coming to Nottingham Dr Smith, who is a very consummate man might charge a less fee but the loss of time & additional Expense in London would very likely equalise the saving.

Yours faithfully

John W. Phillips

per Pierce

The Retreat

York

Please return to B. Pierce

TELEPHONE No
4019 GERRARD.

68, BROOK STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.

4th June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I have today seen Mrs. Seelig and I have written my opinion to the Official Solicitor. My opinion is as follows; that removal of the womb itself is entirely unnecessary but that considerable local improvement might be brought about by a careful stitching operation upon the neck of the womb, together with curettage. I believe the pain she suffers near the epigastrium is something in the form of an "enterospasm" and would not very likely be influenced by a pelvic operation. Removal of the womb would of course sterilise the patient, which would be a serious step to take in a woman of her age: moreover, removal of the womb in women who are on the border-line, so to speak, often leads to further mental trouble.

The fee for the operation is fifty guineas, and there would be the chloroformist, four or five, and the assistant, three.

Yours very truly,

John Phillips

1

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I have today seen Mrs. Scaife and I have written my opinion to the Official Solicitor. My opinion is as follows, that removal of the womb itself is entirely unnecessary but that considerable local improvement might be brought about by a careful stitching operation upon the neck of the womb, together with curettage. I believe the pain she suffers near the epigastrium is something in the form of an enterospasm and would not very likely be influenced by a pelvic operation. Removal of the womb would of course sterilise the patient, which would be a serious step to take in a woman of her age: moreover, removal of the womb in women who are on the border-line, so to speak, often leads to further mental trouble.

The fee for the operation is fifty guineas, and there would be the chloroformist, four or five, and the assistant, three.

Yours very truly,

801.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.

LONDON, W.C.

3rd June 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

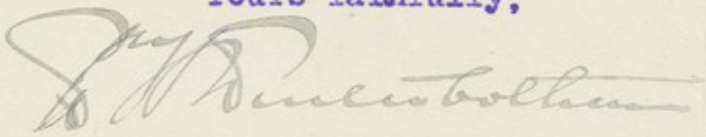
I quite approve of what you have done with regard to Miss Whitworth's present to Miss Hodgson.

With regard to Mrs. Seelig, I have asked Dr.Phillips to report to me before they proceed to any operation as I must bring the matter before the Master and obtain his sanction to the necessary expenditure.

Mr.Briggs is obviously persuaded that she only desires her liberty for the purpose of continuing her quarrel with her husband, and I have no doubt that he made this clear to you at his recent interview. Of course I do not know the merits of the case, but obviously if it is a delusion it is a very serious one, and likely to lead her into serious expenditure and into other difficulties.

You of course realise that I cannot take any responsibility with regard to her person in London.

Yours faithfully,



1st June, 1915.

Dear Dr. Phillips,

I enclose with this some particulars which may be of service to you. Mrs. Seelig started this morning for the Nursing Home in a very bad temper, due largely to the fact that the leave of absence which has been granted from the Retreat is not unrestricted, and that I have made it quite clear that she must do as Miss Holden wishes and not make fresh arrangements without my consent. It is a peculiarly difficult case.

Since I saw you there has been no return of the pain in the upper part of the abdomen, and Mrs. Seelig has been going about quite easily, playing croquet and so forth.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

1st June, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Miss Whitworth.

Miss Whitworth has been to see Miss Hodgson, and it is decided that she purchases crockery and other necessaries for the new house. Miss Hodgson is exceedingly pleased.

re Mrs. Seelig.

This lady went to London to-day, and was not in a very pleasant frame of mind. I hope that she will not give any trouble at the nursing home, as this will be very unfortunate under the circumstances.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand,
London.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters.
In reply please quote
No.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

1st June, 1915.

Sir,

Mrs.Seelig.

I am directed by the Board of Control to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo and to say that as far as it can be seen it will not be possible for a Medical Commissioner to visit Mrs.Seelig while she is at the Nursing Home. The operation may effect a radical change in her condition and the Board think it will be advisable for her to return to "The Retreat" for observation before any further definite action is taken as to her future.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C. P. Dickinson

Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat, York.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

1st June 1915.

Dear Dr Pierce

I am obliged for your letter.

Your acquaintance with the case corresponds with the time which has for many years found Mrs Sellig at her best. I think when you have had a little longer experience of her case you will come to the same conclusion as the other Doctors, who have been in touch with it. The alternatives between which one seems to have to decide are that she either believes the untrue things she says about the people with whom she comes in contact or she does not. If she believes them they must be delusions, and delusions which would lead her to any length. If she does not believe them but simply invents them she would be indistinguishable from a criminal. The entire lack of any advantage to her from such inventions and the sufferings they have always entailed, would, one would think, be enough to prevent her from persisting in them if they were not delusions. One of the most curious features of the case is that during times of depression she seems much more sensible to moral considerations than during periods of excitement. Both at the time when she was sent to Lincoln from Nottingham and later when she returned there from Barkestone,

although she was threatening suicide and extremely depressed she recognised that so far as we were concerned we had always done our best for her that she could rely on us absolutely so far as her money was concerned, she disclaimed all improper suggestions against miss Kaahe and was quite willing that her husband should have care of the children - she asked indeed to go back to Radcliffe and be nursed there.

Yours faithfully

Edward T. Paige

The Retreat
York.

May 31, 1915

Mrs. Seelig

Gentlemen,

Mrs. Seelig is going tomorrow on Leave of Absence under care of Miss Holder, 53 Beaumont Street, London.

She has some chronic inflammation of the cervix uteri, and Dr. Phillips, 68 Brook Street, is to examine her and advise as to what treatment should be adopted.

I am in considerable difficulty as to what to do when this matter is concluded. The Visiting members of the Board of Control advised a Leave of Absence, but the Petitioner has serious misgivings about this, and I must confess that I think they are justified. The other day he came to see me and brought the two children to see Mrs. Seelig. I am informed that Mrs. Seelig, in talking to these children, cross-examined them as to her husband's behaviour with his cousin housekeeper. Moreover, judging from her general conversation on the subject there seems little doubt that she will continue to pursue a vindictive policy towards him if liberated.

The matter is complicated in respect to the custody of the children. Under a Deed of Separation she was given custody of them, but I much doubt whether she is fit to have it in her present frame of mind.

The case id further involved by the fact that Mr. Seelig is an unnaturalised alien, and there appear to be no other relatives able and willing to take any responsibility in the matter.

With reference to the question of her mental state, I have not found any decided evidences of insanity since she has been at the Retreat except in respect to her attitude towards her husband, and consequently I should raise no objection to unrestricted leave of absence were it not for the children.

Would it be possible for a member of your Board to visit Mrs. Seelig while she is in London as I am at a loss to know what steps to take after the course of treatment is completed?

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

The Board of Control

May 31, 1938

Mrs. Smith

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Lily is going tomorrow on Leave of Absence
under care of Miss Hutton, 75 Queen Street, London.

Dr. Jones' opinion of the nervix
test, and Dr. Phillips, of Brook Street, is to examine her
and advise as to what treatment should be adopted.

I am in considerable difficulty as to what to do
when this matter is concluded. The visiting members of the
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has actions derogatory about this, and I must confess that I
think they are justified. The other day he came to see
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expressed herself in a manner unfavourable with his
certain fellow-keeper. Moreover, judging from her general
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The matter is complicated in respect to the custody
of the children. Under a Deed of Separation she was given
custody of them, but I much doubt whether she is fit to
have it in her present frame of mind.

The case is further involved by the fact that
no other relatives will willingly take any responsibility

of her mental state,
as to her security since she
to vary the Deed of Separation in respect to her attitude
towards them. Such a course would relieve me of
liability to undesirable interviews where it not for the
children.

Would it be convenient for a member of your Board
to visit Mrs. Smith while she is in London as I am at a
loss to know what steps to take after the course of treat-
ment is completed?

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Board of Control

Mrs. Seelig's Leave of Absence

Under the Care of Miss Holder, 53 Beaumont Street, London.

Mrs. Seelig must be willing to be advised by Miss Holder as to her movements, must not leave the Nursing Home without Miss Holder's approval, and no fresh arrangements must be made without the sanction of the Medical Superintendent of the Retreat, York.

Mrs. Seelig is advised to put on one side all matters relating to the difficulties with her husband. The present Leave of Absence is intended solely to permit of medical treatment in the Nursing Home and is not unrestricted leave on trial.

If any trouble arises it is understood that Mrs. Seelig will return to the Retreat.

May 31, 1915

Dear Mr. Briggs,

Our Matron, Miss Head, is going with Mrs. Seelig to London tomorrow. The address is 53 Beaumont Street (c/o Miss Holder). I am informing Mrs. Seelig that the Leave of Absence is limited to the treatment of her malady and that she must make no other arrangements without my sanction.

The statement in your letter respecting her conversation with the children seems to me very serious. I have not mentioned it to her as, no doubt, she would simply deny having said anything of the kind.

The whole situation is most perplexing, the more so as, though I have no doubts as to the truth of the statements in the history of the case, I must confess that from my own personal examination of Mrs. Seelig I should not be disposed to sign a certificate of insanity.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

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ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

29th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

In Mr.Winterbotham's absence I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, which I will place before him on his return next Wednesday.

The case is certainly a very difficult one, but I imagine that some little time will elapse before the actual operation is performed, and Mr.Winterbotham will doubtless write to you on the subject immediately on his return.

Yours faithfully,

Richard T. Williams.

783

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

29th May, 1915.

Dear Dr.Pierce,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

I am not at all surprised to receive the enclosure from Mrs Seelig.

She seems to be veering round, to a visit to London with an examination, as an excuse, and no intention of undergoing an operation.

The sensible plan, of course, would be for her to come to the Women's Hospital at Nottingham where she was operated on . . before and to undergo the slight operation which Dr. Smith suggests and let him do it, but, to suggest that, is simply to invite opposition. There is really nothing to be done but tell her that . . neither Mr.Seelig or I have any longer anything to do with her money and that the whole authority rests with the Officials at the Law Courts who will make whatever arrangements are necessary for her benefit, but she must make her own arrangements and take her chance of Mr.Seelig being willing to make a voluntary allowance towards the cost. He will take no responsibility.

There will be no chance of a private patient being admitted into the General Hospital. It is inadequate to the demand upon it. Only yesterday I had a case before me, as Chairman of a

Charitable committee, which had been waiting for two years to be admitted for an operation, and that, I'm sorry to say, is not an isolated case.

This is simply a repetition of a most frequent experience with Mrs Seelig. So long as she imagines there is some opposition to her wish so long does she persist in it. The moment her wish seems to be gratified it loses all its attraction.

Yours faithfully,

Edward D Tuke

Dr. Belford Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

London 28 Aug 15
Earlscourt Square 22
South Kensington S.W.

Dear Sir

Having received a letter from Mr. Seelig stating Mr. Seelig now refuses to pay for her operation or her stay at a nursing home. I have sent her a copy of Mr. Winterbotham's letter, and would feel obliged if you would kindly take note of its contents, and inform me if there is not some mistake in

it I should wish to be sure of this fact before taking steps for an explanation from the British officials.

Je remain
Yours truly
Eugenie Le Vte de Wehrhahn

Doctor Pierce
The Retreat
York

773

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

28th May, 1915.

Dear Dr.Pierce,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

I am much obliged to you for your letter and its . . enclosure. I don't think you could put the case more clearly to Dr.Phillips. Of course, he will respect the confidence involved in ~~this~~ written report on the case and which I notice you have let him see.

We have been very anxious not to cross-examine Mr. Seelig's daughter about what took place between her and her . mother. The child showed very evident relief when the interview was over. She volunteered to her father that her mother asked her if she thought he would take her back home. It also appeared that she plied her with innumerable questions about her cousin, Miss Haakh and wanted her to get her to say which of the two, her father or her mother, she loved best. Probably, without any pressing, a more connected account of the interview will transpire within a few days and, if there is anything more to tell, I will write you.

My great anxiety is about what will happen after the operation is over. Mr.Winterbotham suggests that the leave of

absence should be limited to the period necessary to be spent in the Nursing Home, and that subsequent leave should be considered then. This course, will, at least, protect Mrs Seelig from the very grave danger of being left friendless and on her own resources in London.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Bridges

5.30 T. J. W. Seelig has just been in - He tells me that his little boy - who is 9 years old, has confided to him the fact that his mother told him - that her cousin was his father sweetheart & that was why she could not come home, that she had to give up the Parkstein house because his father sent her no money, had asked him if he had not seen Mrs Seelig making love to Mr Thackh & when he said he had not seen her but he had heard him groan with her, answered - He makes love to her when you are not there! What must it be to live in an atmosphere like that? J.W.S.

Dr. Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

May 27, 1915

Mrs. Seelig

Dear Sir,

Mr. Briggs and Mr. Seelig came to the Retreat on Tuesday, bringing two of the children to see Mrs. Seelig. I had a long talk with Mr. Briggs and satisfied myself that he is wishful to do all that is possible for the patient, but that he greatly feared the consequences of her being at liberty. He gave me a detailed account of malicious things she had done when free the time before.

It is arranged for Mrs. Seelig to go to the Nursing Home in London on the first of June, but no serious operation is to be undertaken without her husband's knowledge.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W.H.Winterbotham Esq.

May 27, 1919

Dear Sirs:

Yours very truly,

W.H. Winterbotham Esq.

to have same performed
at Nottingham and
Mr. Acton my lawyer
to arrange with Surgeon
at General Hospital to
perform it, he being
Chairman there and
knowing them all well.
I will not have the money
I asked up and my former
three money cheque for
it. I have written to
Mr. Winterbotham and
Mr. Acton my wishes. -
I shall go at any rate
for a week to London
and await your reply
after Doctor Phillipps sees
me and examines me.
I shall also see my

York May 26th 1915.

Dear Sir,
As I did not see you long
yesterday as you being
my husbands Solicitor I
thought after all that
has happened it wiser
not to have an interview
I should be obliged to
you if you would
kindly see that my
daughter sends me a
letter every week, she
can write to me about

her life at school,
the latest music she
is playing etc. every
Sunday. She is a big
girl now as tall as I
am so there is no
excuse. —
My baby boy need
only send me a
postcard as he is
my young yet and
girlie can write to
me about him too.
I was very pleased
to see my children at
last, if only for so
brief a time, by the
time we got dinner
over and just looked
round grounds they
were fetched away to
go again. —
Mrs. Biggs if Mr. Selig
will not pay all
expenses for operation
I cannot afford fee
etc, I have decided
if Doctor Philipps who
is a Specialist says an
operation is imperative

Nottingham to be
near my children
and lawyer and
friends etc; as I
would not go to
a hospital or second
class Nursing Home
in London; only to a
first class place and
good Specialist there.
So my husband must
decide between the two
now. — Yours faithfully
Edith Lady.

Mother and several
friends and my
London Solicitors there
in this week. —
Doctor Price wrote yes-
terday to Doctor Phillips
and Nursing Home
that I leave here
Monday next May
30th — as I shall by
then be fit to
travel, as I am not
very well this week.

I have a pretty heavy
bill in Germany with
my German barrister
who investigated several
things for me while
I was at Bournemouth
also during my last
stay at Lincoln.
Mr. Bergman's bill
and Mr. Acton too must
be paid, so I will
not have any further
expenses with the
money I expect, as
I might at present

same to be invested
by Mr. Winterbotham
I shall not touch it
for operation and
simply risk a
second class place
in Nottingham
and have it performed
by General Hospital
Nottingham Surgeon
whom Mr. Acton knows
personally. —
In this case I prefer
to have it done in

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ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

26th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I have some difficulty in dealing with this matter as Mr.Winterbotham is out of town until the middle of next week.

I understand however from Mr.Briggs that he is shortly going over to York, if indeed he has not already done so, to talk the question of the operation over with you, and I shall probably be hearing either from you or from him, or possibly from both, in the course of tomorrow.

I need scarcely say that I know that Mr.Winterbotham is merely desirous of following the best advice that can be obtained, though strictly speaking the matter is one which does not fall within his duties as receiver.

Another patient Miss Whitworth has written to Mr. Winterbotham (to whom she always sends her love although I believe they have never met!) to say that she is anxious that Sister Margaret, who appears to be leaving, should

have a present from her. I know that Mr.Winterbotham will wish to be guided entirely by your opinion on a point like this and would be glad of any advice that you may give him on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur T. Williams

May 27, 1915

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I arranged for Mrs. Seelig to go to the Nursing Home, 53 Beaumont Street, on the 1st prox. and I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to Dr. Phillips on the matter.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 25, 1915

Dear Dr. Phillips,

There has been some delay about Mrs. Seelig going to London on account of the incidence of menstruation. She will, however, be able to go to London on Tuesday in next week, and I am writing to Miss Holder to this effect.

The case is a difficult one from my point of view. I can only say that since she came here, on March 8th, she has shown little decided evidence of insanity. I have no reason whatever to doubt the truth of the history given by Mr. Briggs, and consequently I am sending herewith his account of the case. I have to-day seen Mr. Seelig and Mr. Briggs, and they are wishful that Mrs. Seelig should have any necessary treatment, and quite approve of her going to the Nursing Home in London.

They hope that all that is necessary will be a comparatively small operation, such as Dr. Smith has proposed, but if you think something more serious is desirable Mr. Seelig would like to be informed before anything is actually done. In such a case, if the operation advised be one to interfere with child-bearing, I think that special precautions should be taken in view of the possibility that the patient at a subsequent date may state that she was not told what was intended.

One of the vexing things in the case is the number of persons concerned, and yet there is no one who can be looked upon as a responsible relative. As she is legally under my care I think the simplest course, after you have had time to make up your mind, would be for you to write to me giving your opinion, at the same time informing Dr. Smith, so that he can see Mr. Seelig. I will then communicate with them and wire you.

As I explained, Mrs. Seelig is now at her best. She is most wishful to be discharged, and I am sure she will not wish to give needless trouble at the Nursing Home. The real difficulty will be what to do with her afterwards, but that I need not now discuss. If, however, my expectations should not be fulfilled, as she continues to be a patient on our books, she can be sent back here at any time without formalities.

I remain,
Yours very truly,

Dear Dr. Phillips,

I'm sorry to be writing
on account of the
be able to go to London
to-day
only
I still
to-day
quarter
to-day
Mrs.
of how
small
possible
the
thing
possibility
conscious, and yet
the
would
time
wishful
be
If,
to be
this
Yours very truly,

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

22nd May 1915

Dear Dr Pierce

Mrs Seely

I quite agree with you that an arrangement is necessary & made for the children besides their mother - There has never been any question about that, tho the circumstances make visits difficult to arrange.

It will serve quite a useful purpose for us to have an opportunity to talk the case over - I am convinced you will do the best for it, as I do.

The holidays afford an opportunity that I can conveniently avail myself of & I propose to bring the children on Tuesday by train arriving at York at 12.33 - If Mr Seely can obtain permission to travel beyond the 5 miles radius he will come as well.

Yours faithfully

Edward Pryce

The Retreat
York

May 22, 1915

Mrs. E.L.Seelig

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of May 20th, I may say that a Leave of Absence for three months does not mean that the patient must stay away for the whole of that period. On the contrary, if there is any cause for anxiety or if she misbehaves in any way she can be brought back to the Retreat without formality at any time.

I have written to Mr. Briggs explaining that a long leave of absence is in my opinion desirable in this case so that the period of testing should be adequate.

With regard to the Commissioners, I have not been a advised of any change of opinion on their part. There is no doubt considerable difficulty in knowing what to do after the operation is over. For my own part, I should think the best plan is to allow Mrs. Seelig considerable liberty of action.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W.H.Winterbotham Esq.

May 21, 1915

Dear Sirs,

I enclose particulars from a letter which I wrote to the Official Solicitor on Wednesday last, from which you will see that I have made provisional arrangements for Mrs. Seelig to go to the Nursing Home after Whitsuntide.

I had not met Dr. Phillips before, but the impression I received was that Mrs. Seelig will be well advised to place herself unreservedly in his hands.

With regard to the Leave of Absence, the proposal i is for three months, but this means that if there is any trouble whatever Mrs. Seelig can be brought back at any time during that period without further formality. This is an instance in which a long leave ofabsence is desirable, so that there may be ample opportunity given for seeing how she goes on.

I still think that Mrs. Seelig ought to see the children before she goes to London, and I hope this can be arranged. Any day would be quite convenient for us.

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Briggs

May 21, 1913

Dear Sirs,

I enclose a tickets from a letter which I wrote
to the Official Solicitor on Wednesday last. From which you
will see that I have made provisional arrangements for Mrs.
Duff to go to the Hospital for the Mentally Ill.

I have not yet, I think before, had the impression
I received this day, that I will be wanted to place
myself [illegible] in Spain.

With regard to the case of Ahmed, the proposal I
[illegible] that I could not in any
[illegible] I would be back at any time
[illegible] I would be in Brighton, so
that there was no possible opportunity given for seeing how she
was on.

I will think that Mrs. Smith [illegible] as she
[illegible] before she goes to London, and I hope this can be
arranged. Any day would be quite convenient for me.

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Price

York May 20th 1915

Doctor Pierce,

I am very much worried on learning from you this morning my husband is not paying expenses for me in connection with my operation, also that without consulting me you have arranged for me to pay 7 Guineas a week at Nursing Home. I distinctly told you that

much alone the doctor I wish I told you, I had never asked you now to do anything for me, as you have only caused me great worry. You had plenty of time to drop me a line before settling things. — Mr. Winterbotham told Mother my husband was paying for expenses why has he now changed? It seems they can do as they like with me and my own things. But the day the War

Miss Wilson said 5 Guineas was the charge and you had no right to pay more or arrange for more. These are the things which you do to cause me great worry. - I have only now as Mr. Winterbo- thams annual income a limited income of 2 1/2 £ a week so 4 Guineas means attaching considerable my Capital, which I will not have attached. Through my husband and his lawyer's duty actions I have had to employ a Solicitor to protect my rights and therefore heavy expenses. You know all this and yet you go to London and against my wish arrange to pay 2 Guineas per

my husbands friend
as a Receiver, so as
I had no other alter-
native I took the
Official Solicitor, who
does not think it
worth his while to
let me know how my
Money matters stand.
Everything is done
and arranged without
consulting me, I am
treated as if I were
a Lunatic or Imbecile
Yours truly Ellita Lecky

is over my Trustees
appointed by my father's
Will will demand a
very thorough explan-
ation of all and if
a penny of any Capital
of mine against my
wish has been touched,
they must refund it.
No one has any right
but if I am made
out to be a Lunatic
to curtail my Capital
against my wish,
and pay fancy prices.

the size of the room at a Nursing Home is a mere detail, and every £ I am paying above 5 £ is entirely against my wish. —

It is exceedingly convenient to make people Lunatics and make out they are incapable of looking after their own affairs.

I never had a chance to know what has been paid out of my Private Money, how I am standing for 18 months, I have been treated as if I were an Imbecile — Against my wish a Receiver was put on me, I was forced by the Lunacy Master to decide either to have the Official Solicitor or

The Retreat
York May 27th 1915

Dear Doctor Pierce,

Matron informs me that my new handembroidered blue linen Crepe Dressing gown has been destroyed here at the Laundry by the Machine. Since I have been here as your Nurses can prove my clothes have been terribly torn by machine actually pieces torn out as Sister Flory saw with her own eyes.

I have left the Matron can order one there or the house that takes me to London can get one herself, if she chooses but I cannot wear the dressing gown Matron sent. - Yours sincerely Elizabeth Seitz

was 21/ I have left. left no Matron can order one there or the house that takes me to London can get one herself, if she chooses but I cannot wear the dressing gown Matron sent. - Yours sincerely Elizabeth Seitz

no further allowances, as if I were to destroy anything here I am convinced no allowances would be made to me. - Besides this a handmade lace duff belonging to my blouse was lost at Laundry and two handembroidered handkerchiefs, Sister Flory informed Matron at time. - Am sorry

I saw it was no
good complaining so
I let things go knowing
I should not be long
here. But as what has
been destroyed now is
of value to me I cannot
let it pass by and
must ask you to have
the same replaced.
Watson has sent me
one instead, which I
refuse to take as I
cannot wear a common
thing like that, the
material being most com-
mon and not a
patch to the one that
was destroyed. It is
incomprehensible to me
how any one could have
thought of washing a
gown like that by machine
and now understand
why all my good clothes
were so torn. —
My dressing gown was
bought at Selfridge's London,

741

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.

LONDON, W.C.

20th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq.,M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.E.L.Seelig

I am obliged by your letter of the 19th.

I will communicate at once with the Master, and I have no doubt whatever that he will sanction the expenditure if you and Dr.Phillips advise the operation.

Messrs. Burton & Briggs seem exceedingly anxious that the lady should not have three months leave of absence, and they say that the Board of Control have withdrawn the recommendation of three months leave ~~of absence~~. Perhaps under the circumstances it would be desirable that she should have leave of absence until her time in the nursing home has expired, and the question of continuing it might then be considered.

Noting the last paragraph of your letter I will endeavour to comunicate again with you by wire.

Yours faithfully,

Percy Bolton

London May 11/15
Earlscourt Square 22
South Kensington

Dear Sir

I must Apologise for not answering before but have not had much time at my disposal. Mrs Seelig has written that she wishes to come to London to the nursing home, and examined by Doctor Phillips and will not go to any other Doctor, I hope this may be arranged, if an operation is not

needed, I have been recommended a nursing home at Sydenham with large grounds, and I would go abroad be near her as I have only remained in England for her sake.

Trusting there will be no impediment to this arrangement

I remain

Yours truly
Eugenia Lv.de Wehrlahy

Dr Pierce
The Retreat
York

TELEGRAMS BOOKCRAFT LONDON
TELEPHONE REGENT 2083-2084
MUSEUM 1232-1233.

KINGSLEY HOTEL
(NEAR THE BRITISH MUSEUM)
HART STREET
BLOOMSBURY SQUARE
LONDON

15th May. 1915

Dear Sir

I have seen Dr Phillips today and have visited the Nursing Home 53 Beaumont St. ~~abt~~ Dr Phillips is made provisional arrangement for Mrs Jeelis to go to the Home next week. When there Dr Phillips will see her several times & then decide what operation is desirable.

The expenses likely to be incurred will be within £100 — they are made up as follows — Operation 50 gns. Assistant & Anaesthetic about 10 gns, Nursing & extras at 7 gns weekly. Extras. about 5 guineas — an estimated total of £97.13 -

This does not include any exploratory operation for the complaint of pain in the upper part of the abdomen - which so far as I can form an opinion I consider undesirable - ~~at any rate~~ It is decidedly better to wait until the Uterine trouble is dealt with before I am disposed to. However, insist that the Uterine trouble should be dealt with without delay/ -

Yours

750

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.
Telephone No. Holborn 6700
Extension 66.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.
LONDON, W.C.

17th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
Kingsley Hotel,
Bloomsbury, W.C.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I am in receipt of your letter, and am glad to know that you are coming to London to arrange matters.

I gather from the medical attendant that Dr.Phillips is a physician, and though I presume a perfectly good man to examine the patient and advise on the expediency of an operation he is not the man who will conduct the operation, but he would no doubt suggest a competent surgeon connected with his own hospital.

If the cost is not excessive I think the Master will give me the necessary authority, only I should like to know what the fees of the operating surgeon and the other medical men and the nursing home will be, including something of course for yourself for your expenses and trouble in the matter.

I take it that Mr.Seelig will have to be interned, but if the children are young there will be no difficulty, barring

expense, in finding a suitable home for them, and I do not suppose for a moment that the Home Office will desire 'to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children' in this fashion. If I can be of any assistance in this matter pray command my services as the Home Office will pay due regard to anything I may say.

I should prefer to see you on Tuesday afternoon if this will suit your arrangements any time between 2 and 5, but if this will not suit you I can see you at 12 on Wednesday or after 3 in the afternoon. Perhaps you will kindly let me know when you will come by telephone tomorrow morning.

Yours faithfully,

D. W. Bowen Bolthaus

2/

I emphatically refuse
to go to Leeds or let
Doctor Smith operate on
me, I told you so 9 weeks
ago from the very beginning
and shall not be forced
by Mr. Briggs.

Mr. Needham Commissioner
me told me I was to
ask you to help me and
promised me to release me.
Cannot you write to
Mr. Winterbotham yourself
and arrange with Doctor
Philipps. You know I am
cut off from my sisters

York May 15th
1915

are my 2 children coming
over to see me, I have
asked for them over and over
again this last 18 months
Doctor Pierce,
I had a letter from Mother this
morning to say that Mr.
Winterbotham had told her
that I wanted to be operated
on by Doctor Smith as I
had such confidence in
him and wanted to go to
Leeds. Mr. Briggs had
written so.
This is all as usual a
fabrication, as I never
said so to anybody.

3/

from my german
Trustees at Hamburg
the people who would
help me —
You know my Mother
is too ill to bother now,
that my husband and
his lawyer J. Briggs are
against me. —
Surely you could
insist on my removal
to London Nursing Home
you know that a too
long delay may make

4/

Ulceration worse. —
Doctor Pierce I cannot
write to Doctor Philipps
myself as You made
out a lunatic, my letter
is unworthy. I depend
therefore on your gene-
rosity. — Cannot you
with help of Committee
or Doctor Needham do
something? — You will
never succeed with my
husband or Briggs unless
You are very fierce, they
are so treacherous. —
Yours Ellita Sellig

May 15, 1915

Mrs. Seelig

Dear Sir,

I am going to London on Monday, and at Mr. Briggs's request I am hoping to see Dr. Phillips and make arrangements at the Nursing Home. I have a note from Mr. Briggs, asking me to do this but saying that Mr. Seelig will not be responsible for the expense himself. Am I right in concluding that you, as Receiver of her estate, will be responsible for this?

I gather that Mr. Seelig will now be interned, and Mrs. Seelig is very much concerned as to what will happen to her two children. Under the Deed of Separation she had the custody of these two children, and she is exceedingly anxious that they shall not be deported to Germany or removed to any place where she cannot see them. I believe she is writing to the Home Secretary on the matter. The situation is certainly complicated, as I suppose that she herself, as the wife of a German, will have to be under supervision under the new arrangements.

As I am going to London, I wonder whether it will be convenient for me to call and see you on Wednesday, so that I can discuss one or two points with you. Please reply to the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W.H.Winterbotham Esq.

May 15, 1918

Mrs. Seelig

Dear Sir,

I am going to London on Monday, and at Mr. Seelig's request I am hurrying to see Mr. Whitlys and make arrangements at the Nursing Home. I have a note from Mr. Seelig, asking me to do this but saying that Mr. Seelig will not be responsible for the expense himself. Am I right in concluding that you, as Receiver of her estate, will be responsible for this?

I gather that Mr. Seelig will now be interned, and Mrs. Seelig is very much concerned as to what will happen to her two children. Under the Deed of Separation she had the custody of these two children, and she is exceedingly anxious that they shall not be deported to Germany or removed to any place where she cannot see them. I believe she is writing to the Home Secretary on the matter. The situation is certainly complicated, as I suppose that she herself, as the wife of a German, will have to be under supervision under the new arrangements.

As I am going to London, I wonder whether it will be convenient for me to call and see you on Wednesday, so that I can discuss one or two points with you. Please reply to the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W.H.Winterbotham Esq.

13th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

This correspondence is difficult to conduct on account of the number of different persons who are concerned. As you know Mrs. Seelig has quite made up her mind that she wishes to go to Miss Lightfoot's Home in London and be operated upon by a certain Dr. Phillips who is, I understand, a thoroughly competent man. You will see that Mr. Winterbotham suggests that Dr. Smith be asked to arrange this, and if he would do so it would seem to me quite the best thing. It so happens that next week I shall be in London myself for a day or two, and I am quite prepared to call and see Dr. Phillips if you wish me to do so, but I do not feel prepared to take any responsibility as to the selection of a surgeon in the case. I could also call at the Nursing Home and report as to what it is like. I understand indirectly that it is quite all right.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.

15th May, 1918.

Dear Sir,

This correspondence is difficult to conduct on account of the number of different persons who are concerned. As you know Mrs. Seelig has quite made up her mind that she wishes to go to Miss Lightfoot's Home in London and be operated upon by a certain Dr. Phillips who is, I understand, a thoroughly competent man. You will see that Dr. Winterbotham suggests that Dr. Smith be asked to arrange this, and if he would do so it would seem to me quite the best thing. It so happens that next week I shall be in London myself for a day or two, and I am quite prepared to call and see Dr. Phillips if you wish me to do so, but I do not feel prepared to take any responsibility as to the selection of a surgeon in the case. I could also call at the Nursing Home and report as to what it is like. I understand indirectly that it is quite all right.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Bridge, Esq.

716.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

12th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. Briggs today. I do not see what more I can do.

Yours faithfully,

Encls.

Copy.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.

12th May 1915.

J. W. Briggs Esq.,
2, Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

I had a call today from Mrs.Seelig's mother, but the interview was a sheer waste of time. She speaks somewhat broken English.

Her chief anxiety seemed to be that I should go into certain evidence as to whether she was or was not a German and she was full of complaints, though it was not very clear what those complaints were except that her daughter had been moved about without consulting her. I do not think it is any use for Dr.Pierce to suggest her intervention or help.

Obviously my duties do not require me to deal with this question but recognising the difficulty I cannot myself see that any course is open but to arrange with Dr.Smith to take charge of the situation. If the lady were sane and

were willing to act on my advice I should say, let her go to Leeds and have the operation performed there under Dr. Smith's superintendence, he making all the necessary arrangements, but you cannot compel a lady to submit to an operation or have it performed where and bywhom you desire, and therefore, subject to Dr.Smith and Dr.Pierce seeing no serious objection, I suggest that you should ask these two gentlemen to make the necessary arrangements for her journey to London, for her seeing experts there, and, if advised by them, for the necessary operation.

The names given by the lady are not those of surgeons but of physicians who will advise, and I should be far more satisfied (if I were concerned for the lady) if Dr.Smith made the selection, but here again if the lady does not agree I do not see what can be done beyond satisfying oneself that the persons desired by her are competent. The same remark applies to the selection of a nursing home, though I should be guided in that matter by the advice of the surgeon who is going to operate.

I do not see that I can do anything further. I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr.Pierce.

Yours faithfully,

Wm H. Winterbotham

717.

Enc.

TELEPHONE 1262.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

12th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

We enclose copy letter received by us this morning from the Board of Control.

It appears to be the unfortunate fact that, assuming the wisdom of the Commissioners' recommendation, such a trial as was contemplated cannot be arranged. In those circumstances, it remains to do what is necessary to give the patient—with her consent—the relief that Dr.Smith advises, with such safeguards as the fact of her being certified renders necessary.

If you will make whatever arrangements you think best we will bring the matter before the Official Solicitor on the question of cost. Mrs Seelig's money is in Court and neither we nor her husband have any longer any control over it but there is no question about its adequacy for the payment of any reasonable expense. Strictly speaking, her own money should be resorted to to pay all the expenses. Whatever her husband does will be purely a voluntary matter and will probably depend on whether he thinks the expenditure wisely made. Whether he voluntarily contributes or not, there is no reason to delay and, when there is a definite plan, no doubt the money will be available.

12th May, 1915.

Mrs S.L.Beatty.

I enclose copy letter received by us this morning from the Board of Control.

It appears to be the unfortunate fact that, assuming the wishes of the Commissioners' Recommendation, such a trial as was contemplated cannot be arranged. In those circumstances, it remains to do what is necessary to give the patient-with her consent-the relief that Dr.Smith advises, with such safeguards as the fact of her being certified renders necessary.

If you will make whatever arrangements you think best we will bring the matter before the Official Solicitor on the question of cost. Mrs Beatty's money is in Court and neither we nor her husband have any longer any control over it but there is no question about its adequacy for the payment of any reasonable expense. Strictly speaking, her own money should be resorted to to pay all the expenses. Whatever her husband does will be purely a voluntary matter and will probably depend on whether he thinks the expenditure wisely made. Whether he voluntarily contributes or not, there is no reason to delay and, when there is a definite plan, no doubt the money will be available.

A London Nursing Home for carrying out Dr.Smith's advice seems an expensive way of going to work.

We will see what arrangements we can make about the children but the present position of Germans in this neighbourhood is not very pleasant and, short of our Mr.Briggs devoting a day to taking them himself, we don't know how it is to be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

Burton & Briggs

Dr.Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

We received a further letter from Mrs Seely this morning.

A London Nursing Home for carrying out Dr.Smith's advice seems an expensive way of going to work.

We will see what arrangements we can make about the children but the present position of Germans in this neighbourhood is not very pleasant and, short of our Mr.Briggs devoting a day to taking them himself, we don't know how it is to be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

Dr.Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

Copy

The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street, , S.W.
IIth May, I 9I5.

Gentlemen,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

With reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Board of Control to say that the two Commissioners who saw Mrs Seelig thought she was entitled to a trial if it would be likely to expedite her recovery. They did not recommend the trial because they considered her recovered and if one cannot be arranged for under conditions that would be likely to expedite her recovery they think she had better remain where she is.

The correspondence enclosed with your letter of the 5th instant is returned herewith as requested.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

O. E. DICKENSON.

Secretary.

Messrs, Burton & Briggs.,

Copy

The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street, S.W.
11th May, 1915.

Gentlemen,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

With reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Board of Control to say that the two Commissioners who saw Mrs Seelig thought she was entitled to a trial if it would be likely to expedite her recovery. They did not recommend the trial because they considered her recovered and if one cannot be arranged for under conditions that would be likely to expedite her recovery they think she had better remain where she is.

The correspondence enclosed with your letter of the 5th instant is returned herewith as requested.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

O. E. DICKENSON.

Secretary.

Messrs,Burton & Briggs.,

10th May, 1915.

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Seelig is a certified patient at the Retreat who is about to have leave of absence on trial. She is a somewhat excitable and neurotic woman. She is separated from her husband who is a German, and there is a great deal of vindictive animosity towards him, the rights and wrongs of which I do not pretend to understand. On the whole she is getting on very well here, though at times she is complaining and unreasonable. She is a Spanish American by birth and is not perhaps to be judged by English standards.

I do not expect that she will give any trouble in a nursing home as she will be on her best behaviour in order to establish her right to be finally discharged from certificates.

There is some laceration and chronic inflammation of the cervix uteri which requires operative treatment, and so far as I am concerned I see no reason why she should not go to your home, and when there be examined by Dr. Phillips or some other suitable physician. I should, of course, send to the physician who may be selected full particulars of the case.

Yours very truly,

Miss Holder.

10th May, 1915.

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Reilly is a certified patient at the Retreat who is about to have leave of absence on trial. She is a somewhat excitable and neurotic woman. She is separated from her husband who is a German, and there is a great deal of vindictive animosity towards him, the rights and wrongs of which I do not pretend to understand. On the whole she is getting on very well here, though at times she is complaining and unreasonable. She is a Spanish American by birth and is not germane to be judged by English standards.

I do not expect that she will give any trouble in a meeting there as she will be on her best behaviour in order to establish her right to be finally discharged from certification.

There is some laceration and chronic inflammation of the cervix uteri which requires operative treatment, and so far as I am concerned I see no reason why she should not go to your Home, and when there be examined by Dr. Phillips or some other suitable physician. I should, of course, send to the physician who may be selected full particulars of the case.

Yours very truly,

Miss Holder.

Copy

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.
LONDON, W.C.

7th May 1915.

J. W. Briggs Esq.,
2, Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs.Seelig

Dr. Bedford Pierce has sent me on some correspondence with regard to Mrs.Seelig.

I have no doubt the Master would, on the advice of the medical men responsible, allow any reasonable expenses for this operation, but I gather that this is not material as I am told that Mr. Seelig would be willing to meet any additional expense incurred. The real difficulty appears to be that Mr.Seelig is not prepared to take any responsibility with regard to the operation, and her mother is obviously not well enough to intervene.

The petitioner is the only person who has the right to remove Mrs.Seelig, but I suggest that Dr.Smith should be asked to take charge of the matter and (as Dr.Pierce appears to take no objection) that she should be removed to a nursing

E. Briggs.

home in London, and after the necessary examination by the experts the operation should be performed, if advised. I do not see what more I can do in the matter. Obviously the operation cannot take place without the consent of the patient, and she evidently wants it to be at a nursing home in London.

Yours faithfully,

Wm H. Winterbotham

710.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
OFFICIAL SOLICITOR.

OFFICIAL SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE.
LONDON, W.C.

7th May 1915.

Bedford Pierce Esq., M.D.,
The Retreat,
York.

Dear Sir,

re Mrs. Seelig

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th with enclosures.

I cannot do better than send you a copy of a letter I have addressed to Mr. Briggs today. I have really no responsibility in the matter and clearly I cannot undertake charge of the operation.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.

697.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

7th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

I am much obliged to you for your letter and its . . enclosures. You did'nt send Mrs Wehrhahn's letter but I gather from your reply that she wishes to be excused from interesting herself in the matter on account of the state of her health.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Pierce,
The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

704.

TELEPHONE. 2605 MAYFAIR.

53, BEAUMONT STREET,
PORTLAND PLACE, W.

Private

May. 7.

Dear Sir

I have received enclosed letter from (apparently) a patient at Your Home. I have written to tell her we do not take patients in rulers sent by a Dr as the appears

to have decided on an operation without having seen Dr. Phillips. She miss Wilson mentioned is an old friend of ours - now at the Retreat, would you kindly let me know if this lady would be a suitable patient for an ordinary Nursing Home. Where there is only 1 night nurse

Six Patients -

Apologising for troubling you I remain

Yours truly

Isabel J. Hobbes.

"Miss Light-foot" is my partner, doing midwifery nursing at present.

7th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Seelig is asking to see her two children before she has her operation. There seems to be no reason why she should not do so, and I can arrange that if they come the children shall see little or nothing of the other patients.

Mrs. Seelig is very much pleasanter to do with lately, and we hear less of her complaints.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

7th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Scelig is asking to see her two children before she has her operation. There seems to be no reason why she should not do so, and I can arrange it at if they come the children shall have little or nothing of the other patients.

Mrs. Scelig is very much pleasanter to do with lately, and we hear less of her complaints.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Bridge, Esq.,
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

6th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I send you a copy of a letter I have received from Mrs. Wehrhahn, and also a copy of a letter I am writing to Mr. Winterbotham, so that you may know how the matter stands.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingahm.

6th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I understand that you have been appointed Receiver in the case of Mrs. Seelig's estate. Since this was done the Visiting Commissioners of the Board of Control have recommended that Mrs. Seelig should have leave of absence on trial. Besides this it is desirable that she should have an operation, which does not necessarily appear to be of a serious nature, though I should add that Mrs. Seelig is persistently complaining of abdominal pain and is most anxious to have an exploratory examination made in order to locate the cause of her pains. I enclose you some copies of letters I have received in the matter recently, and it is possible that Mrs. Seelig's mother, Mrs. Wehrhahn, may communicate with you.

I may add that it is undesirable that under the circumstances I should myself take any steps in relation to the operation. I see no reason why this should not be done in London as Mrs. Seelig proposes. I am quite willing to arrange for Mrs. Seelig to go to London accompanied by a nurse directly proper arrangements can be made for her, but the immediate difficulty is to find someone to make these arrangements, who will

have the confidence of all parties concerned.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Winterbotham, Esq.

Royal Courts of Justice,

Strand,

London.

AND
6, PARK SQUARE,
LEEDS.
BY APPOINTMENT.
TUESDAY, FRIDAY } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
TELEPHONE { YORK No 112.
LEEDS No 3877.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

6th May, 1915.

Dear Madam,

I am much obliged for your letter of the 5th of May. I really do not see how I can arrange for Mrs. Seelig's leave of absence if you, or somebody acting for you, do not make the necessary arrangements. Mrs. Seelig appears to be quite unwilling to accede to anything her husband or her husband's solicitor arranges, and I cannot myself undertake to do anything so far away as in London. Consequently I am at a loss to know how to act. In a case such as this there must be some responsible person to make arrangements, and until such a person is found I see no alternative ~~but for~~ to Mrs. Seelig ~~to~~ remain here, though I should be glad for her to go away at once.

I was not aware when I wrote to you that you were so much out of health, and I can quite see that personally it is consequently difficult for you to do much, ~~but~~ Is there no trustworthy person in London who could act for you, someone of standing whose bona fides would be accepted by all parties.?

The Official Solicitor is Mr. W.H. Winterbotham, Royal Courts of Justice, London, and I am sending him a copy of this correspondence. It is possible that

AND
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THE RETREAT,
YORK.

he may be able to help you in this matter.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Wehrhahn,
22 Ealrscourt Square,
South Kensington,
London.

The Retreat
York May 6th 10.

Doctor Bedford Pierce.

Arrangements are being made for me to be removed from here to Lightpoole Nursing Home in a fortnight's time. Please ask petitioner to see that my two children who are under Separation Deed are in my Custody to be brought over here to

let my husband have charge of children against my wish.

I was alone at Retreat and therefore handicapped and signed it under compulsion the day I found I had been registered into Lincoln Lunatic Asylum.

The journey is only 3 hours from Nottingham, so children can come over for the day on Saturday and return after tea.

Elicia Louisa Selig.

to see me, before I leave, as I want to see my daughter and baby boy before I leave for London to have operation performed. It is months since I saw them and particularly wish to see them now. —

As I have a bedroom of my own there will be no excuse to be made, the children need not see any other patient here, as there is only the view of the garden in front of my bedroom. —

The person who brings them over is also to bring my jewellery box which Mr. Briggs has. —

Mrs. Briggs forced me under threats to sign a letter and

West Villa.

The Retreat
30th May 1916.

get part of Mothers inte-
rests at last over to
England.— My Mother
is too ill now to be
worried any longer.
Her ladies Maid Mademoiselle
Harry wrote to me only a
fortnight ago how serious-
ly ill Mother was and her
heart was very bad and
how worried she was a-
bout my being here.—

I refuse to accept Jaun
proposal to go to a
Leeds Nursing Home
as I wish to go to
London, as I have

Doctor Pierce.
I have been in great pain
all day and night and al-
though I have complained
to you how ill I am since
I wrote and asked you to
have me removed to a
proper Nursing Home where
I can have my operation
performed and be properly
attended to, you take vol-
untely no notice of my
request.— I have told you

that my Mother has been against me having ever been placed into this place and as no notice of the appeal was taken by those who put me in these places and detained, Mother decided to say no more not while the War last; as she as well as myself all now severed from all my relatives and friends, above all from my own relatives who had the War not broken out, had decided to take the matter in hand, the War stopped their proceedings. —

My Mother since has been seriously ill with her heart, gout and severe bronchitis at London, also has had great money difficulties as all her money comes from Hamburg my and her Trustee Sir William Ward and Senator Dr. Althaus having invested all fathers money in Hamburg Government papers etc. — The Chilian Ambassador has after great difficulties been able to

The price of Beds
will be no less than
London, and it is a
well known fact that
London is generally pre-
ferred for serious opera-
tions and London Surgeons
Your abstinacy and the
difficult its you are
making to my leaving
is thoroughly under-
mining my health.—
If you cannot see your
way to get me soon
without any further
delay to a London
Nursing Home I

more confidence in London
Nursing Homes and London
Surgeons. As I have had
Miss Lightfoots Nursing
Home in 63 Beaumont
Street Portman Square
so highly recommended
also the Specialist Dr.
Phillips it is my wish
to be removed there as
soon as possible.—
I can no longer continue
with my acute pains
and sleepless nights day
after day as the

pains are very severe during the nights. — I am very miserable here and on no condition wish to stay, Lunatic Asylums are not fit places for severe phy- sical complaints. —

2 capable Surgeons have advised an Opera- tion, Doctor Percival at Northampton last February pressed an one: and I am worse now than I was then, the loss of weight here and having started to have no sleep now is an absolute proof that this place is doing me no good. —

It seems very illogical on your part to tell me yesterday that if I do not agree to go to Leeds Nursing Home I must stay here. — What difference can it make to you Doctor Pierce if I go to London instead of Leeds. ?

go to the Nursing Home
in London which I
asked you once and once
again to let me go. —
It is not your duty
to consider my husband
or his friend and lawyer
Briggs but the welfare
of your patient, at least
that is what a man
of conscience would
do. —

Yours faithfully
Ellis Ellis

Excuse handwriting but am writing
as you in bed lying down. —

must see my legal
adviser here at any cost
and shall be forced
to ask Chairman of
Committee for an un-
interrupted private interview
which right I have
legally under Lunacy Act
of 1890 — I had no
chance of talking even
5 minutes to Chairman
the other day and ask
his help and you
rushed in the room
and told him

his Motor or Carriage
was waiting, this was
not fair as after a
few weeks stay here I
have the object for an
interference of at least
half an hour with same.
Mr. Acton wrote to me
on April 14th he had
had a letter from Board
of Control that at last
I should be set free.
As Commissioners had
satisfied themselves I
was to have my chance
I was not a suicidal
case. —
You were to help me.
Instead of helping me
You are doing all you
can to upset me and
this is making me feel
my pains worse than
ever. —
If you can make arrange-
ments for sending me
to Leeds, you can see
the same may make
arrangements to let me

for days, with the hope of getting rid of pains. lent of no good.- Then I have left off solid food altogether and put myself to only take peptonised milk this seemed to ease it a lith.- His attacks last 3 to weeks. After each attack I loose in weight and feel very faint after them. My eyes are very puffy also my complexion is going very sallow to what it used to be.

Doctor Scott in Beetlecke Road London near X Rays and found out that kidney was floating not only movable 12 years ago.- Doctor Wallace in Skipness thinks I have a Prolapse in the kidney. He attended me. Symptoms. Apl. 20 1915.

On the right side about two inches from the Navil I have a dull nagging pain dragging itself right round right side waist to right back. I feel a great fulness on that side as if some swelling or substance were there blocking me up. I can feel it move and when I walk much actually twist round, giving me a sharp pain on the side, especially walking up stairs or uphill.—

At intervals of about every
6 to 8 weeks in the last
2 years I have had severe
attacks of pains besides
the period between this
attacks I have the dull pain.
Symptoms when attacks of acute
pain come on.
First signs. Severe heartburn,
constipation, seem full of
flatulency, acute severe pain
on side above appendicae
incission, pain like as if a
knife were pierced in me.
Bowels too weak to act, can
feel contents but bowels seemes
to lack strength to bring
it out, have to press it
out practically; then severe
pain occur. During this
time all the food I take
causes me terrible flatu-
lency. I am better without
food. I feel swollen all
over the abdomen and cannot
bear the pressure of corsets
at all. Every morning I
feel seasick and a billous
headache, sometimes I vomit
other times I feel sick
but do not throw up.
At this times I have experien-
ced by only taking solid
food no liquid

as if I could drink
a lot and fancy fruit
a great deal. —
I nearly fainted after
my bath a few weeks ago.
2 years ago previous to my
operation I weighed
9 stone 7½ lbs. — today
I weigh 8 stones 1½ lbs.
as my weight myself
yesterday. — The fulness I have
on right side is not fatness
but swelling. — I have
no pains on left side or
left back. My monthly period is regular as
usual —

The pains at times prevent
me from getting sleep
at night and many an
hour I have spent at
night sitting up in a bent
position in bed, my knees
drawn up and pressed
my head in right side
above incision of operation
This seemed to give me
relief — I feel as if
I was ever so full on that
side, some swelling or
substance there. —

something blocking me up. —

During this attacks I pass a lot of Urine, more than usual, the water first look reddish and heavy and sometimes changes to quite white no colour at all in it. — I on several occasion has noticed a brick colour sediment and like sand in chamber. —

After I get rid of this gravel I seem to gradually loose my sense pains. —

Lately I have had to leave my closets open round me and side where this fulness is as I cannot bear the pressure of it. —

I feel better without food than with it at times and other times I feel very

Eugenia L. Ve de Hohenhahn

Dr. Bigsnod Buce

The Retreat

York

London May 5th

Earlscourt Square 22
South Kensington

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter dated 1st May, I beg to state I went at once to the Board of Control who confirmed the wish for Miss Lesley's removal on trial to a nursing home in London on trial by this I understand she

is still a patient under their superintendence, and has been several times removed from one place to another without my being consulted, now that my health is quite broken down and my heart very delicate how can I take the responsibility, the Lunacy Commissioners must make arrangements or who ever has acted in her former removal. Of course would visit her every day. I sent this morning to the nursing home Mrs Seeley indicated but they have no room till two weeks hence. I have had no information regarding an Official Solicitor having been appointed as receiver, and would feel obliged to know his name.

Trusting satisfactory arrangements will be made.

I remain

Yours truly

2. Victoria Street.

Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

3rd May 1915

Dear Sir,

It is very good of you to take so much trouble. I quite understand the difficulty you are experiencing – The real aim is to escape from any control & then take vengeance. The mothers restraint is therefore unwelcome as will be every proposal that we can make –

All this does not alter the fact that D'Smith advises that

a very troublesome symptom can be successfully treated & it is very desirable that the best things shall be done – but what can we do?– D'Smith who is a most experienced man & consulting surgeon at the Womens Hospital appears to accept his responsibility & attend to her – She has been examined at Lincoln, Northampton by specialists who both advise substantially as D'Smith advises – There are no end of doctors who she has consulted in the past. You suggest some very suitable arrangement at Leeds but that wont do – Her

plan is to go to ~~Bed~~ judicial just
for some changes in London.

The obvious danger is
that she will do herself
some serious injury & inevitably
cause her relatives & friends
serious renewed anxiety - Clearly
that must be guarded
against -

I've had another long &
violent letter from her this
morning, & I answer, no
matter what I say my reply
will confirm her delusions about
me & make her still more
difficult. If I can be of
any service I will very gladly
use any influence I have
to further any sensible plan
& if necessary will come &
see you, tho I should be grieved
that journey, for I'm very busy
& very tired just now - From
all my staff having joined the
colors. I don't know, whilst I am
sure sorry for the patient, her
husband, or her children - I think
the humane sufferings are perhaps the
greatest - He has lost the happy home
he confidently built upon having to cancel
deal with these unfounded & intangible
charges in any way seems very pathetic.

Yours very sincerely
Edward Bagg's

1st. May, 1915.

Dear Madam,

At a recent visit the Commissioners advised that Mrs. Seelig should be allowed leave of absence on trial, and I am endeavouring to arrange this. The situation is complicated by the fact that there is some chronic inflammation of the neck of the uterus, which requires operative treatment. Besides this Mrs. Seelig constantly complains of pain in the upper part of the abdomen, the cause of which is obscure. She has been repeatedly examined, and there is no reason to think there is any visceral disease. One kidney is slightly mobile, but we do not see how this can cause the pain which she describes. Mrs. Seelig is wishful to go to a nursing home in London, and I see no objection if this can be properly arranged, and there is someone to look after her and take the responsibility. We shall be glad for her to leave the Retreat at the earliest possible date as she is a discontented patient and difficult to do with. Acting on the advice of the Commissioners we should grant her leave of absence, say for a month or longer, and if serious trouble arose she could be sent back to the Retreat at any moment during that time of trial. On the other hand if everything went well we should expect her to be discharged from certificates at the expiration of the time.

Mrs. Seelig has asked to stay with some friends at Skegness. I am informed that this is not a suitable place. There are difficulties about her going there on account of her relationship to an alien, and moreover the necessarily medical ~~supervision~~ treatment cannot be arranged.

You are probably aware that Mrs. Seelig's money matters are now placed in the hands of the Official Solicitor who has been appointed Receiver. I conclude there will be no difficulty in providing the necessary money for the required medical treatment.

I will furnish you with the name of the nursing home to which Mrs. Seelig wishes to go and ~~the name~~ particulars of the obstetrical physician she has heard of on hearing from you. I do not know the parties referred to personally, but I have no doubt of their competence. Dr. Phillips, the physician she mentions, is a man of established reputation.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Wehrhahn,
22 Earl's Court Square,
London S.W.

The Retreat,

York.

1st May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

The correspondence respecting Mrs. Seelig seems interminable. I will return your letters to you when I have made an abstract of the contents.

I enclose a letter I am sending to Mrs. Wehrhahn, but Mrs. Seelig herself says she objects to her mother making any arrangements for her. She objects to go to Leeds, and I am not willing for her to go to a nursing home in York. I may say that she is exhibiting at the present time a malicious discontent and is distinctly an undesirable patient. I have moved her to another department as she was very disturbing to the staff where she was first placed. One cannot, nevertheless, but be very sorry for her, as her unhappy state of mind makes things much more difficult for her than they need be.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.

2 Victoria Street, Nottingham.

The Retreat,

York.

1st May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

The contents of your letters respecting Mrs. Beslie seems interesting. I will return your letters to you when I have made an abstract of the contents.

I enclose a letter I am sending to Mrs. Wainhouse, but Mrs. Beslie herself says she objects to her mother making any arrangements for her. She objects to go to Leeds, and I am not willing for her to go to a nursing home in York. I may say that she is exhibiting at the present time a malicious discontent and is distinctly an undesirable patient. I have moved her to another department as she was very disturbing to the staff where she was first placed. One cannot, nevertheless, but be very sorry for her, as her unhappy state of mind makes things much more difficult for her than they need be.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.

2 Victoria Street, Nottingham.

as I am well aware
that to complain ie
these Asylums means
prodding imprisonment.
I never had any need
to complain about the
food at Northampton
as it was allright —
The Nurses have assured
me they too have com-
plained but with no avail
so they too buy their food
when they have a day
off — I hope you will let
me get some food and
of my weekly pocket money

Yours truly Elsie Seely

The Retreat
30th April 1915

Am writing in pencil as I
am laid up in bed and
ink is not allowed —
Doctor Pierce,
As my request to have
light nourishing food
given has not been
taken any notice of.
I am tired to
and I am not to be
have bread
water & milk and Bovril
food for two days and
a few biscuits, I should
be very much obliged
to you if you would
kindly

boy give me permission
to ask one of the Nurses
to buy me a few fresh
eggs out of my week-
ly pocket money and
some fish.—
I am sick of the
monotony of the food
here and have some-
times complained about the
rough tough hard cooked
food over and over
again & Doctor Mackenzie
the Matron and
asked them to give
me some custard
with stewed fruit and
one lightly boiled fresh
egg for breakfast
and some fish.—
But as I have had this
refused all through,
and as I thought I
was leaving this place
I ate the rough food
rather than ask again,

670.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

Enc.

30th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

I enclose a further letter I have received from Mrs Seelig this morning. I should like to have her letters back to file with the rest.

With reference to any heavy expenditure, we are in the hands of the Masters in Lunacy and Mr.Winterbotham (the Official Solicitor) but, so far as any reasonable expense extends to carry out any sensible curative measure, there need be no difficulty because Mr.Seelig would certainly not allow any technical difficulty about his wife's money to stand in the way of her real need. It is clearly, however, not her real need to consult troops of Doctors.

If the operation is really the simple matter that Dr. Smith advises, the proper thing seems to be for Mrs Seelig to go to some Nursing home in York and have the difficulty dealt with. It is extremely likely that she will be difficult to deal with in any Nursing home as she was in Nottingham but, if that is an expected condition, it need cause no anxiety and can be provided

30th April, 1915.

for. If you think it would be better for her to go to Leeds and be under Dr.Hellier there can be no objection to that course.

We understand that the Board of Control desire that no step shall be taken until the Commissioners have had an opportunity of seeing the record of the case and Dr.Nicholson's report upon it. They favour the suggestion that, if you think the case suitable, it should go to your Scarborough branch.

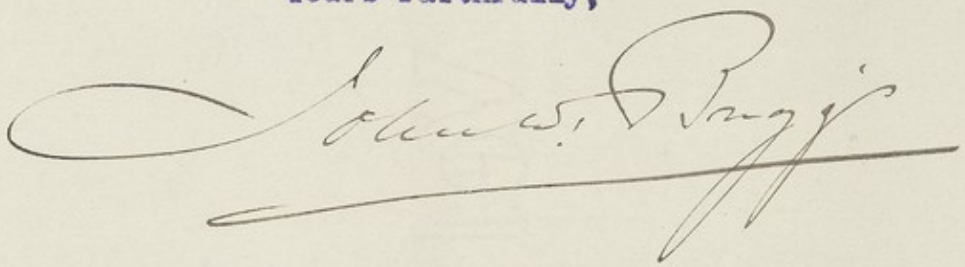
The place at Skegness to which you refer is entirely unsuitable. It is a sort of cheap farm lodging-house kept by a retired police officer and resorted to by people who are not of Mrs Seelig's class in any sense as a holiday boarding-house. When she was staying there before she was taken ill, warehouse girls in the employment of her husband were staying in the house at the same time on their holidays. Barkaus have ~~They had~~ no interest whatever in Mrs Seelig except her money and would have no control over her.

If her mother or her sister will take the responsibility of looking after her, that seems a possible way of giving effect to the Commissioners' suggestion if the Board of Control on further consideration think that is the right course.

When Dr.Smith saw me two days ago he regarded any such experiment as most unwise and certain to be attended with a repetition of the difficulties with which we have been so . . familiar. The letter I sent to you yesterday is a very pointed

corroboration of that view.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

30th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Your letter respecting Mrs. Seelig has crossed with one of mine to you. I had better wait until I hear from you again before replying.

As I understand the situation the appointment of a Receiver of Mrs. Seelig's property does not carry with it any control of her person, and, therefore, I must look to you to arrange the leave of absence.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

30th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Your letter respecting Mrs. Seelig has
crossed with one of mine to you. I had better wait
until I hear from you again before replying.

As I understand the situation the appointment
of a receiver of Mrs. Seelig's property does not
carry with it any control of her person, and therefore,
I see no look to you to arrange the leave of absence.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John K. Trigg, Esq.
8 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

Enc.

TELEPHONE 1262.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

29th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Dr.Smith called on me yesterday and told me the result of his examination. He seems to think that a very slight operation will give Mrs Seelig relief and tells me that he has . . written fully to you. He says that any Surgeon accustomed to women cases would be quite well able to perform the operation. It would not involve more than a week's indisposition. He very kindly said that, if Mrs Seelig would like him to do it, he would make time to go to York for the purpose although it would rather inconvenience him to do so.

This morning I have received the enclosed letter from Mrs Seelig which, you will recognise, it is impossible for me to answer.

I think the best plan will be for you to make whatever arrangements you think best and charge the fees in the account. The Official Solicitor will deal with the matter. He now is . . appointed Receiver of Mrs Seelig's property. A sum of £250 a year is set apart for her maintenance and treatment. The contents of course are more likely than anything else to make Mr.Seelig

think that he ought not to pay any fees. His doing so will be turned into an admission that the wild statements the letter contains have some foundation. I don't propose to show him the letter and I think I may safely say that if there is any question ~~of~~ with the Official Solicitor as to the payment of any reasonable fees there will be no real difficulty.

Yours faithfully,

John W. Bigg

Dr. Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

Copy.

The Retreat,

York.

29th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

You will have had a report from Dr. Smith that he considers a further operation for Mrs. Seelig is desirable. Mrs. Seelig herself says that she wishes to have the operation done in London, and has suggested Dr. John Phillips of 68 Brook Street and a Professor of Obstetrics of King's College Hospital. Personally I do hot know him, but I should suppose she would be quite all right in his hands. If London should be decided upon I should myself be quite satisfied with Dr. W. J. Gow, 146 Harley Street or Dr. W. S. Griffith, 96 Harley Street, both of whom are specialists in this department of medicine and known to me personally. If Leeds were considered I would suggest Dr. Hellier.

We should not be willing to have anything to do with the operation here, as I fear that whatever we might do would be sure to be wrong and would cause trouble subsequently. I should prefer also to have nothing to do with the nursing except in so far as to see that Mrs. Seelig got comfortably to the nursing home that may be selected.

She is a good deal discontented at present, and was asking me to-day if she could be re-transferred to the Lawn, but I do not think she really means this.

I will gladly do anything I can to make arrangements

for the proposed operation, but I must ask you, who are acting for the Petitioner, that the recommendation of the Commissioners that Mrs. Seelig must go away on trial should be acted upon shortly. I had a letter from Mr. Barham of Skegness, asking that Mrs. Seelig should stay with them, and saying that they expected the difficulty as regards the prohibited area could be got over.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

The Retreat
York April 28th 15

Doctor Pierce,

Since hearing Doctor Smith report that I have to undergo an operation, I have made up my mind to have same performed at London in Miss Lightfoots private Nursing Home 63 Beaumont Street Cavendish Square London West.

Her fee are 6 Guineas per week

by corroborative evidence statements what my husband was to me, and that I can prove his cruel immoral bad life and that he deliberately planned my bodily during our married life. Doctor Smith knows what a brute he was to do all the trained Nurses who attended me and my confinements and operations.

Yours faithfully
Ellen Peel

I should like Doctor Phillipps who specialises in this kind of operation to perform it. - You can get her secret taken through Miss Lightfoot by writing to her. - My pains are getting worse and as I have lost weight again since I came here in the last 6 weeks 4 lbs. I think the quicker the operation is performed the better. I have written to my husbands Solicitor Mr. Briggs requesting him I wish to have the operation performed in London and expect my husband to pay for it, as I have been suffering for it. - My Dentist Mr. Foster can prove

Statements of Mrs Leslie - in letters to Mr Briggs.

"Apr. 27. 1915.

Re your remark in your letter to Dr Bedford Pierce how that down to [illegible] of the brief in other words vivisecting I imagine my pains & pain powers only or plainly your callousness.

It's needless to say I blame my husband & the three operations I have had & still undergo as they are the result of his inconsiderate brutal treatment to me in our married life and this abominable way he abused my body, all he cared for was to satisfy his brutal animal passions, never minded what cost to me.

x x x

I shall never forget or forgive either of you for the wrong you have done me and the injustice I have suffered at your hands.

The Retreat
York April 26th /15

Doctor Pierce,

As I did not see you this morning I should be very much obliged to you if you will grant me a private interview; as Doctor Wiseman says he does not know anything about my leaving here, you of course must know by now when I am leaving. —

Yours truly

Elliott Seeley

Copy.

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 25. 915

Dear Mr. Briggs

I went to York on the 22nd & saw Mrs Seelig at the Retreat.

Dr. Pearce had kindly arranged for another doctor to give her some chloroform & I made a thorough examination in conjunction with Dr. Pearce.

I found that there was some enlargement and slight chronic inflammation of the mouth of the womb & there was a small amount of discharge coming out. The two old lacerations were both seen but they were no worse than when I examined her some years ago: the womb was very

slightly enlarged. The sound passing about half an inch further than the normal: it was mobile, showing that the surrounding structures were not fixed to it by any recent or existing inflammation.

There was no evidence of enlargement or disease of the remaining left ovary.

I found the right kidney slightly mobile - but not markedly so: There was no thickening nor enlargement to be felt in the region of the gall bladder.

I think the condition of her womb would be improved by a comparatively slight operation — either by curetting, i.e. scraping away the unhealthy part of the mouth of the womb — or by amputating the cervix i.e. to remove entirely, by a small incision around it, the unhealthy part of the mouth of the womb.

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

of the two procedures, probably a thorough curetting would be the better, as it is a very slight and easy thing to do, and would only necessitate her being in bed about a week.

Whether this would relieve all her abdominal pain is uncertain but it would quite satisfactorily treat a definite condition which is now present here

I think her general bodily condition of health is much better than when I last saw her. She insisted on seeing me alone first to tell me that I had no right

liver to have shut her to
Lincoln: but her general
demeanour was unusually
quiet & restrained compared
with what it has been on
the many previous times
I have seen her — and
she was quite a success for
me to make a thorough
examination. I did not
see her again after she
came out of the chloroform
as I had to hurry away to
catch the only available
train.

Yours truly
William R. Smith

J. Boggs

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 25. 1915

Dear D. Pearce

I enclose you copy of my letter to Mr. Briggs re Mrs. Seelig.

I must thank you for your very kind hospitality to me & much regret that the bad train service compelled me to make such a flying visit.

No doubt Mr. Briggs will keep me informed as to Mrs. Seelig's course of action.

Again thanking you

Yours Sincerely
William R. Smith

Sea Bank House
Skegness 22nd April 1915

Dear Sir

We are not in any way connected with Mrs Seely she stayed with us upwards of two years and now expresses her desire to come to us again, should she be released, We are well known to Mr Acton the Solicitor who has been acting on her behalf: we expected there might be some difficulty with her being an alien but thought that might be overcome seeing that Mr Acton is High Sheriff for this County

Yours faithfully
Jno Wm Barham

Dr Bedford Pierce

21st April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter respecting Mrs. Seelig, and the question of her leave of absence on trial is under consideration. Her old doctor, Dr. Smith of Nottingham, is coming to see her to-morrow to see whether any further treatment is necessary in respect to her complaints of abdominal pain.

With regard to the suggestion of going to Skegness, may I ask whether you are in any way related or connected with her? I may also say that as Skegness is a prohibited area, and Mrs. Seelig is the wife of an alien, I am advised by the Chief Constable here that there may be a difficulty in arranging for her to go to Skegness. However, this difficulty may possibly be overcome if the visit otherwise is desirable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

J. W. Barham, Esq.
Sea Bank House,
Skegness.

21st April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter respecting Mrs. Beelig, and the question of her leave of absence on trial is under consideration. Her old doctor, Dr. Smith of Nottingham, is coming to see her to-morrow to see whether any further treatment is necessary in respect to her complaints of abdominal pain.

With regard to the suggestion of going to Skegness, may I ask whether you are in any way related or connected with her? I may also say that as Skegness is a prohibited area, and Mrs. Beelig is the wife of an alien, I am advised by the Chief Constable here that there may be a difficulty in arranging for her to go to Skegness. However, this difficulty may possibly be overcome if the visit otherwise is desirable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

J. W. Barham, Esq.
Sea Bank House,
Skegness.

21st April, 1915.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I have wired to you this morning that to-morrow will be quite convenient, and we shall hope to see you at lunch a little before 2 o'clock. The Retreat is about 1½ miles from the Station. Will you come up by the main entrance.

I am asking Dr. Craig to give the anaesthetic.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

21st April, 1913.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I have wired to you this morning that to-morrow will be quite convenient, and we shall hope to see you at lunch a little before 2 o'clock. The Retreat is about ½ miles from the Station. Will you come up by the main entrance.

I am asking Dr. Craig to give the anaesthetic.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Thursday is the only day I could come: unless Saturday.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 20 1915

Dear S. Pierce

Would you send me a line by return as to whether Thursday will quite suit you for me to come over & see Mrs Seelig with you? also as to distance of the Retreat from the Station: I shall arrive either at 1.20 or 1.32 depending on whether I come by G.C. Northern or Central. I strongly suggest that she be examined under an anaesthetic if you could arrange for an anaesthetist.

Yours sincerely
William R. Smith

2. Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

19th April 1915

Dear Sir
Wm Seely.

Thank you for your letter
The real difficulty is what
is to happen during the
probationary period. If Seely
is an alien & will be under
police supervision, she would
not be allowed to live at
Skegness or near the coast
if the Skegness place was

657

suitable & it certainly is not.

I think Mr Wehrhahn should
be consulted. The real difficulty
in any test has always been
that her detention has meant
exposure to trials & people
who have excited & hurt her.

I shall be very sorry to learn
that she is left to her own
resources, I'm as sure as I
can be that that will lead
to serious trouble. If Mr Wehrhahn
will take care of her it will
be the best solution but she
should have a nurse & be

prevented from causing such
injury to herself & her
family as resulted before.

Dr Smith tells me he
has arranged to see you
on Thursday - he doubts
he will be able to give you
some help in the matter but
once he will if he can

Yours faithfully
Edward Biggs

Dr Pearce
The Retreat
York.

649.

Dr.Pierce.
The Medical Superintendent,
TELEPHONE 1262. The Retreat,
YORK.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

17th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Mr.Seelig has been here with a letter from the Board of Control suggesting that Mrs Seelig should have a trial away from the Institution.

We have been arranging for Dr.Smith to go over and see you about the matters referred to in your previous letters. The condition of affairs as suggested by your recent letters seems inconsistent with the condition of affairs which the Commissioners appear to make out - are they so?

From the opinion you have about the case, you will realise that it is very difficult to make arrangements for the patient. Is the change suggested such a one as would be met by her going for a time to your branch near Scarborough? In view of the very recent examination by the Lord Chancellor's visitor and of the history of the case, we cannot think that the Commissioners' recommendation means freedom from certificates. That would be nothing short of a calamity for Mrs Seelig. The responsibility which she took on herself before was serious enough but she has openly said that the excesses of that time were nothing to what would happen next.

Yours faithfully.

Burton Buggs
G.D.K

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 11 1915

Dear S. Percie

Thank you for your letter received this morning re Mrs Beelig. I will come over & see her & will await your return as there is obviously no urgency in the matter. Thursday week the 22nd. would suit me best – as I am retained all other days. I could arrive about 1.30 & catch the 2.55 G.E. Central back. I do not know York at all – but presume it would not be very far from the station.

Possibly it might be
advisable to examine
Mrs Seeley under an
anaesthetic - which she
bears perfectly well.
She has had the laceration
of the cervix from her
first confinement - but I
cannot think any treatment
with repair would be
of any benefit to her now.

I shall be glad to hear
from you on your return
that you can meet
me as suggested above.

Yours Sincerely
William R. Smith

HIGHFIELD HOUSE,
RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

April 10th 1915.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of yesterday's date, & I have asked Dr Smith to defer his visit to York until the week after next. He will communicate with you direct in respect of the day of his visit.

I was pleased to hear that my wife is feeling rather more at ease.

Yours very truly
A. Sells

Hibernia House,
Radcliffe-on-Trent,

10th April, 1915.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am much obliged for your letter respecting Mrs. Seelig, and it will be very satisfactory if you can come over and see her here. Just at the moment she does not complain so much, and she asked to go a long day's excursion for a daffodil pic-nic, which she would not have done if she had not felt a good deal better.

The question requires consideration as to whether, first, any treatment of the laceration of the cervix is desirable in view of her mental state and general health, and secondly, whether there is any other visceral disorder which may cause the periodic attacks of pain. I, therefore, hope that you will come and talk over the situation with us. It so happens that I shall be away all next week, but my colleague, Dr. Mackenzie, will do anything if it suits you to come then. The week following I fully expect to be at home after Monday, though I am busy with a Committee usually on Tuesday. I think one day later in the week will do quite well, as really there is no great urgency in the matter.

I remain,
Yours very truly,

10th April, 1918.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am much obliged for your letter respecting

[illegible], and it will be very satisfactory if you

can come over and see her here. Just at the moment

[illegible] am also asked to go

[illegible] ion

[illegible]

to

[illegible] of the

[illegible]

[illegible] will

[illegible] one

[illegible] colleague

[illegible] you to

come [illegible]. The week following I fully expect to be at

[illegible], the [illegible] with a Committee

[illegible]. I think one day later in the week

will do quite well, as really there is no great urgency

in the matter.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

9th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have heard from Mr. Seelig, and he is proposing to ask Dr. Smith to come over to see Mrs. Seelig, and this will be quite all right.

Mrs. Wehrhahn has written to me once or twice asking about her daughter. Her address is 22 Earl's Court Square, London, S.W. I think it would be well to send hera copy of the correspondence, though it might be better to wait until after Dr. Smith's interview.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.

Ambervale,

Ashover,

Derbyshire.

9th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter, and for the further particulars. I am not an authority on the subject myself, but I understand that the laceration is more extensive that is at all common, and there seems to be some secondary inflammation with it, but it is quite clear that this is not a sufficient explanation of all Mrs. Seelig's aches and pains. These, as you know, vary in an extraordinary way. Just now she is rather more comfortable.

We shall be very pleased to see Dr. Smith of Nottingham. I am expecting to be away next week, but Dr. Mackenzie will be very pleased to see him in my absence, or if he should defer his visit to the following week I expect to be at home.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

A. Seelig, Esq.

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 9. 915

Dear D. Pierce

I have today seen Rev. Seelig who has consulted me about his wife who is now at The Retreat - was formerly at Northampton and at The Lawn, Lincoln.

I attended Mrs Seelig for about ten years & eventually certified her when she was removed to The Lawn. I removed her appendix & right tube & ovary at The Women's Hospital Nottingham about two years ago. about two months ago her lawyer,

Mr. Briggs, asked me to write
to the Medical Superintendent
at Northampton about her -
as there was a question of
further uterine trouble.
Today Mr. Seelig sends me
a long letter from Mr
Mr. Briggs in which he
says She has had further
uterine examination &
that a severe operation
is possibly contemplated.
As I have had so much
to do with her in the past,
Mr. Seelig has asked
me to come over to York
& see her in consultation with
you after pelvic
examination report whether
further operation is really
essential. I told him
that I was not very anxious
to come as I do not think

(3)

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

Mrs Seeley would be very willing to see me again: but that I would willingly come if I could be of any real assistance. He was going to get Mr. Briggs to write to you on the matter & I told him I would write you as well. At present Mr. Briggs is away & will not be back till next week. I always found Mrs Seeley a most unsatisfactory person to do anything for & I have written about her to various consultants

(4)

whom he has seen
from time to time: from
what I remember of her
pelvic condition I should
have thought that no
further operative measures
were indicated — but of
course it is two years now
since I have examined
her. I thought if I
wrote fully to you like
this it would make
my position in the matter
clearer to you.
Mr. Seeley is very anxious
I should see his wife again
but I said I would wait
to hear from you first.

Yours truly
William R. Smith

D. Bedford Pierce
The Retreat
York.

Ambervale, Ashover Derbyshire

2, Victoria Street. 8.4.15

Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

My dear Sir

Many thanks for your long & helpful letter I shall see Mr Seeley on Tuesday & am sure he will be anxious to adopt your suggestion & follow your advice.

There is this however always to be remembered, that whatever is done will be wrong both for Mrs Seeley & her mother if he has any direct say in the matter.

It seems to me to be very necessary to consult Mrs Worthington, I don't know her present address. I think we might perhaps easily go so far as to obtain the opinion without consulting her but the best plan will be to send all the letters to her & ask her to interest herself both in the original article & any subsequent action upon it.

If we act alone, obtain

the best possible advice &
act upon it & anything
goes wrong we shall be
formally accused of wilful
injury or if death resulted
of murder.

I've had the experience
of ten years & know
very well how readily
unfounded accusations are
resorted to in this really
terrible case.

Yours faithfully
Edward Briggs

HIGHFIELD HOUSE,
RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

April 8th 1915.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 6th inst. & I am sorry to hear from my wife's letter to Mr. Briggs that she is not feeling well.

Her complaints are not new to me & long before our separation I had her examined repeatedly (in Germany) by different Specialists who all there corroborated Dr. Smith's first statement: that she suffers of a

certain weakness or laceration of the womb caused by accouchements. They all assured me that there was no cause for anxiety & that more than half of the married women with children were suffering of the same complaints which in reality required no operation. This was 11 years ago & she has since committed herself & others to great excitements & worries which not even a particularly strong person would have withstood much less one with a serious organic disease. She has been sinning against her own body all along by not nourishing herself properly & regularly

HIGHFIELD HOUSE,
RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

II

stimulating pains when there were none & when she had real pains she greatly magnified them & thus often misled the doctors. She particularly delights in causing sorrow to others by expenditure of money & to expose them by bad cases and yet the same time she has a craving for arousing their pity. All this I have always considered part & parcel of her mental disorder, although it did not mitigate my own sufferings.

After all this experiences you must just pardon if I have become rather sceptical in respect to Mrs Lees's complaints.

used in other ways as well. Periodically she used to starve herself hydrochloratically by taking boiling hot baths, drinking exceedingly strong tea only & refusing to take other food & when she was persuaded to eat she, clandestinely, put her fingers in her throat to reject the food. She indulged also freely in drugs & sleeping draughts which she procured unknown to my knowledge from friends.

I very much question that she has often been

HIGHFIELD HOUSE,
RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.

III

Dear I am always ready to assist her; I have asked Dr Smith to go to York next week to see my wife. He has been her doctor for over 14 years & knows all about her illness. After having heard his opinion in case, if my wife wishes it, always arrange a consultation between the Doctors in Leeds you have proposed.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Ed. Seelig

6th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have been writing to Mr. Briggs about Mrs. Seelig's health, and he has asked me to send to you Mrs. Seelig's letter to him. I also enclose a copy of my last letter to him so that you may consider what should be done.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Alexander Seelig, Esq.
Highfield House,
Radcliffe-on-Trent.

5th April, 1913.

Dear Sir,

I have been writing to Mr. Bridge about Seelig's Debt, and he has asked me to send to you Mr. Seelig's letter to him. I also enclose a copy of my last letter to him so that you may consider what should be done.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Alexander Seelig, Esq.

Highfield House,

Radcliffe-on-Trent.

6th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have had some talk with Mrs. Seelig, and find that she would not like to consult Mr. Smith again if it is a question of further operation, though she says that she has every confidence in him as a general physician. I do not see any reason why Mrs. Seelig, accompanied by a nurse, should not consult any man of standing. Probably the best plan would be for her to go to some nursing home near a surgeon's residence for a day or two. I think Mrs. Seelig would be willing to see anyone of standing, but it would appear that a consultation would have to be arranged between a general surgeon and a gynaecologist. If Mr. Seelig would prefer an opinion to be obtained in the North I would suggest that she goes to Leeds and Dr. Hellier and Sir Berkeley Moynihan should be asked to consult together concerning her, and I would, of course, meet them myself and give them all the information I can. I do not think that the cost of obtaining an opinion in this way would be a very serious matter. I may say that Mrs. Seelig is wishful to be to be examined under an anaesthetic, which is not unreasonable under the circumstances. I do not, of course, propose that any operative procedure should be undertaken without ample time to consider the

report of the consulting surgeons in the matter. If London were thought to be preferable to Leeds I should say that Mr. Gow would give a perfectly trustworthy opinion on the gynaecology question, and possibly Mr. Hutchinson, whom Mrs. Seelig has already seen, could meet him. I anticipate no difficulty in arranging matters either in London or in Leeds. This is a question for the friends to decide for themselves.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Seelig, together with Mrs. Seelig's letter to you, so that he will then be in possession of the whole facts.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Briggs, Esq.

2 Victoria Street,

Nottingham.

Ambleside
Oakhurst -
2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

5th April 1915

595.

Dear Sir

My Lady
Many thanks for
your kind letter, Sir.
Sending it to My Lady. It
has always been the hope
that if the physical illness
could be cured the mental
one would improve.

Who do you suggest as
the best man to consult?
Would it not be well for
him to be in communication
with the Surgeon who attended
her for so long ~~here~~ in Nottm
& performed the operation?

Yours very faithfully
Edward Pugh

P.S. If you will be good
enough to post My Lady's letter
home to My Lady it will with
your letter put him in possession
of the facts —

Ambrvale
Ashvale Sutherland
2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

1-4-15

590.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed letter reached me just before I left home.

For years I very patiently answered Mrs Seeley's letters & tried to help her in that way but it led to such a burdensome duty & was so fruitless that sometime ago I came to the conclusion that where an answer was necessary it was best to address it to the Medical man in whose care she was.

Dr Rambaut thought that the pains Mrs S complained of were exaggerated & that she was really trying to see as many outside Doctors as she could as a means to obtain a discharge, finally he called in an experienced Surgeon as Dr Russell had done at Lincoln - now I think have his report - Mr Seeley consulted Dr Smith who had been her medical attendant here & he wrote a full description of the case & agreed with the Northampton Doctor that at present an operation was too desperate a remedy to adopt.

If you think that anything more should be done I'm sure Mr Seeley will willingly do anything he can to assist - He feels very strongly

that his wife's isolation & absence from her family makes it doubly necessary that he should take every possible means to provide any help she may require. At the same time he thinks you ought to know that the Doctors she has consulted are very numerous & that it has almost amounted to a mania with her. He thinks she would most willingly undergo any sort of operation & that the fact that the Doctors who know her best disapproved, would have very little weight with her.

Dr Smith, tho' he would prefer not to do so, would be willing to see her if an operation were seriously talked of, & I am sure Dr Seely would prefer him to do so.

Will you give any message when you think right from me & assure her that both Dr Seely & I will do anything we can to help her.

I don't think a private nursing home would be any use. She was in two here & gave enormous trouble I'm told.

Yours very truly
John H. Briggs

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

22nd April, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L. Seelig.

When I was in London yesterday I called at the Office of the Board of Control to see if they could make any helpful suggestion as to Mrs Seelig's greater freedom.

It appears that, since the Commissioner made his recommendation, they have received a report from the Lord Chancellors visitor which they think would probably modify the . . Commissioner's view. They thought it best that nothing should be done until the Commissioner has returned and was able to see that report, and that probably the case would best be met - if you approved - by a visit now or soon to your Scarborough branch.

I understand Dr. Smith will be seeing you to-day. Perhaps he will have something to report tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,

Richard D. Briggs

Dr. Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

670.

At Home
9 to 10.
2 to 3.
6 to 7.
Telephone 32 Beeston.

Beeston,
Notts.

April 24 1915

Dear S. Pierce

Many thanks for your telegram. I shall arrive at 1.20 p.m. and catch the 2.52 back: I shall be very pleased to lunch with you.

Yours Sincerely
William Rhodes Smith

Sea Bank House
Skegness 19th April 1915

re Mrs Seely

Dear Sir

We are given to understand that it is probable the above named may regain her liberty, should such be the case we (my wife and myself) would gladly take charge of her, we had her (Mrs Seely) with us upwards of two years, during which time we got to know her very well, and we are not afraid of taking the responsibility of looking after her.

Dr Wallace would Call and choose any report as to Mrs Seely's Condition be required he would give one

Yours Faithfully
Jno Wm T. Barham

NATIONAL TELEPHONE No 56.

ENCLOSURE

St Andrew's Hospital,
Northampton.

26th March 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

Dr. Martin has handed me a portion of a letter from Mrs. Seelig in which she states that she would like to have a copy of Dr. Percival's report. This has already been sent to you. Dr. Percival recommended, as a douche, some antispetic.

I enclose a copy of Dr. Hutchison's letter.

The pill which I think Mrs. Seelig found useful is the Bismuth and Soda Tabloid made by Burroughs & Welcome, London. With kind regards

Yours very truly,

D. Rambaut

Medical Superintendent.

Dr. Pierce.

Jan 13. 1913 Op. for Appendicitis -
at Northampton
Removed by Ridout -
After Op^n Husband molested by
sending message - which upset her -
Had sleepless nights & then
had Bromide -
Became suicidal -
as to be put under control -

Certified - to Lunacy - Mar. 1913
When this came Mc Leod - He made
her a V.B - left in ~~to dangers~~ hospitals
at Lunacy 3 mos -

- after she left husband Northampton
children - refused to return them -
Shewent to London - took legal advice
& filed a petition for recovery
of children - went to live with her
Mr^s Leeles - then re-kidnapped
for Redcliffe on Trent - ~~took them to~~
Bournemouth.

While at Bournemouth - with D Philpotts -
a tournament - met some German
friends - Crept on Boches went out in the
day - & he told her she was watched
as a registered lunatic

Was watched by a man called Oppenheimer.

Dr Rochussen at Forest Parkestone & 3 yrs
stood £50 in removal for Radcliffe -

While there was being set wards - obtained
with Mrs Whitehead Whitehead - - Boarding Ho.
with the children - - That her
husband wrote Mrs W. saying his wife
had been in an asylum - - Says that
when moved the children were constantly
asked by the maid/governess about their father -
also the servant & tradesperple - then
asked whether she had been in an asylum.

Had acute gastritis - - Baby had
Whooping cough - the girl at Boarding school
had heard that the F. wanted to divorce her

Husband stopped the allowance - sent £20
instead of £75 -

Says she unable to manage the house. if the husband helps her the money

deny - The Devil is in her. That she has wilfully wounded herself

Buys useless articles.

deny - Threatened to drown herself - cut her throat

deny - Threatened to cut the children throat

deny - Makes disgusting charges against her husband before the children

deny That the house & clothing is in a filthy state.

Says she has no money to buy food for the children - the money from stopped -

deny - She wishes to shut herself in the house & starve etc.

deny - She attempted to burn her hand in the fire

She washed down her privates as she had no money &
the money was stopped

The Retreat

York March 26th/1915

To Doctor Pierce

Medical Superintendent

Dear Sir;

I am writting to you to-day to let you know that as my pains have grown very much worse in this last fortnight since I have been here, I have thoroughly made up my mind to undergo the immediate operation the Surgeon Doctor Percival at Northampton advised me to undergo.

It is therefore my wish to consult Doctor Robert Hutchinson of Queen Annes Road London W. who knows me and is a well known Specialist, I wish him to get a private Ward for me at the London Hospital where he is Surgeon at and have the operation performed there.—

I have no belief in any Lady Doctors so it is since wanted to be attended by your lady Doctor here.— I like Doctor

Keep very much per-
sonally as she seems
a very kind woman,
but after the experience
I had with a lady Doctor
some years ago at my
boys confinement I
never again wish to
consult one or be
examined by one.-
I prefer an elderly
experienced Surgeon
from a large Hospital,
who is thoroughly
experienced in Womans
internal deseases and
thoroughly understands
his work.-
I have asked Doctor
Martin to write to you
full particulars of Doctor
Percivals opinion about
me.-

Yours faithfully

Editta Lucina Seelig
née Kelterborn

London March 24th/15
22 Earls Court Square
London S.W.

Dear Sir

Will you kindly inform me how you find Mrs Seelig? have you been able to form an opinion regarding her case?

I regret that the delicate state of my health prevents me from travelling in this unsettled weather; so I trust you will kindly let me know my daughters pre

sent state of health

Trusting to hear from
you soon

Remain
Yours Sincerely
Eugenie Le de Wahlstab

Copy

Rosemont,
Parkstone,
DORSET,
18th Decr. 1913.

To Messrs. Burton & Briggs,
Solicitors,
Nottingham.

I wish you to withdraw the balance to the credit of my account with the L C & M. Bank at Bournemouth and pay it to an A/c in your name to enable you to settle my liabilities and any expenses connected with my future arrangements. Any income you have of mine or any cheque you receive from Germany please pay to the same account.

I shall be glad if you will arrange for Tute and Alfred to stay with their father. I do not wish to give up any right I have to their custody but I promise I will act on your advice as to my seeing them on their returning to live with me and will not allow them to be made parties to the trouble between me and my husband.

As to my furniture and house, I wish you to make arrangements for the safe keeping of any articles of value and to deal with the furniture and house as you think best. You will, of course, consult me before any final arrangement is made about the furniture.

Yours faithfully,

ELLITA SEELIG.

542.

Encs.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

20th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L. Seelig.

We enclose the copy letter for which you asked.

We also enclose your account for board and maintenance of Mrs Seelig with Mr. Seelig's cheque for £54:12:0 in settlement of same. Please receipt the account and return to us.

Mr. Seelig has signed the Agreement but we are retaining it because we are not sure whether it is applicable to this case now. When the Summons was issued some time ago for the appointment of a Receiver and old friend of Mrs Seelig's who was a Chartered Accountant and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in Nottingham, Mr. Arthur Durose, very kindly volunteered to act in the matter without any remuneration. To this, Mrs Seelig most unexpectedly objected because she knew that he acted as Auditor for the . . Company of which Mr. Seelig is Governing Director. In the circumstances we thought the best plan would be for the Official . . Solicitor to act as her Receiver especially as we were accounting parties.

The Master yesterday made an order ~~for~~ that £250 should be devoted to Mrs Seelig's maintenance and approved the payment to

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you of Four guineas a week as suggested by your letter. Mrs Seelig's available income is £150 a year to be allowed by her husband and about £140 a year which she receives from her Settlement trustees. She is also entitled to money which comes to her from Germany but the war has interrupted the remittances.

We think it right to give you these figures as a guide in the matter of personal and private expenditure. In times of excitement, she is inclined to be extravagant, but, in times of depression, she can hardly be persuaded to spend anything.

Yesterday was the adjourned Hearing of the Summons. At the first Hearing, a Solicitor in Nottingham who has had a good deal to do with Mrs Seelig and, incidentally, a great deal of her money, appeared and expressed a doubt as to the propriety of her remaining under Certificate and suggested that her illness was probably of a temporary nature. The Master, therefore, decided to send one of the Lord Chancellor's visitors to see her and he accordingly examined her last month at Northampton. He reported that she was quite unfit to be discharged and held out no hope of the case being of a temporary character.

To return to the point of the Agreement, is it usual, in cases of this sort, for the Petitioner to sign the Agreement or should the Official Solicitor sign it as Receiver?

Yours faithfully,

Burton Briggs

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York

The Medical Superintendent.
The Matron.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.
TELEPHONE 1262.

18th March 1915

Dear Sir,

Wm Seeley.

I have seen Mr Seeley this morning & so far as he is concerned he quite approves your proposal. The whole question of what is to be done about Mr Seeleys property will be expected to be settled by the Master in London tomorrow - I am glad to have your letter in time to observe to him.

The letter expressing Mr Seeleys wishes to which you refer is in London. I'll send you a copy with pleasure. It was written by me & signed by him to record the instructions & wishes he had expressed some, Mrs Edwards our neighbour & Hannah Nurse & Mr Drew, who were all present & would no doubt say that there was no suggestion of pressure.

A home had to be provided for the children & there was no where for them to go but to their father & so far as

I remember the letter was a request to us to arrange for them to go to him while she was ill + unable to provide a home for them + to make a condition with him that Wm Leahy's under the supervision of the Court
right to their [custody] + should not be exercised + so soon as she was well + able to manage for them she was to have them again - tomorrow I'll send you the letter - certainly she gave nothing up + there was no pressure.

Yours faithfully

Edmund J Nagle

The Medical Superintendent
The Retreat
York

17th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter, which was just what I wanted. Mrs. Seelig denies point blank that she was depressed or in any way incompetent at the time you attended her in Bournemouth, and she moreover states that the facts contained in the certificates are false and that she was unjustly sent back to a the Lawn. There is, therefore, nothing more to be said, except that it is clear that her memory of what has happened is perverted or imperfect. I have not yet gone into the case very fully, but she appears to be a vindictive sort of woman, and she may easily cause trouble later on. I have not communicated the contents of your letter to her.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dr. J. Harman Drew.

17th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter, which was just what I wanted. Yours. Scotty carries point blank that she was imprisoned or in any way incompetent at the time you write and her Executors, and she may never state that the facts contained in the certificates are false and that she was wrongfully shut back to the Lunn. There is, therefore, nothing more to be said, except that it is clear that her memory of what has happened is revived or improved. I have not yet gone into the case very fully, but she appears to be a vindictive sort of woman, and one may easily cause trouble later on. I have not communicated the contents of your letter to her.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dr. J. Norman Grey.

579.

Telephone—497 Poole.

CLOVELLY,
PARKSTONE ROAD,
POOLE.

13 MAR 1915

Dear Sir,

I think your best course is to apply to Mr. Briggs, Solicitor, of Nottingham who is Mrs Seelig's Solicitor & also her Trustee.

He can give you ample proof of the value of Mrs Seelig's accusations against her husband & also that when she started she was without means, she had an allowance of I think £500 a year & an ample balance at the bank.

I think he would come over to York to see you. He was most kind in December

1913.

She was then on her own absolutely
Didn't unable to manage her own affairs or
look after the two children. Had taught
us an extravagant supply of clothing found,
& had no idea of the value of money - Said
she didn't know where to turn for money for
the children's tea &c.

I found her charming class, & absolutely
dependent on neighbours who were utter
strangers to her.

I am sure it will be well worth your
while to communicate with her. Miss.

If there is anything further you would
like to know please let me know -

Yrs. very truly
J Stanwood Pier
M.D.

Bradford Pierce Esq
120 State St.

17th March, 1915.

Dear Sirs,

I am obliged for the letter you sent me respecting Mrs. Seelig and for the careful statement of particulars. I quite realise that these are confidential. I cannot say that I have yet discovered very clear indication of insanity, although there is evidently considerable evidence of pervertion of facts. Amongst other things Mrs. Seelig tells me that she was induced by you under pressure to sign a document or letter giving her husband authority over her children, and that she did so against her will, and promised not to interfere with them. She says that the letter was written immediately before she went back to the Lawn, and was dated December 8th 1913. She asks me to procure from you a copy of it, so that I may know how she was treated at that particular time. May I ask whether there is such a letter?

Mrs. Seelig is excitable, bitterly antagonistic against her husband and yourself, and I can well understand how exceedingly distressing her behaviour has been.

It is clearly a case about which one will want a little longer time before one can form an opinion.

With regard to terms, the Committee at their meeting yesterday considered the question of payment for board, and as other patients having precisely the same accommodation are paying £4. 4. 0 per week, they suggested that Mrs. Seelig should pay the same. This is more than the sum mentioned by me, but the cost of maintenance has risen lately and the Committee have been obliged to raise the charges, and we hope this will be in order.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Briggs,
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

Please return to B. Sinai The Retreat.

Confidential - Not to be shown to the patient.

MRS E. L. SEELIG.

STATEMENT of FACTS.

This lady was born at Valparaiso. She was married on Feby.8th I900. Her husband is a German subject who, in his early days, travelled a great deal, and met his wife whilst crossing the Atlanti to South America. She was about I8 and he about 36 at that time. The acquaintance was a short one on the boat and afterwards a short one before the marriage when he went to Valparaiso to marry her and bring her back to England. He knew very little of her family and antecedents but the following details have been communicated to him in recent years. They are given as hearsay and with some reserve but are believed to be true.

Mrs Seelig's maternal grandfather was named Lacourt and was a man of intemperate habits who lived in South America. He had three children:- Mrs Seelig's mother, Roberto& Carlos. Roberto died at Lausanne in a lunatic asylum after suffering a term of imprisonment for indecency. Before his breakdown, he was a highly intelligent man. Carlos, the younger son, was simple and unable to do anything. Mrs Seelig's mother married a Mr. Wehrhahn-a German. They are said to have lived very unhappily together. Mrs Wehrhahn is eccentric, excitable, and very difficult to deal with and is believed to have had treatment in a Sanatorium as stated in the papers. There were eleven children of the marriage. Six died and,

of the survivors Mrs Seelig is the eldest of four sisters and one brother. Her second sister, Martha, has been a patient in a Sanatorium at Baden Baden and elsewhere. Her brother has been a constant source of trouble. He is excitable in character and has attempted suicide.

Mrs Seelig's mother told us that Mrs Seelig was a seven months child and she had always been delicate, excitable and self-willed.

The earliest date from which we can speak from personal knowledge is about Christmas 1904 when she was brought to our office by the wife of a very old client of ours from whom she had received great kindness. She was then in a most excited and hysterical state of mind and wished us to arrange a separation from her husband. She could not, however, give any reason for desiring a separation. We saw her husband from whom we learnt that she was ill, that she had threatened suicide, that for weeks together she had refused to speak to him and that he was in great distress about her. We succeeded in effecting a reconciliation and she wrote most grateful letters to us.

IN the Autumn of the following year she saw us again and was very anxious to make a settlement of her private money. This, she told us, she had lent to her husband and she was under the impression that he did not intend to deal with her fairly. A few days afterwards, Mr. Woolley, by whose wife she had originally been brought to our office, called on us and it appeared that she

had asked him to act as her trustee. He was unwilling to do this unless our Mr.Briggs would act with him. He was very anxious to do anything he could to help her. We felt so anxious about the matter that, before taking any step, we saw her Medical adviser, Dr.W.R.Smith,privately. He told us that she was suffering from an illness which fully accounted for the trouble that was occurring between her and her husband and which might very probably result in her losing her reason.

We saw her husband on the matter and found that there was no ground whatever for her suspicions, that he was treating her with great liberality so far as her money was concerned and would raise no objection to her settling the whole of it on herself and her children. He had no desire to benefit in any way. He had taken charge of it because she was frequently propounding unbusinesslike schemes which, if it had been left at her disposal, would soon have deprived her of her money.

Dr.Smith thought a holiday with a nurse or under some supervision was the best thing for her and it was arranged that she should go to Brighton but she became too ill to go and she was ultimately content to allow the question of a settlement to remain in abeyance.

Again,in November,1907, similar difficulties arose and she again pressed that a settlement should be made of her money and Mr.Wolley finally consented to act as her trustee. The settlem-ent

was made really for the purpose of setting her mind at rest about her money matters and contained a power to revoke the whole of the trusts and pay her back her money if the circumstances seemed to make that the wise plan. The document was settled in her interest by Mr.Edward Ford, the well known Equity Counsel, who, curiously enough, was engaged at the same time in a very similar case where the trouble was believed to originate from an identical illness.

About this time, under her Doctor's advice, her husband sent her with a nurse and two of the children to Bournemouth where she remained three months and seemed a great deal improved in health. She returned in April, 1908 when her husband repaid the whole of her money which has since been invested in trustee securities.

Again, in the autumn of 1908, the trouble ~~was~~ recurred. The household was in one continual turmoil. There was apparently nothing whatever to quarrel about but her husband described the year as "two months peace and ten months purgatory". Friends were introduced to interpose. The children were made instruments of. Their moral character was being ruined. There was another attempted suicide. The husband's health completely broke down and the state of nervous strain was exhausting both parties. In December of that year, Mrs Seelig wrote us a long letter begging for a separation and, after anxious conferences with her husband, the conclusion was arrived at

that an arrangement for her to go away for a long time was her only hope of recovery. It was proposed that he should make her an allowance, that she should go away, that the separation should be kept quite private and their friends told that she had gone away for herhealth, that two of her children should go with her and the two boys remain with their father. At the last, she wished to change her mind and made a strong appeal to her husband that she might stay at home but he thought that it would be better for her to go away for a time. She insisted that he should write a letter to her to say that the only cause of their separation was incompatability of temper.

Instead of leaving Nottingham, as had been intended, she stayed and commenced a campaign of persecution against her husband. She met her children coming from school, telling them that "the "devil would fetch their father away," accusing him to the neighbours of misconduct with the servants - making it impossible for any decent servant to remain in the house and necessitating his ultimately closing the house and going for a long time to Germany.

It will serve no useful purpose to go into detail as to her accusations but they were of a violent kind. One was:-that the body of a still-born child was concealed in a brass-bound box in the storeroom of his house. The box beingreally gone left for safe custody and locked up by a friend who had gone to Germany. Her husband knew nothing of these slanders but was treated as a moral outcast. The slanders were not limited to him. Anyone who was

friendly with him was subjected to the same treatment.

The position which we have always held since the settlement was made has been that of Solicitors for her trustees. We have been most anxious to do all we could for her welfare and have recognised that she was not responsible. We have always felt that we could neither act for Mr.Seelig against his wife nor for Mrs Seelig against her husband. On that account, she consulted other Solicitors, led them to think that she had grounds for taking Divorce proceedings and we believe that she spent nearly £400 in making enquiries and pretending that she was taking steps against her husband. She,however,never took any steps of that sort against him. For a considerable time she attacked us very violently.

From this date to 1913 There was one continual source of trouble from her. Her husband got a near relative to come and keep house for him and help in the management of his children. Attacks were at once levelled against her in the hope that it would drive her from the house. Mr.Seelig was prevented from ever seeing or speaking to the two children in his wife's care but in February,1913,her health broke down and she underwent a serious operation at the Womens' Hospital at Nottingham. That operation seems to have brought about a complete mental ~~operation~~ breakdown. She was discharged from the Hospital and took rooms in Nottingham, became extremely melancholic, continually threatened her life, and her friends appealed to us, very properly, thinking that the husband should take responsibility.

She was examined by Dr.Powell who advised that she should be immediately removed to an Asylum, was certified by Dr. Smith and Dr.Taylor of Nottingham, and taken to Lincoln where she remained until June, 1913. In that month, the Commissioners order-ed her discharge. She was befriended by a Miss Bagshaw of Nottingham who, on her own statement, had believed the unutterable charges ~~things~~ against Mr.Seelig made by his wife and was most anxious to serve her in any way she could. She saw Mr.Seelig and, although he was unwilling to make any promise for his wife's return to her home, because he was convenced that she would never be sufficiently well for her to do that with safety, promised to reconsider the whole . . matter if, after a short interval, she still wished to come home and seemed fit to do so. Within a week she had violently . . quarrelled with Miss Bagshaw, revived her accusations against her husband, charged Miss Bagshaw with being in love with her husband, disturbed the children at their schools and finally took them away in a motor car, in their father's absence, and without his knowing where they were. She then went to Bournemouth, took a house on a three years tenancy and furnished it, committed herself to very heavy expenses and, at Christmas, 1913, so alarmed her Doctor and the neighbourhood where she lived, that the Doctor telegraphed and wrote to us to go down to Bournemouth where we found her in a state of great depression, again threatening suicide complaining that she was quite unable to manage her affairs or

herself and begged that we should deal with her difficulties and make some arrangements for her. She was again certified and returned to Lincoln. We saw her very shortly after her arrival and she told us that she had never been so kindly treated anywhere and seemed to be recovering. Very shortly after this, she began to write letters to her friends in Germany ~~and~~ the Board of Control and the German Consul suggesting that her husband and we were conspiring to confine her in a lunatic asylum and she afterwards grew very troublesome - accusing the Visitors and the Medical staff of misbehaving towards her and, in the end, Dr. Russell insisted on her removal. She was then transferred to Northampton and. for a short time, the change seemed very beneficial. She, however, again began to write letters and cause trouble. Since her removal to Northampton she has again been most hostile towards us who, she thinks, ~~are~~ responsible for her confinement.

Her mother and sister came over from Germany on the representations made in her letters and stayed some time in Lincoln and also came over to Nottingham and saw us. They were satisfied that she was not fit to be discharged and they were unwilling to take any responsibility for her.

There is no doubt that she is very easily influenced by anyone who will accept her statements and forward her wishes. This has made her the victim of several people who have greatly aggravated her mania.

The foregoing statement seems to deal with all the points raised on your request except that there are four children of the ages of I3, I2, IO and 9 years respectively. We shall be glad to give you any other information that we can. The case is rendered very difficult by the hostility of the patient towards her husband whtch prevents him from doing anything himself to help her, although he has never refused to do anything for her benefit that lay in his power and he recognises that, isolated as she is, he has a very serious responsibility towards her.

The last time we saw Mrs Seelig was on New Year's Day last when we took the children over to see her and handed her a Summons for the appointment of a Receiver for her property. Dr. Rambaut thought it unwise that the children should be left alone with her, but, even under the restraint of a nurse's presence, she tried to cross-examine them and poison their minds against the people who were surrounding them and from whom they were receiving every kindness.

Her condition alternates between excitement and . . depression. During the periods of excitement, she seems to believe all the violent things she says about people and is very determined and ingenious. When she is depressed, she seems very nearly to realise the wickedness of what she has done, blames herself, accuses herself of lying, and threatens suicide.

In these times of depression she thinks it would be quite possible for her to go home and have private rooms and treatment there. Such a plan,however,would be quite impossible. At her last visit to Radcliffe, she got a crowd of caddies from the golf course and the manageress of the Dormey house about her and openly accused her husband's relative housekeeper of being his mistress. The presence of the children in the house is itself a conclusive reason for such a course being impossible.

525.

Enc.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

16th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Here with we enclose Statement of facts connected with Mrs Seelig as desired by your letter. We could add to them almost to any extent in details of her behaviour during the past ten years but that, we think, seems unnecessary.

Whatever we or Mr. Seelig can do to help in the matter we shall do ~~me~~ very gladly. The case is a most serious and sad one. We very much hope that she will settle down at The Retreat happily and ~~that~~ whatever you think wise for her treatment will, we are ~~assured~~ sure, be most favorably considered.

We must rely on you to treat our communication as a confidential one. If it were shewn to Mrs Seelig, there is no knowing to what ends her ingenuity might not twist it.

Yours faithfully,

Burton & Briggs

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE No 56.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT—
ALL LETTERS RESPECTING
PATIENTS AND HOSPITAL BUSINESS
BE ADDRESSED
"THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT."

ENCLOSURE

Saint Andrew's,
Billing Road,
Northampton.

12th March 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I am sorry that the copying clerk should not have made the necessary alterations on the petition and order. Mrs. Seelig was admitted to this Hospital from the Lawn Lincoln on September 10th 1914, and I enclose a copy of the transfer order on which she was admitted here.

Both Dr. Rambaut and myself found Mrs. Seelig a very difficult case.

In November 1914 it was thought advisable that Mr. Seelig should visit the Hospital so that we could confront him with his wife's accusations. He obtained permission from the Police (being an unnaturalised German Alien) and came on November 21st - I wonder it would assist you if you were able to see Mr. Seelig. Both Mr. Briggs (Mr. Seelig's Solicitor)and Mr. Acton (Mrs. Seelig's Solicitor) visited the Hospital and we gained a considerable amount of information from them.

I think it is Dr. Nicholson's (the Chancery Visitor) intention to again see Mrs. Seelig although he saw her on February 17th last.

P.T.O.

If we can give you any further assistance in this case please let us know.

I had dinner last night with a friend of yours, Dr. Baker of Aylesbury. He is at present stationed in Northampton on active service.

I enclose a short note which I am sending in reply to a letter from Mrs. Seelig.

Yours very truly,

A. Edgar Martin

Acting Medical Superintendent.

Dr. Bedford Pierce.

5/11.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters.
In reply please quote
No.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

11th March, 1915.

Sir,

re Mrs.E.L.Seelig

In reply to your letter of the 9th inst., I am directed by the Board of Control to say that Mr.Alexander Seelig, the patient's husband, was substituted as Petitioner for Mr.J.W.Briggs, by an Order of the Board under Section 48 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, on the 16th September 1914. This was done by the wish of Mr.Briggs, who had acted for Mrs.Seelig by whom the payments for Mrs.Seelig have been made.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D C Dickinson

Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York.

11th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to trouble you in respect to Mrs. Seelig, whom you attended in December 1913, and sent to the Lawn, Lincoln. She was transferred to St Andrew's and afterwards came here. I have to satisfy myself as to her state of mind. So far I have been able to detect little that is wrong except in relation to past events. Thus she denies point blank almost all the facts contained in your certificate and in that of Dr. Small. She also makes serious allegations against her husband, says he stopped her alimony, and consequently she was short of necessaries. In reference to her saying she would kill the children she says she stated that she would sooner see her children dead than that they should go back to their father's house where he was living immorally. If you feel able to give me any additional particulars fo the case I should be much obliged. I have little doubt that she either cannot or does not wish to remember what happened at Bournemouth, and consequently gives a very imperfect account of what transpired. If you have no objections I should like to communicate

the contents of your letter to Mrs. Seelig to try and convince her that at that time she was very far from well, but of course I will keep your letter strictly confidential if you wish it.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dr. J. H. Drew,
Clovelly,
Parkstone Road,
Poole.

11th March, 1915.

Dear Dr. Martin,

I find I was mistaken in supposing that Mrs. Seelig was admitted at St. Andrew's under the present order, but the copy sent to me stated that she was admitted at St. Andrew's, both on the order for reception and on the petition. Your copying clerk has not made the necessary alterations, and so I was mistaken on the matter. May I ask you to send me a line saying when Mrs. Seelig was transferred from the Lawn to St. Andrew's, so that I may note it on the papers.

I do not find it a very easy case. She makes accusations against her husband, the truth of which I cannot express an opinion about, but she certainly seems to think that all the doctors concerned have been wrongfully influenced by him and have been overpersuaded as to her mental infirmity. So far she has given no trouble, but I do not expect that we have seen the worst.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

11th March, 1913.

Dear Dr. Martin,

I find I was mistaken in supposing that Mrs. Scally was admitted at St. Andrew's under the present order, but the copy sent to me stated that she was admitted at St. Andrew's, both on the order for removal and on the petition. Your copying clerk has not made the necessary alterations, and as I was mistaken on the facts, may I ask you to send me a line saying that Mrs. Scally was transferred from the Lawn to St. Andrew's, so that I may note it on the papers.

I do not find it a very easy case. The wishes sometimes against her husband, the truth of which I cannot express an opinion about, but she certainly seems to think that all the doctors concerned have been wrongfully influenced by him and have been overpersuaded as to her mental infirmity. So far she has given me trouble, but I do not expect that we have seen the worst.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

506.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

10th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L. Seelig.

We thank you for your letter informing us of Mrs Seelig's arrival at York. It was a remarkable thing that the choice of the Great Northern route to York took the train through Radcliffe where her husband lives and that she saw and spoke to her little boy on the station platform.

With reference to the form you have sent to us we will do our best to give you, as a confidential communication, a history of the case for the last ten years during which we have known and had a great deal to do with it. The circumstances are very unusual and it will take a little time to look up our notes.

Yours faithfully,

R. Wilson & Pegge

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

504.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE No 56.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT—
ALL LETTERS RESPECTING
PATIENTS AND HOSPITAL BUSINESS
BE ADDRESSED
"THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT."

Saint Andrew's,
Billing Road,
Northampton.

10th March 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I am pleased to hear that Mrs. Seelig arrived safely, and I hope she has settled down comfortably.

What a peculiar coincidence that she should meet her "Baby boy" on the way to York - I daresay this took her thoughts away from herself on the journey. Mrs Seelig was transferred here from the Lawn Lincoln, and therefore did not see a magistrate here.

The Board of Control consented to Mr. Seelig being appointed Petitioner on 17th September 1914. As far as I remember I informed Mrs. Seelig of this change.

I am,

Yours very truly,

D. Edgar Martin

Acting Medical Superintendent.

Dr. Pierce.

9th March, 1915.

Dear Sirs,

Mrs. Seelig arrived comfortably last night. We feel that we have a very imperfect history of the case, and I should be glad if you would give me an account of the onset of the illness, and also fill up the enclosed form, as far as you are able, of the previous history of the patient.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Briggs,
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

9th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Just a line to thank you for sending the papers which arrived safely. Mrs. Seelig came along quite comfortably. She met her son on the way by accident. He was on the station at one of the places at which she had to change.

I have not yet had much talk with her, except to find that she has much to say on the subject of litigation and wrongful detention and so forth.

Could you let me know whether Mrs. Seelig saw a Magistrate after admission.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dr. Martin,
St. Andrew's,
Billing Road,
Northampton.

9th March, 1913.

Dear Sir,

Just a line to thank you for sending the papers which arrived safely. Mrs. Seelig came along quite comfortably. She met her son on the way by accident. He was on the station at one of the places at which she had to change.

I have not yet had much talk with her, except to find that she has much to say on the subject of litigation and wrongful detention and so forth.

Could you let me know whether Mrs. Seelig saw a Magistrate after admission.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Dr. Martin,

St. Andrew's,

Hilling Road,

Northampton.

490

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

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

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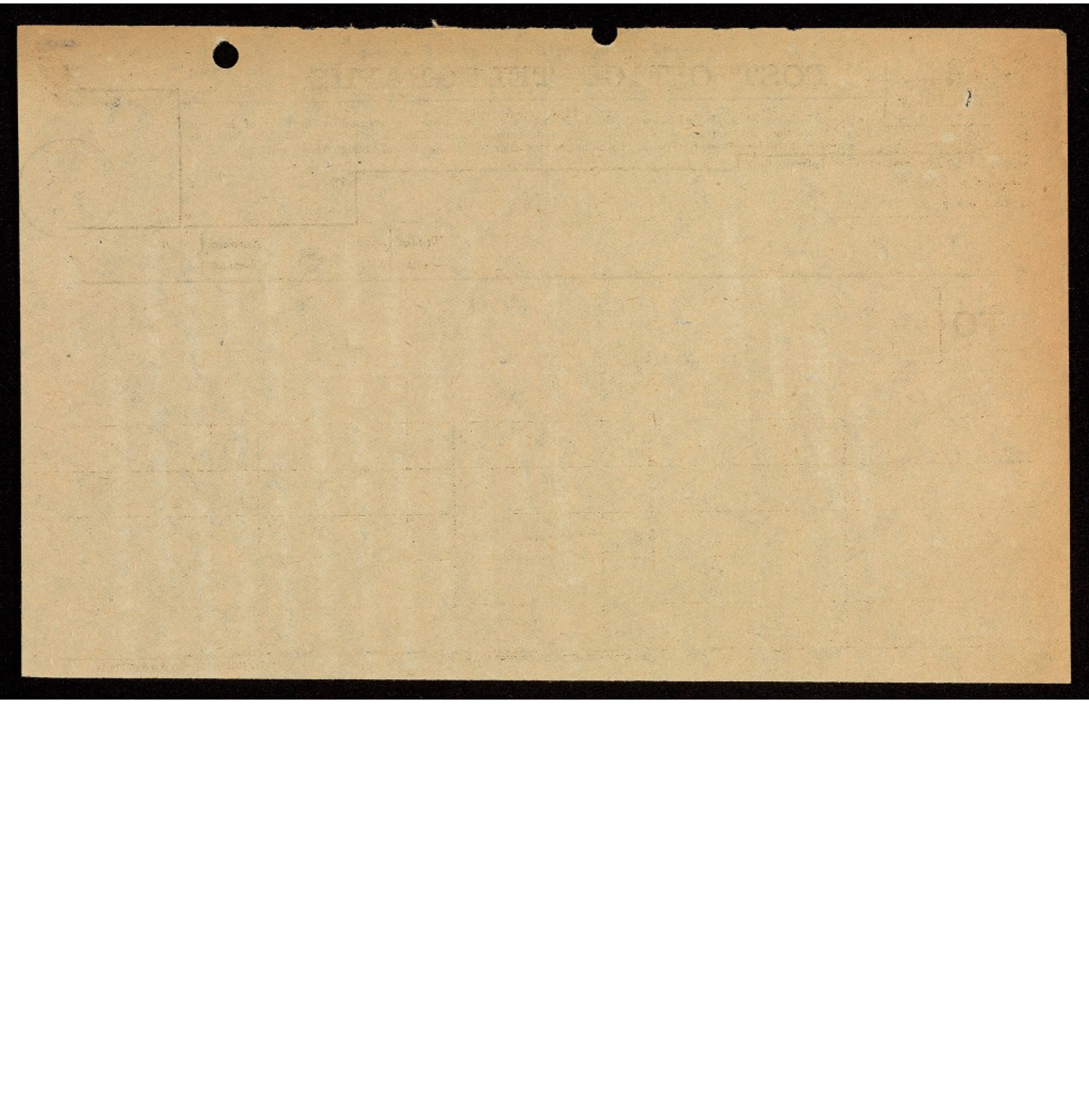
Handed in at 5 P.M. Received here at 1.41 P.M.

TO

Reply paid Dr Pierce
The Retreat York
Please wire reply to my
letter re seeing
Master St Andrews
Hospital



NATIONAL TELEPHONE No 56.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT—
ALL LETTERS RESPECTING
PATIENTS AND HOSPITAL BUSINESS
BE ADDRESSED
"THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT."

Confidential

Saint Andrew's,
Billing Road,
Northampton.

5th March 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I have received the Consent and Order Forms in the case of Mrs. Seelig, one of which I now enclose.

I informed Mrs. Seelig of the proposed transfer this morning and she appeared very much annoyed during the interview - probably as a result of being off her guard - she threatened to do away with herself. I thought it best to let you know this fact as there has not been any suicidal tendency since her admission here. I would be obliged if you would kindly let me know if Monday next would be convenient for you to send for her.

I know Dr. Rambaut has sent you a very full history of Mrs. Seelig's case, but since his letter to you, it has been necessary to call in a surgeon from the Northampton General Hospital to examine her. I enclose a copy of his opinion. Personally, myself, I think you will be able to trace ~~her~~ a specific history.

I trust that Mrs. Seelig may settle down comfortably when she gets to the Retreat.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Medical Superintendent.

6th March, 1915.

Dear Dr. Rambaut,

Many thanks for the further particulars of history which your colleague has sent me this morning.

We will send for Mrs. Seelig on Monday. The nurses will arrive at I am sending two as there has been the remark which suggests a possible suicidal tendency.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

4th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

We have this morning received the papers in this case from the Board of Control to lead to Mrs Seelig's transfer and have forwarded them to St.Andrew's Hospital duly signed by Mr.Seeli so that the way is now clear for you to make arrangements for the transfer.

With many thanks for your help and courtesy in this matter.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

Barlow & Suggs

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

3rd March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Our application to the Board of Control was delayed for a few days after receiving your letter in consequence of a report we received from Dr.Rambaut that Mrs Seelig was not well. He wrote us a week ago that she was quite able to travel and that there was no longer any reason for delaying the matter and we forwarded the application for leave to transfer.

As soon as we receive the papers from the Board of Control we will at once inform you.

Yours faithfully,

Burton & Briggs

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

16th February, 1915.

Dear Sirs,

I write to say that we shall be pleased to receive Mrs. Seelig at the end of the present month, so perhaps you will take the necessary steps to communicate with the Board of Control as regards the transfer.

I am obliged for the particulars you give, and I hope to be able to liberate a nice little room for Mrs. Seelig.

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Briggs,
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

14th February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Seelig.

I think it is very fortunate that you are going to London and I shall be very glad indeed if you will do as you suggest.

I have had a letter this morning from Mr. Winterbotham in which he says he can really do no more in the matter and can only say that, if the responsibility rested with him, he has expressed to you an opinion as to what he should do. The difficulty is: that no one can take responsibility as to the selection of a Surgeon. It is no use troubling Dr. Smith in the matter. The selection, apparently, must be made by Mrs Seelig herself. We can only take any steps that are necessary to protect her from an unwise choice. Whatever you think best to be done, you may rely on it being approved by Mr. Seelig. But all the expenses to be incurred must be borne out of Mrs Seelig's own money.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Pierce,
Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat, YORK.

Enc.

TELEPHONE 1262.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

16th February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

Referring to our previous letter, we enclose a letter we have received from Dr.Rambaut.

Yours faithfully,

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
Y O R K.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

TELEPHONE 1262.

11th February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs E.L.Seelig.

In reply to your letter of yesterdays date, when Mrs Seelig was at Lincoln she refused to have a private room and occupied a bed in a ward. At that time, she was most anxious to avoid incurring even necessary expenses for herself and no application had been made for the appointment of a Receiver.

At Northampton, she has had a small private bedroom which seems to us to be the most suitable arrangement for her case. There has never been, up to the present, any need for any special nursing during the night.

We are writing to Dr.Rambaut to ask him to advise us what he thinks would be the most suitable arrangement for her and will write you again on hearing from him.

She has always been well enough to mix with other inmates in recreation &c and in the rooms. Indeed, if she could be kept off her mania, she might very well be mistaken for a normal though exciteable and rather irresponsible woman.

Yours faithfully,

Richard C Biggs

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

9th February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Seelig.

We have now heard from Dr.Rambaut that he is willing that Mrs Seelig shall stay at Northampton until the vacancy to which your letter refers occurs.

The delay in her removal to York will be rather convenient as one of the Lunacy visitors is to examine her and all the arrangements have been made for the visit to be to Northampton.

Perhaps you will let us know when you are ready to receive her.

Yours faithfully,

Burton & Briggs

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

437.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

4th February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Seelig

We are much obliged to you for your letter. Of course it would be understood that you reserve the right to apply for a transfer if the circumstances made it desirable either in the interest of your Institution or of the patient.

Perhaps you will let us know as soon as you have a vacancy so that we may apply to the Board of Control for an order for transfer and make the arrangements at Northampton. We are assuming that Dr. Rambaut will be willing to keep the patient until that event happens and have forwarded your letter to him.

With reference to terms, perhaps the best plan will be to allow the matter to stand over until you see the patient and decide what is best to be done for her. The plan of expenditure would be approved, no doubt, by the Master in Lunacy who has now an application before him for the appointment of a Receiver. It is not a case in which there is any justification for extravagance in expenditure, but there is no reason why everything should not be done that his necessary for her comfort.

Yours faithfully,

Burton Briggs
G.R.K.

The Medical Superintendent,

Please return to the Retreat

Confidential.

St. Andrew's Hospital,
Northampton.

Mrs. Seelig is suffering from Alternating Fits of Depression and Excitement. She is subject to delusional notions, all of which suggest suspicion and persecution on the part of her husband and his lawyer. She speaks openly and without reserve about the intimate details of her married life. She also at times exhibits a surprising ingenuity for causing mischief and trouble. On admission here she was continually referring to the bad treatment she has received in the previous asylum where she had been, and spoke in a very disparaging manner about the movements and actions of the Medical Superintendent in this Asylum.

She acknowledges having had a desire to take her own life some 18 months ago, but she says that this desire has entirely disappeared.

She brings charges of a most disgusting nature against her husband, and among other things, accuses her husband of murdering an illigitimate child which he had by a housemaid. She is hypochondriacal. At one time she imagines that she has a floating kidney and ~~xxxx~~ disease of the gall bladder, and at another time that she had a kink in her intestines. Throughout her whole life she seems to have been treated as a spoilt child.

Her husband is a German subject, and there were many difficulties in the way of getting him to come to the Hospital to see me about 21st November - He obtained a permit from the Police and visited the Hospital about that date. He gave a most complete denial to all his wife's charges. He told me that she was of a most peculiar nature, and that she suffered from alternating attacks of depression and exaltation - in the latter she attacked her friends, and in the former, she wrote to them thanking them for all they had done for her. Mrs. Seelig told me on one occasion that her

St. Andrew's Hospital,
Northampton.

husband had given her drugs, and I particularly asked Mr. Seelig about this, but he informed me that he had never done so. He said that when his wife was pregnant for the 4th time she went to a herbalist and took some of his drugs greatly against Mr. Seelig's wish.

A prominent symptom of her disease is the unfounded dislikes she takes to patients and officials.

D Rambaut

Medical Superintendent.

5th February, 1915.

22, Queen Anne Street,
Cavendish Square, W.

Copy.

Jan. 4th 1915.

Dear Dr. Rambaut,

Mrs. consulted me first in October 1912 and I enclose a letter which I received about her at that time from Dr. Smith of Nottingham. I was of the opinion that she was suffering from Nervous Eructation and that her attacks of pain might be due either to Stone in the Kidney or to Appendix trouble. I advised that she should have the Kidney X.Rayed but I am not sure whether this was done.

In January 1913 she was operated on by Dr. Smith whose letter I also enclose. She was subsequently seen by Dr. Purves of Lincoln and I send on the letter he sent to me about her. I have not seen her since.

She is certainly an extremely neurotic person and as the Appendix has been removed and Dr. Smith could not feel any stones in the Gall Bladder it is difficult to see what can be the cause of her abdominal pain. Should she still be complaining of it it might be well to have the Kidney X.Rayed again.

Yours sincerely,

Signed Robt. Hutchison.

P.S. Please return the letters.

Copy.

Dear Dr. Kenbent,

Mrs. consulted me first in October 1913 and I enclose a letter which I received about her at that time from Dr. Smith of Nottingham. I was of the opinion that she was suffering from nervous Exhaustion and that her attacks of pain might be due either to Stone in the Kidney or to Appendix trouble. I advised what she should have the Kidney X.Rayed but I am not sure whether this was done.

In January 1913 she was operated on by Dr. Smith whose letter I also enclose. She was subsequently seen by Dr. Purves of Lincoln and I send on the letter he sent to me about her. I have not seen her since.

She is certainly an extremely nervous person and as the Appendix has been removed and Dr. Smith could not feel any stones in the Gall Bladder it is difficult to see what can be the cause of her abdominal pain. Should she still be complaining of it it might be well to have the Kidney X.Rayed again.

Yours sincerely,

Signed Hobt. Hutchison.

P.S. Please return the letters.

Copy.

Chorister's House,

Minster Yard, Lincoln.

August 5th 1914.

Dear Dr. Hutchison,

I have today seen an inmate of the Lawn Lunatic Asylum, Lincoln, by name Mrs. Seelig. She says you sent her two years ago and know all about her. She has had her appendix and right ovary removed and now complains of having had many attacks of violent pain suggesting gall stone. The House Surgeon assures me that there are not any signs of whites nor of crystals in the urine. Her right kidney is slightly movable. She also has Endoervicitis. She either is a neurotic and a windsucker or she has a gall stone, if the pain is genuine.

From the House Surgeon's account of her behaviour during the attacks it is hard to believe the pain can be genuine. What can you tell me of her?

D.Purves Surgeon.

Copy.

Chorlmeer's House,

Minster Yard, Lincoln.

August 29th 1916.

Dear Dr. Hutchison,

I have today seen an inmate of the Lawn Insane Asylum, Lincoln, by name Mrs. Scaife. She says you sent her two years ago and know all about her. She has had her appendix and right ovary removed and now complains of having had many attacks of violent pain suggesting gall stone. The Nurse Surgeon assures me that there are not any signs of wrtese nor of crystals in the urine. Her right kidney is slightly movable. She also has Endocrvicitis. She either is a neurotic and a malingerer or she has a gall stone, if he pain is genuine.

From the nurse Surgeon's account of her behaviour during the attacks it is hard to believe the pain can be genuine.

What can you tell me of her?

D.Purves Surgeon.

Copy.

Beeston,

Notts.

Jan.19th 1913.

Dear Dr. Hutchison,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th enclosing your former letter to Dr. Wallace about Mrs. Seelig.

I opened the abdomen and finding that the appendix was thickened and rather rigid I removed it; it was patent throughout but on stitching it up I found the walls much thicker than usual and the tip was considerably hypertrophied, there were no adhesions about and the removal was a very simple matter. I palpated the right kidney and it appeared of normal size and consistency again a little mobile. I felt all round the gall bladder region but could make out nothing abnormal. The right Fallopian tube was very injected and swollen. The right ovary was slightly enlarged with three or four cysts in its substance. As I had permission to do what I thought best I removed this tute ovary. The operation was last Monday and she is going on very well with a normal temperature throughout.

I am informing Dr. Wallace fully of what has been done and no doubt you may hear from her later.

William Smith M.D.

Dear Dr. Hutchison,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th enclosing your former letter to Dr. Wallace Boone Mrs. Beetle.

I opened the abdomen and finding that the appendix was thickened and rather rigid I removed it; it was present throughout. On splitting it up I found the walls much thicker than usual and the tip was considerably hypertrophied, there were no adhesions. Both end the removal was a very simple matter. I palpated the right kidney and it appeared of normal size and consistency (gain a little mobile. I felt all round the gall bladder region but could make out nothing abnormal. The right Fallopian tube was very injected and swollen. The right ovary was slightly enlarged with three or four cysts in its substance. As I had permission to do what I thought best I removed this cyst ovary. The operation was last Monday and she is going on very well with a normal temperature throughout.

I am informing Dr. Wallace fully of what has been done and no doubt you may hear from her later.

William Smith M.D.

Copy.

Beeston, Notts.

October 16th 1912.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Seelig at the Bayswater Private Hotel has asked me to write to you. She has been under my care on and off for about ten years.

Twice I have curetted her in very troublesome Endometritis and I think she had some chronic inflamation at times in the right broad ligament but never sufficient to warrant an exploratory laparotomy. I have felt her right kidney slightly misplaced but not lately. One doctor diagnosed gall stones but I could never find any evidence of it. I could never quite exclude appendix trouble, but I did not think her acute attacks were of a characteristic nature. It is possible that the appendix ~~xx xxx~~ is really the origin of a good deal of her trouble though I have never told her so.

She has had a great deal of family trouble and has always been of a highly sensitive nature.

Yours truly,

William Smith M.D.

Copy.

Boston, Mass.

October 16th 1912.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Scelig at the Bayswater Private Hotel has asked me to write to you. She has been under my care on and off for about ten years.

Twice I have operated her in very troublesome Endometritis and I think she had some chronic inflammation at times in the right broad ligament but never sufficient to warrant an exploratory laparotomy. I have felt her right kidney slightly misplaced but not lately. One doctor diagnosed gall stones but I could never find any evidence of it. I could never quite exclude appendix trouble, but I did not think her route attacks were of a characteristic nature. It is possible that the appendix ~~was~~ is really the origin of a good deal of her trouble though I have never told her so.

She has had a great deal of family trouble and has always been of a highly sensitive nature.

Yours truly,

William Smith M.D.

Confidential

Copy.

REPORT ON MRS. SEELIG. Feb. 22nd 1915.

She complains of pains at various times chiefly the menstrual periods, accompanied by a great deal of discharge. On examination a good deal of glairy discharge is seen coming from the os, and the os is very much lacerated evidently the result of previous confinements. There are certainly two rather severe lacerations, and the os between these is very enlarged and swollen, but there is no swelling at the posterior part of the os. How far the lacerations extend into the uterine tissue could not well be made out without examination under an anesthetic. To thoroughly cure this state of affairs would require a somewhat severe operation. I do not think that anything less than a vaginal amputation of the os would do any good, and it would probably require also curretting of the uterus. At her age and with the prospect of having more children I do not think I can advise this; it may be better to try and palliate matters for a time by getting the parts into a somewhat more healthy state, but it must be understood that these will not be likely to cure it permanently.

G.H.Percival M.B.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE No 56.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT—
ALL LETTERS RESPECTING
PATIENTS AND HOSPITAL BUSINESS
BE ADDRESSED
"THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT."

Saint Andrew's,
Billing Road,
Northampton.

5th August 1915.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I enclose you a few particulars about Mrs. Seelig. For several weeks after admission she seemed quite happy and contented, and pleased with everything, but after then her attidude towards everybody changed - nothing seemed to please her and everybody seemed to do wrong in her eyes.

I am sorry that you are shorthanded owing to sickness.

I have written to Messrs Burtin and Briggs saying that it will be convenient for Mrs. Seelig to remain here until you are able to receive her.

Yours very truly, With kind regards

D Rambaut

Medical Superintendent.

Dr. Pierce.

4th February, 1915.

Dear Dr. Rambaut,

I have an enquiry for the admission of a patient from Messrs. Burton & Briggs, and I understand from them that it is necessary that she should be transferred from your care. I gather that it is not a very desirable case. I am quite willing, however, to give the patient a trial, so long as it is clearly understood that if she is difficult to manage or does not settle in well she shall be transferred again. I have always thought that changes from time to time are desirable in the interests of the staff, so I must, I suppose, take my share of cases of this kind.

Unfortunately at the moment we are short-handed on account of illness, and could not take a case for a month or so.

If it is decided to send the patient here a few lines as to the special features of the case would be welcome.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

3rd February, 1915.

Dear Sirs,

We make it a practice never to decline a patients just because they are troublesome, but we must, of course, reserve the right to apply for a transfer if after a time the change of surroundings is not found to be beneficial. Unfortunately at the present time we have only too many chronic cases here, and I must not add to their number without it being understood that a further transfer may be necessary after a reasonable trial.

Just at the moment we are shorthanded on account of sickness, but in a month I expect we shall be ready to receive a new patient.

I send you a copy of our last Report, which will give you particulars respecting terms.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Burton & Briggs,
2 Victoria Street,
Nottingham.

4th February, 1915.

Dear Dr. Rambaut,

I have an enquiry for the admission of a patient from Messrs. Burton & Briggs, and I understand from them that it is necessary that she should be transferred from your care. I gather that it is not a very desirable case. I am quite willing, however to give that patient a trial, so long as it is clearly understood that if she does not settle in well or is dofficult to manage she shall be

I remain,

Yours very truly,

419.

2, Victoria Street.
Nottingham.

TELEPHONE 1262.

2nd February, 1915.

Dear Sir,

The wife of a client of ours, who is now in St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, and the nature of whose insanity is described by Dr. Rambaut in a recent report as "Manic Depressive Insanity" and who he described as "at times over emotional, impulsive and "restless and occasionally mentally depressed and having delusions "of persecution and suspicion and who believes her husband and his "Solicitor conspire to injure her", has recently become unhappy and discontented at Northampton and Dr. Rambaut recommends her removal to some other Institution.

For some months after her admission she was quite contented and frequently appeared normal. The experience at Northampton is a repetition of a previous one at The Lawn, Lincoln Will you let us know if you have a vacancy for such a case and send us a note of the expenses attendant on its treatment? The lady has had her own private bedroom at Northampton.

Although she cannot apparently help inventing extraordinary statements and repeating terrible accusations against her husband and her friends she, in simple ways, appears to be reasonable and writes fluent and often sensible letters. She said of

herself once that "her happiness in life had been to make others "unhappy." If this is so, it cannot be denied that she has succeed-ed.

We think it right to give you these particulars because the question of whether or not you can receive her may depend on your having available suitable as well as necessary accomodation for the treatment of such a case.

Yours faithfully,

Burton & Poggo

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
YORK.

Sept. 4th. 1914.

Dear Sir,

Dr. Russell of the Lawn, Lincoln, has written asking Dr. Pierce (the Medical Superintendent of this Hospital) to send particulars as to the admission of patients.

Dr. Pierce asks me to say that he regrets we have no vacancy just yet, the Retreat being very full.

I remain,
Yours truly,

Asst. Sec.

John W. Briggs, Esq.

Sept 4th 1914.

Dear Sir,

Dr. Pierce asks me to write and thank you for recommending the Retreat to Mr. Briggs.

Unfortunately we are very full just now, and there is no room for a lady patient.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Asst. Sec.

Dr. Russell.

TELEPHONE No. 165.

The Lawn,
Lincoln.

3rd September 1914.

Dear Sir,

Will you send your terms for female Patient, at present here, that her friends want transferred to some other Hospital, to Mr John W.Briggs, Solicitor, 2 Victoria St, Nottingham.

She pays 70/- here, her husband is a German.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. T. Russell.
Medical Superintendent.

The Medical Superintendent,
The Retreat,
York.

R. Wm Seeley

I enclose the usual form of
agreement which please return
to me when completed

Yours faithfully

Wm E Waller
Sect.

Messrs Burton & Briggs.

[illegible]