

**Skillington, Gertrude M.**

**Publication/Creation**

1910-1910

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Oct. 13, 1910

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter. I am not surprised to hear that Miss Skillington is still giving cause for anxiety. I am afraid the outlook is far from favourable.

It is good of you to send 20/- for the nurses. It is, however, contrary to our usual custom for them to receive any presents of this kind. The Matron is away from home just at present, but subject to your approval I will ask her to spend the money in some way for the benefit of the nurses generally, possibly in the purchase of books for the library.

I will inform the nurses of your kind thought for them.

Yours very truly,

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY

of trouble. also accept my  
thanks for Kindness shown  
to her.

Am afraid she is not at  
all improved. Her mother  
reports the first week she  
was very tractable & reasonable  
in every way. but today's  
reports are not favourable  
as she again insists of going  
about alone & her old delusions  
have returned. However she  
will be well looked after by  
her mother. As for myself  
I cannot further interfere nor  
do I feel equal to the worry.

To  
Mr Pierce M.D.  
York

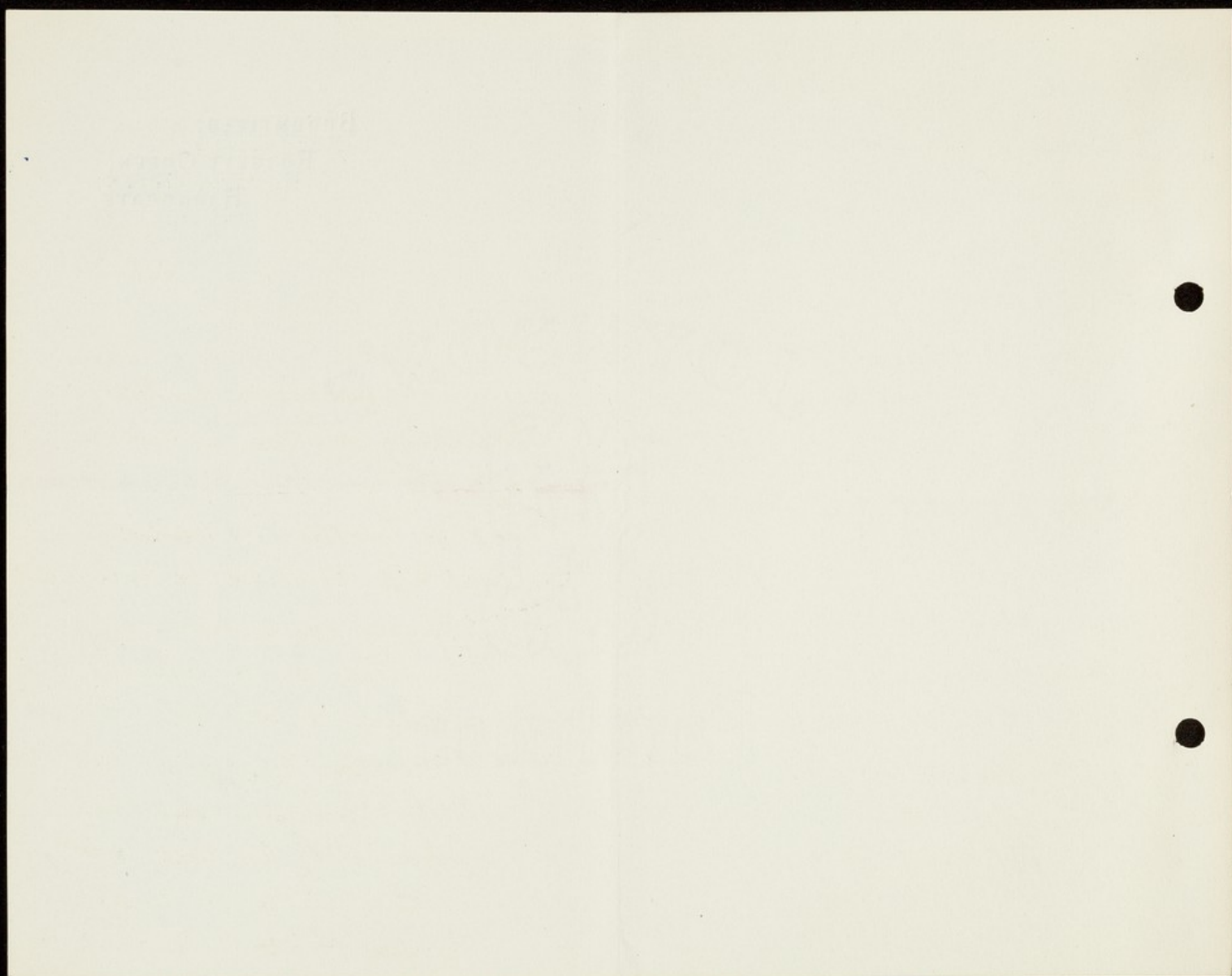
Yrs truly  
M Edwards

BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

Oct 12/10

Sir

Enclosed is Cheque  
5/14/8 for disbursements Re  
G M Brillington discharged  
Sep 29/10 which kindly  
acknowledge. I also enclose  
a postal order 2/- which kindly  
on my acc distribute amongst  
the Nurses who have to deal  
with the case whilst in the  
Institute. As know she must  
have caused them a deal



17, Charlotte Street,  
Hull.

Oct 6 1910

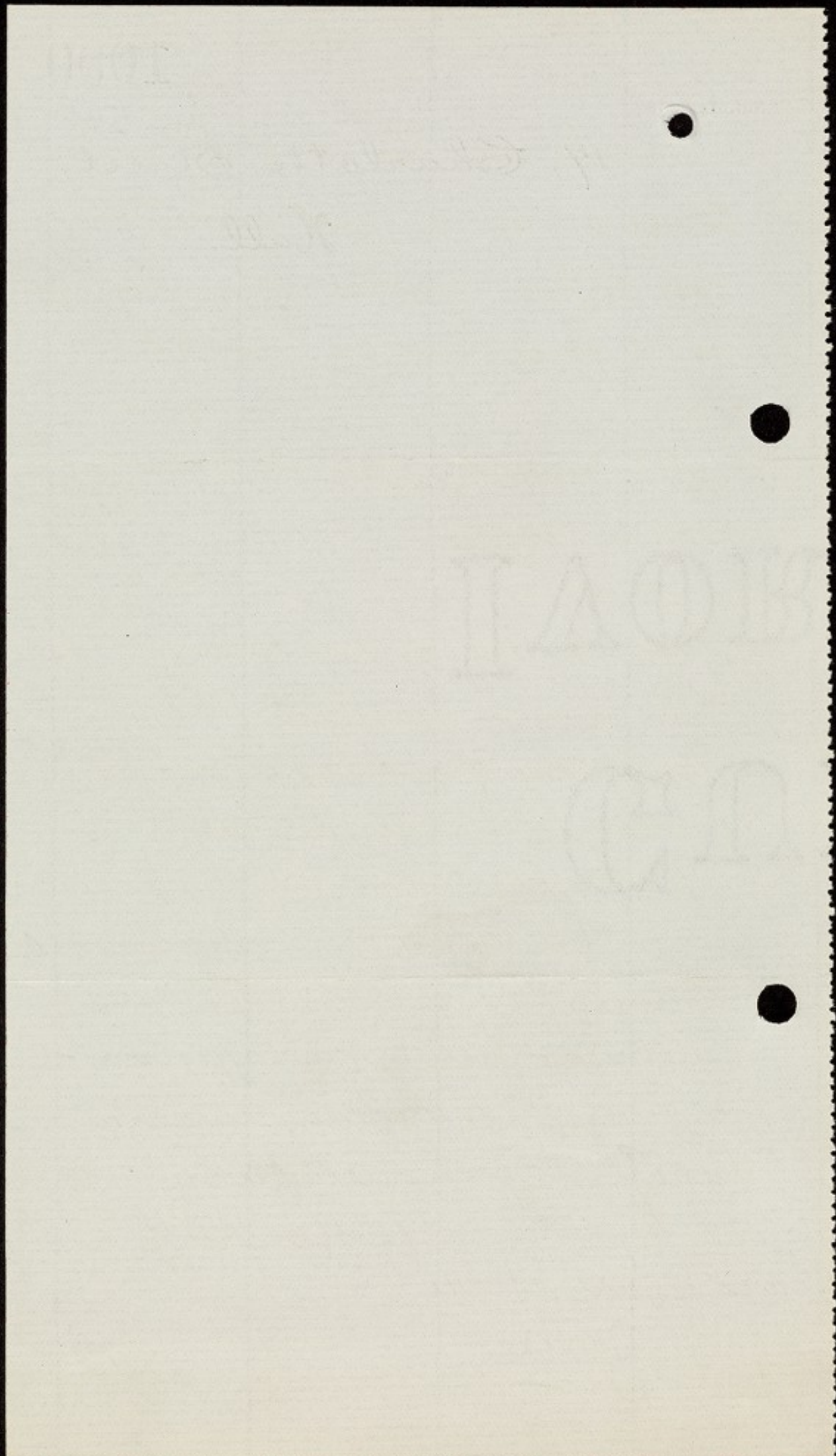
Dear Miss Kemp -

Thanks for your re Miss McKinglin.  
I never dabble in anything except  
Eyes - ergo please do not accept  
my G P I diagnosis as my  
ultimatum - But rather I was  
seeking one from Dr Pierce - or  
yourself in his absence -

One exceptionally distinguished ophthalmologist  
invariably (in my experience) diagnoses  
numerous G P I. in all vague Eye

Symptoms - Hence my suggestion -  
I will write you of anything interesting  
turns up - Yours faithfully  
H. Noel Ruff

Miss N Kemp. 17 B Ch.  
York



authority over her. & give my  
consent for the girl to be handed  
over to her mother, whose intention  
is to fetch her on Thursday  
next 29<sup>th</sup> about noon & you  
will kindly give orders that  
she is ready then.

As regards testing of her  
eyes if this has not been done  
it must remain over  
until her arrival at Hull,  
where she will reside. But  
if already done you will  
oblige by giving the prescription  
to her mother that proper  
glasses may be got.

Personally I regret this  
removal as but sure with  
you she has better chance  
of recovery, but under the

BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

Sep 23/10

Dear Sir

Respecting Gertrude  
Skillington now at your  
Retreat

Her mother is determined  
that she should be removed  
as she thinks the surroundings  
are such as to prevent her  
recovery & she will herself  
undertake charge of her.  
I have pointed out the  
difficulty of her tack & other  
matters, but of no avail  
therefore shall relinquish my

Circumstances I feel compelled to let the  
case go out of my control. I have not  
had any thought for planning this in the

Retreat but reverse.

I don't doubt but ultimately the work  
again have to be put under restraint  
but of this they must see their own  
judgment

Thoroughly only if their motives to be order  
+ if we have the spirit ready at the time

Yours truly

M. L. G. S. S. S.

To Mr. J. S. French

Hub

17, Charlotte Street,  
Hull.

Sept. 30 1910

Dear Sir,

I have been requested to give an opinion this morning - as to whether Miss Skellington (who left you yesterday) nervous break down was due to Eye strain - to which I have replied in the negative. My object in writing you is to ask whether you noted the slight haziness surrounding both discs most in the right - & the dark tortuous pulsatile veins with swelling of the centre & outer  $\frac{1}{2}$  of <sup>R. optic</sup> Nerve. - Altho there is an absence of Cerebral Symptoms except excitable depression & delusion. I shall be glad to know whether you consider this an early neuritis - & taken with the anxious expression - as an early GP. or you diagnose.

Yours faithfully  
Dr. Bedford Pearce  
W.C. Rockliffe

100

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proper care & treatment at  
your hands

Have not wrote her as  
thought possibly might  
upset her so shall await  
your reports before doing

so  
Enclosed is from her  
uncle in New Zealand kindly  
give it to her when she is  
in a fit condition to receive  
it there is nothing of impor-  
-tance about contents

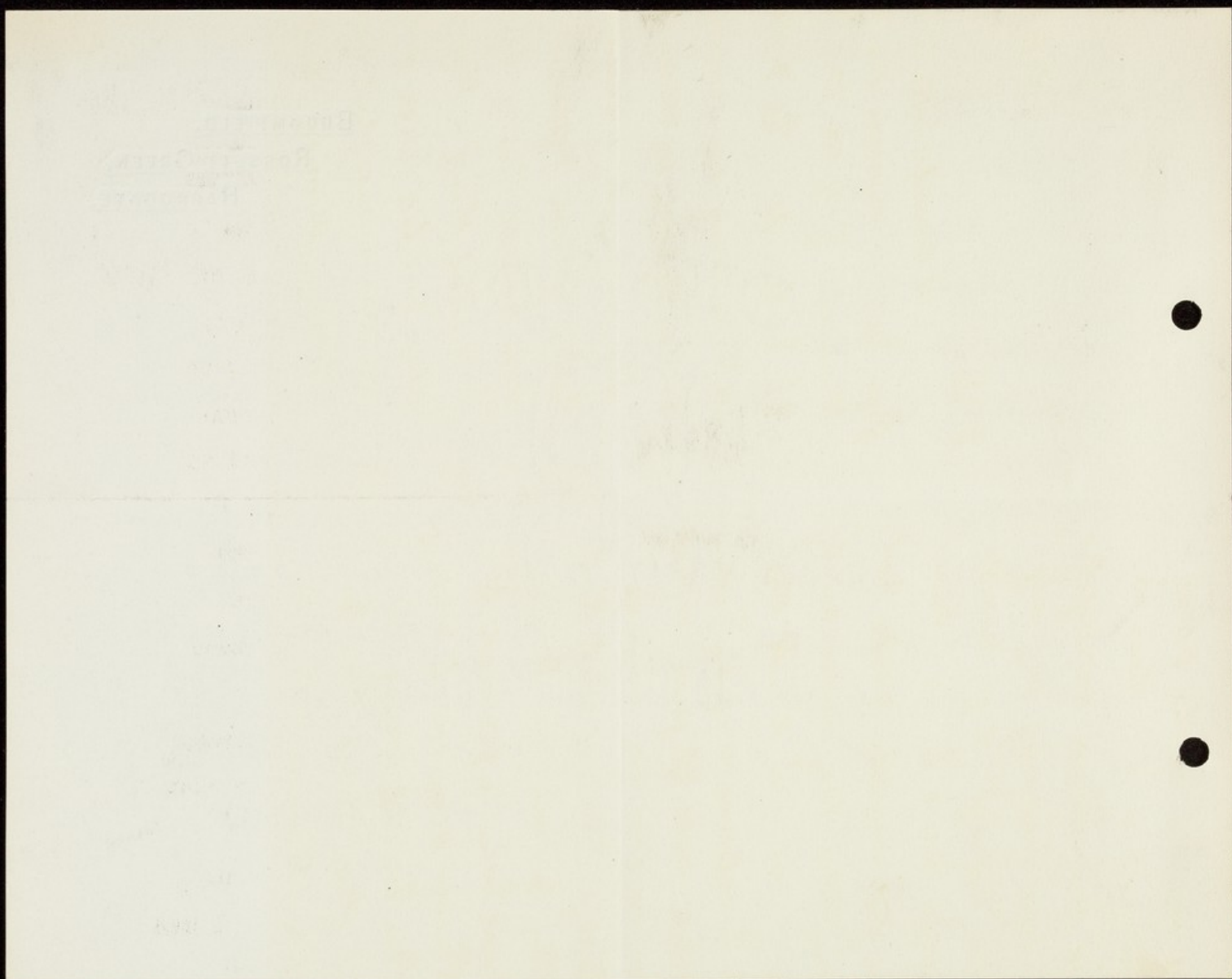
Yrs truly  
M Edwards

BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

July 9/10

Madam

Thanks for yours of  
the 6<sup>th</sup> respecting Gertrude  
Skillington. The £3.30 fee I  
don't object to pay for a time  
to see how she goes on. If  
the case is going to be a  
lengthy one then must  
consider further. Have  
confidence she will receive



practical opinion of the case.  
more so as her Mother is  
causing me some worry as  
wants her taking away  
from the "Retreat". & if dead  
she would have to go to her  
Mother as myself would not  
again take the responsibility  
of her. If you think she  
is fit to release day by end  
of month well ~~at~~ good, must  
do so, but if you advise  
contrary I must still keep  
matter in my own hands.

I have been informed of  
instances similar to Skilling's  
that the trouble arises at  
times from <sup>the</sup> eyes been too  
much strained & that an

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,  
"GRAND, EASTBOURNE."  
TELEPHONE No. 8.

GRAND HOTEL,  
EASTBOURNE.

8p 5/10

D' Sir

I should like to have  
from you a report as to the  
progress of your patient  
(G. In Skillington) condition.  
Is there any improvement  
or prospect in near future.

She has wrote occasional  
letters which appear rational  
but perhaps this is not an  
unusual thing - Her Aunt  
also visited twice & thought  
she was somewhat better.

However should prefer you

examinations of them might be of benefit.  
Frequently before her misfortune, confidence  
of Joan in her system, do you think there  
is anything in this, & do should take a  
qualified person to see to her & promote  
proper & faster to procure you could  
have this done.

I am at present on a visit here &  
expect to remain another week or two  
days & should be pleased to have  
your own opinion upon these matters,  
before take any notice of her  
mother's request.

Thanks to anticipation

Yrs truly

T.

M. B. B. B.

Dr. B. B. B.

Yours

6th September, 1910.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to say I cannot report any improvement in Miss Skillington. She is in a dazed, confused condition; she seems to hear voices speaking to her telling her that she is to go out, or go away, and whenever a door is opened, or anyone goes in or out, she struggles to follow them. She has been extremely difficult to get up and down stairs going into the garden, and though she complained of the nurses taking her indoors forcible, and appealed to me, she is no different, and to-day she would not come in, and had to be helped upstairs. She is well physically, and strong. She is certainly not fit for private care, and I do not see how her mother could possibly manage her. Consequently I cannot recommend any attempt in this direction.

It does not seem as if the case will be a short one, and in thinking of what should be done, I fear you must have in view the possibility of the illness lasting a long time.

I note what you say respecting the eyes, and it is true that some cases of mental disorder are due to eye strain. I was not aware that there had been any trouble in this direction, and will take an early opportunity of arranging for a specialist to examine her eyes.

Yours very truly,

RECEIVED  
EXTENSION & UTILIZATION

July 20, 1910

Dear Sir,

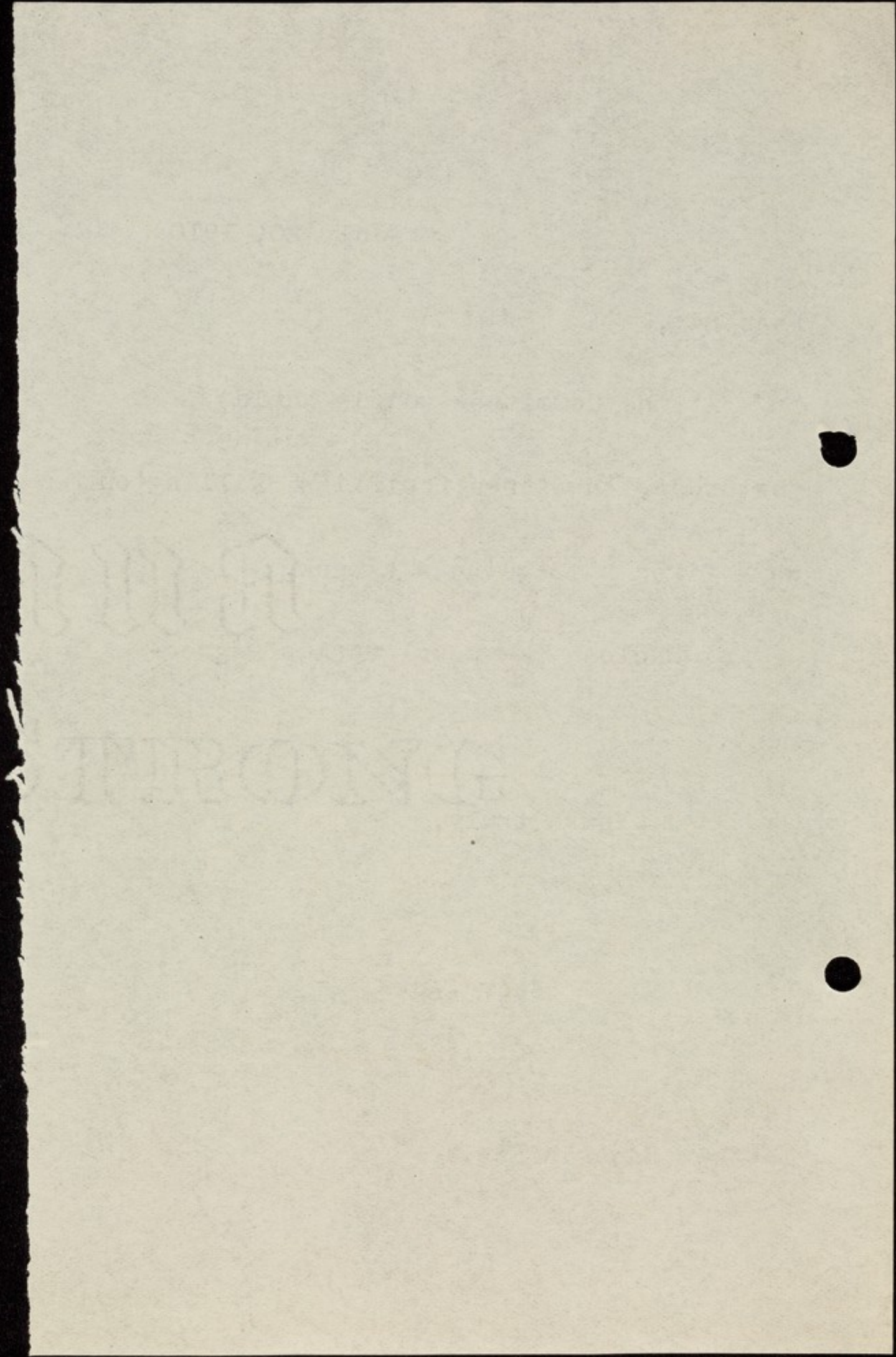
At the Committee meeting held  
yesterday, the terms for Miss Skillington  
were fixed at 3 guineas a week.

I enclose the usual form of agree-  
ment.

Yours truly,

Secretary

Matthew Edwards Esq.



as much as possible. As  
regards clothing any wanted drop  
post card they will be sent from  
her the girl having abundance  
& as regards mending to the  
I should be able to attend to herself  
& further do some for the Institution  
as is perfect with her needle &  
further such employment will  
be of benefit to her mind

At some favourable time  
some one of us will visit her  
but don't wish to disturb her  
too early

Yrs truly

M Edwards

Believe me to be

Yours

BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

July 27/10

Dear Sir

I return you papers re  
G M Skillington also one due  
for amount due for which  
forward receipt, at same time  
should like a report as to  
what progress she is making

This is rather a heavy charge  
on my income, but of course  
cannot be avoided. But  
I shall be obliged if you kindly  
instruct the Matron that  
I must keep down the costs of

Bohannon  
Robert G. Bohannon  
Harrison

Conclusion be favourable.

● I don't want to upset her  
by doing so, but will  
take your advice on the  
matter. Yr truly

In Carew's

L.

Dr B Pierce  
York

1/2  
2/12

BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

July 16/10

Dear

We should like some  
reports as to how your patient  
Miss Skilling is faring  
& whether it would be  
advisable for some one  
to run over & visit her  
some day next  
week should her

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the upper left corner of the left page.

as if say by return the reach position  
my mind will be more settled.

As regards her facilities for  
correspondence this must be limited  
otherwise she will do more harm  
than in the past. This is one of  
her weaknesses & will cause a  
great deal of trouble unless stopped  
to oblige by giving instructions no  
letters must go from her except  
to my self or my wife. & any other  
she writes, kindly have them sent  
to me & if proper I will forward  
them.

Before we removed her, she was  
very uneasy about a letter that had  
been written in pencil to her mother. & could  
not find it. Now we discovered it  
after some to you. & send same  
for your perusal (Kindly return it)

✓  
N.K.  
481-  
3.3.0  
BROOMFIELD,  
ROSSETT GREEN,  
HARROGATE.

July 5/10

Dear

As regards Gertrude Mary  
Skillington now in your Institute.

Owing to the anxiety & caused  
by this affair I had no chance of  
ascertaining what your fees would  
be so asked Dr Osanne to enquire  
& in fact arrange same. but have  
not yet got information on this point  
would you kindly say what your  
charges will be in this case.

My desire is that the Girl should  
have necessary comforts & attention  
to tend towards recovery, but must  
limit same according to my means

This shows state of her mind & we're so happy  
you let her that reference is —

She has been allowed to try surgery for over  
20 years, & for about 13 years in connection with  
her. This brings to the last numerous days of her  
periods from whom someone has, therefore no  
correspondence should be allowed there, yet  
change in these circumstances she turns to  
her mother in such letters ~~the~~ such  
matter you will be accustomed to.

Which is please to have report of  
her condition.

Yours truly

M. T. Andrews

Respectfully  
Yours

Yours

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



## YORK RETREAT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

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

receive Gertrude M. Skellington of \_\_\_\_\_

as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE

AND AGREE with Richard Thompson  
of Dringcliffe, The Grange, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or  
cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson

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

WITNESS my hand the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1910

Name M. Edwards

Residence Broomfield Rossiter Green Harrogate

Occupation None

SIGNED by the said M. Edwards

in the presence of

Witness's Signature

Address, and

Profession.

G. M. Taylor

Outlands Mount Harrogate

Gardener

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

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

