c/o J. Chambers, Esq.
407 Fulwood Road
Sheffield
5 June 05

Dear Sir,

With ref. to your further letter of to-day's date, I have the pleasure of sending you the enclosed cheque for £7-10-0 in payment of the balance specified in the accompanying account.

Yours very truly
V. H. Stephens

W. E. Waller, Esq.

~~straightening~~ settling difficulties resulting from the three years illness of my wife.

My address from to-morrow to Monday night will be "c/o John Chambers, Esq., 407 Fulwood Road, Sheffield."

Yours very truly

V. H. Stephens

W. E. Walker, Esq.

Secretary's Office
Gen. Post Office
London E.C.
4 June 08

Dear Sir,

I have discussed the subject of the outstanding balance of account referred to in your letter of yesterday's date with the Manager of the Bank at which I do business; and, in order to secure the rebate of £7

which the Committee are still I trust prepared to allow, I can, by special arrangement, now undertake to remit the sum of £7-10-0 by cheque to you immediately at any time on hearing from you.

My wife has been making gradual though slow progress, but has not yet reached the stage at which she can validly sign business documents. This is the explanation of my delay in discharging the balance of account in question, a delay which I regret. I much appreciate the consideration of your Committee in conceding to me the time already granted; and the concession has been of material assistance to me in ~~straightening~~

AND
6, PARK SQUARE,
LEEDS.
BY APPOINTMENT.
TUESDAY, FRIDAY } 1.30 TO 4 P.M.
TELEPHONE { YORK Nº 112. LEEDS Nº 391X.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

Nov. 12, 1907

Dear Mr. Stephens,

I can quite understand the point which you raise, and must submit your letter to the Committee of the Retreat before giving a definite reply. In the mean-time I may point out that the Holloway Sanatorium is more than twice the size of the Retreat and consequently the management expenses are proportionately less. Scalebor Park has been paid for out of the rates, and the same conditions do not obtain. I do not know the internal arrangements of either of these institutions, but I do know that a patient who is seriously suicidal and requires constant supervision day and night, and who receives as Mrs. Stephens received here a great deal of individual treatment, cannot be maintained without loss at any rate lower than 4 guineas weekly. Of course it is quite easy to keep patients of this kind and make a profit at much lower rates, but it all depends upon the individual care given, the size of the staff in proportion to the number of patients, and the number of patients who are associated together in the sitting rooms or dormitories, and in these matters I am unable to compare the Retreat with other institutions. The average weekly cost per patient at Scalebor Park is not published, but in the Blue Book for last year the average weekly cost at the Retreat was £3.3.4 and at Holloway Sanatorium £2.16.10.

Telegrams
RUSIMP LONDON

Telephone 9001 GERRARD
(25 Lines)

Russell Square
LONDON W.C.

30 Jan 1908

Dear Doctor Pierce,

I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £7-10-0 towards the balance of account in respect of my wife, wh. now stands at a comparatively small amount.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Vivian A. Stephens

Dr Bedford Pierce

IMPERIAL HOTEL
LONDON

(1002

Sec. Office
G. P. O.

10 Dec. 07

Dear Doctor Pierce,

Except pressure of Official business, both the man above me and the one below me in the Branch having been away recently on leave, has caused delay in replying to your letter, in which you acquaint

I accumulated last year has enabled me, without inconvenience or strain, to meet the requirements of the position in a manner which has been strongly eulogized by the powers that be. I mention this because it is no doubt gratifying to you, in the midst of your arduous and responsible labours, to know of instances in which your expert advice is appreciated

me with the decision of your Committee. Please accept my best thanks, and also express to them my appreciation of their considerate attitude in the matter.

I enclose a cheque for £8.

Dr Gilmour sums up the condition of my wife during the last few weeks as one of slow improvement. When I saw her a few weeks ago, I thought I observed encouraging signs. I hope in Nature's own time all will be well.

I have had during the last three months, owing to changes in the Office and development of the business generally, an altogether exceptional amount of work; but I am happy to say that the stock of energy which

and is productive of good results.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Vivian A. Stephens

Dr Beaford Pierce.

AND AT
22, PARK PLACE,
LEEDS.

TUESDAY } 2 TO 4 P.M.
FRIDAY }

EXCEPTING THE THIRD
TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

NAT. TELEPHONE { YORK No 112.
LEEDS No 181X.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

Nov. 20, 1907

Dear Mr. Stephens,

The question of the terms for Mrs. Stephens was considered by the Committee at their meeting yesterday and they wished me to say that though they consider that the terms, 4 guineas a week, for an anxious suicidal patient who is peculiarly trying to nurse and who involved much wear and tear upon the Staff, are by no means excessive, they are prepared to meet you and reduce the outstanding amount by £7 if you can arrange for the prompt settlement of the account.

When replying I should be pleased to hear if you have any better reports of Mrs. Stephens. It would be a great pleasure to us to hear that she shows signs of convalescence.

Yours very truly,

Telegrams
RUSIMP LONDON

Telephone 9001 GERRARD
(25 Lines)

(939

Russell Square
LONDON W.C.

11 Nov. 1907

2 encls.

Dear Doctor Pierie,

I enclose a cheque for £15-18-7 towards the enclosed account; and no doubt you will be so good as to cause a receipt to be forwarded to me in the ordinary course.

Now that the outstanding amount has been so very much reduced, I feel more free to ask a question,

as to the rate of £4-4-0 a week, which I did not pass at the time when it was first mooted to me, because I did not then suspect that my wife's lamentable illness would last so long.

At the Holloway Sanatorium I paid £3-3-0 a week only; and the same amount is being paid at Burley. I should be much obliged if you would kindly explain why an addit^l guinea a week should have been charged at York, as – so far as I am aware, although my acquaintance with the details may be very incomplete – the accommodation and arrangements generally seem to show considerable similarity in all three cases.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly

Vivian St Stephen

Dr Bedford Pierce.

by the two years illness of my wife; and if the Committee will give me all the time they can, it will materially assist me. The debt is decreasing and the security is abundant.

Yours very truly

Vivian H. Stephens

W. E. Waller, Esq.

TELEGRAMS:- GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, NEWQUAY.
TELEPHONE No. 0187.

after Monday 26 Aug.
c/o Miss Tregunza
Basset Villas
Camborne
Cornwall

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL,
NEWQUAY,
CORNWALL.

24 Aug. 07

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 10th inst., after being delayed in London and redirected to and fro to me whilst travelling on holiday, reached me two days ago. I enclose cheque for £20 and as soon as I am back in London at the end of the month I will see what can be done. I am emerging from the difficulties caused by

Dear Mr Thompson

I am sending particulars concerning the patient Dr Pierce was going to speak to you about this morning. The amount due to June 30 is £115.8.7 & of course there will be some further disbursements.

Yours truly

Wm. E Waller.

AND AT
22, PARK PLACE,
LEEDS.

TUESDAY } 2 TO 4 P.M.
FRIDAY

EXCEPTING THE THIRD
TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

NAT. TELEPHONE { YORK No 112.
LEEDS No 181 X.

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

June 4 1907

Mrs Jane P. Stephens
admitted Oct 15 1906.
Wife of Vivian H Stephens
Secretary's Office
General Post Office E.C.

Board Oct 15 1906 to Dec 31 1907.	105. 0 0
4 wks @ 5/5/- 20 weeks @ 4/4/-	
Disbursements	9. 12 6
	114. 12. 6
Board to June 30 @ 4/4/-	54. 12. 0
	169. 4. 6
Less Cash Dec 7. 13. 15. 11	
" " Ap. 15 40. 0 0	53. 15. 11
	£115. 8. 7

(300

CRANSTON'S IVANHOE HOTEL,
BLOOMSBURY STREET, W.C.

London, 13 April 190

Telegrams: "Redgauntlet." Telephone: 1904 Gerrard.

Also CRANSTON'S WAVERLEY HOTEL, Southampton Row, W.C. (Telegrams: "Robsart.")
CRANSTON'S KENILWORTH HOTEL, Great Russell Street, W.C. (Telegrams: "Everyone.")
AND
In correspondence with CRANSTON'S WAVERLEY HOTELS, Edinburgh.

I have just moved in here from the First Avenue Hotel.

Dear Doctor Pierè,

I enclose a cheque for Forty pounds as a payment on account in respect of the charges for my Wife, as set forth in a letter from your Treasurer of the 9th instant, viz 4 Gs a week except during the first month when special nursing and accommodation were provided in accordance with a such wh. I had expressed — to see if she could pull herself together sufficiently to admit of an early transfer to Thorncroft.

It would be a convenience to me to make this payment instead of a larger one for the

immediate present, for the following reasons:—

The term of my house, for which I have still to pay rent, expires in June;

At the end of that month changes in the staff at my Office may possibly augment my income;

As soon as my wife is well enough to execute documents in a valid and legal manner, certain funds at present locked up become available;

The amt. outstanding to the credit of your Institution is safe, as I have a permanent post in London of a kind in which I could not refrain from the discharge of my just obligations, even if I were

CRANSTON'S IVANHOE HOTEL,
BLOOMSBURY STREET, W.C.

London, ... 190

Telegrams: "Redgauntlet." Telephone: 1904 Gerrard.

disposed to do so, which I am sure you will believe is far from my disposition; and if eg. a Railway accident carried me off, the amt. is far more than covered by heavy Insurance on my life and by property of which I have the reversion.

It is the first time in my life that I have delayed payments; but the circs. of the last two years have been very exceptl.

My visit to York last Sunday was the most encouraging I have had. My wife made fewer

morbid remarks and more
agreeable ones on general and family
topics and on her own future than ever
before for 16 months; she was highly gratified by
going out to tea in the ordinary
way at a private house; and
Richards and his wife said if she
could only manage always to keep
herself up to that standard, she
would get on well. On Tuesday I
received, to my great satisfn a nice little
letter from my wife, the first for 16 months.
I am thinking about the kind
suggestion in one of your two letters, for both
I was grateful, concerning a Farmhouse;
but that requires some thinking. What I shd
most like is for my wife to improve enough to
go to Harrogate. I was very much pleased to
hear of the good there Sister Millais (I do not
know how she spells her name) had been
doing to my wife. Very likely you are the causa causans.
With kind regards Yours very truly
V. St. Stephens.

Secretary's Office
General Post Office
London E.C.
27 June 07

Dear Doctor Pierce,

I enclose the necessary forms in regard to the removal of my wife; and I shall be obliged if you will be so good as to arrange for the removal at your earliest convenience, as you are of opinion that a change at an early date is advisable.

I have to thank you for your sympathetic letter; and, needless to say, I share in the hope that the efforts which are being made to promote my wife's recovery will have a good result.

I may reply further to your letter soon on the purely business side of the matter, as distinguished from the medical; but I am pressed to-day with masses of official work.

Yours very truly,
Vivian S. Stephens.

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J

Secretary's Office
General Post Office
E. C.
22 June 97

Dear Doctor Pierce,

After carefully considering your recommendations concerning my wife, I think I cannot do better than act on your suggestion that she should try what can be done for her at Scalebor Park, Burley-in-Wharfedale. I attach much weight to your

advice in the matter.

I shall be obliged if you will be so good as to arrange for the transfer as early as possible; and I am writing by this post to the Commissioners for their sanction.

I have written to my wife telling her that I have taken great care to find for her a place which will suit her and promote her recovery; and I expect that a few encouraging words from you to her would have a good effect.

Probably your treasurer may have mentioned to you that I have recently discharged £60 of the amount owing to The Retreat, and have stated that every endeavour will be made to complete the settlement at an early date.

I am also writing to Dr Gilmour, who at my request sent me a prospectus &c., asking him to receive the patient.

I hope that, after your many labours, you enjoyed your visit to the Continent.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Vivian St Stephen

454

44, Sanderson Road,
Jesmond,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
2nd June, 1909.

Dear Dr Pierce,

My brother has forwarded to me your letter to him of the 23rd May and wishes me to give him such advice as I can. I am asking him to allow me to correspond with you in the first place in order that I may be better able to do so. I should be particularly

grateful if you would kindly write to me and give me your opinion as to how Mrs Stephens is and what you consider to be the best course of treatment.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

T. A. Stephens.

(473

44, Sanderson Road.
Jesmond.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
6. VI. 07.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am much obliged for your letter.

As regards the payments, I will write to my brother.

It looks on the whole as if it would be well for me to advise my brother to arrange for transferring the patient, but perhaps

You would kindly give me the names of one or two other suitable Institutions, as ~~my brother~~ the might prefer to choose from two or three.

Yours faithfully,

T. A. Stephens.

Dr Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

P. S. Perhaps you would tell me whether you think there is any chance of ultimate recovery?

Sec. O. (48

G.P.O.

25.5.07

Dear Doctor Pierè,

Your letter shall immy peeive my very best considn. I think I appreciate your position, as having to consider the interests of many. I do not wish to press the point; but, as regards your remark "that it is not possible to replace my wife in the Centre" because a patient there ~~complt~~ wrote complaining of her, it is only fair to observe that my wife has

complained bitterly to me that her sleep has been disturbed by the noisy behaviour of a patient in her dormitory and of the very disagreeable sounds made by other patients there. But, of course, I do not know, and do not wish to know, all the details.

Please have the following investigated. About 1.30 p.m. when passing through Peterborough Station on my way North last Sunday, I gave in a telegram for my wife saying when I should arrive (as she had been expecting me in the morning) and the clerks at the York P.O. state that it was duly delivered; but when I saw my wife about 6.0 p.m., she stated that she had not received it. It is the only occasion on which I know of a letter or telegram for her thus failing.

As to the effect of my wife's worrying ways on the staff. I really must point out that in the 6 months of her illness her servants (32 and 16) stayed on with her the whole time & were willing to stay longer, and they often had my wife in the kitchen to interest herself in household duties; one nurse stayed about 14 weeks & was willing to stay to the end of her illness, another about 10 weeks, another about 9; and this was in ~~the~~ a private house without the relief which nurses naturally find in the society of a large institution. She was then out for two or three

hours a day walking in the country, which presumably steadies her nerves.

I cannot find that any of the staff take her down each day to practise golf or some other game amenable to her. It seems to be croquet or nothing. I paid only £3 - 3. 0 per week at Holloway; and I thought that the extra £1 - 1. 0 per week at the Retreat would secure some ~~some~~ such special & individual effort. She applied herself very well to the golf and cycling with me; but I of course admit that it does not necessarily follow that she would try as much with a stranger. I carefully

refrained from bothering you, as you will remember on my last visit; but when I next see you, I think I shall be able to show that the fault is not entirely with my wife; and I know from daily experience of a large staff that individuals vary greatly.

I will at once think over the best course in the circs., and am much obliged for the sympathetic tone of your letter

Yours very truly Vincent Stephens

the reasons I stated in my letter which you quote ~~that~~ the Committee of an Institution which is so influentially supported would expect me to pay at once the whole of the account. It is the general practice of the business world and, I think, of the medical profession also, to give a certain amount of accommodation in regard to time to persons who occupy a responsible and permanent position; and the circumstances of illness and the heavy expenses arising out of it seem particularly

7 June 07

Secretary's Office
General Post Office
E. C.

6 June 07.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that there should be arrears of such considerable amount in respect of the residence of my wife, J. P. Stephens, at The Retreat; and, to reduce the amount somewhat, I enclose a cheque payable to Dr Bedford Pierce for £30 (Thirty pounds). I did not think that in view of the

to justify such consideration!
Owing to the serious illness of
my wife, after seventeen years
of the ordinary course of married
life, I suddenly found myself
confronted with expenses of a
kind which I could not have
foreseen. It is the only
occasion in my life on which
I have ever delayed payments. If
you will be so good as to refer
again to the letter already
mentioned, you will, I think,
not be unwilling to attach weight
to

to the definite considerations
which I then advanced.

I am communicating with
a brother of mine in order that
we may see at once how
best to meet the desire expressed in
your letter for early settlement.

If my wife were in a condition
in which she could validly
execute legal documents, certain
forms would be set free.

I am,
Yours very truly
Vivian A Stephens.

Richard Thompson. Esq.

Cheque encl.

Secretary's Office
General Post Office
E.C.
17 June 07.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 7th instant, in regard to the outstanding amount due in respect of the care of my Wife at "The Retreat"; and I have pleasure in enclosing another cheque for £ 30 towards the reduction of the

68

the account, and in paying that I will use my best endeavours to response to the considerate attitude of the Committee by discharging the balance as early as possible.

Dr Pierce has recommended, on medical grounds, the transfer of my wife to some other Institution, change being sometimes found beneficial; so that it is not a question of an increasing account.

Yours very truly

Vivian H Stephen.

Richard Thompson, Esq.

5 June 07

Dear Sir

My attention, as Treasurer to The Retreat, York, has been called to your a/c for Mrs Stephens who has been allowed to get through into arrears. As you are aware the Rule of the Institution is that fees shall be paid in advance, excepting petty disbursements which cannot well be estimated in advance. I find that the office have made an exception in her case in view of the cir-

-cumstances named in your letter of 13 Apr. 07 to Dr Pierce, out of a desire to meet her preference. But it is not practicable to continue this exceptional treatment.

I see the a/c now stands at 115.8.7. exclusive of some disbursements which are being incurred. I must ask you to be good enough to send to Dr Pierce a chq. for this amount by the 15th inst, so as to be in time for the next meeting of the Committee when the matter will be again before them.

I am
Yours faithfully
Richd Thompson
Hon Treasurer

Kirkman H Stephens Esq
Secretary's Office
London E.C.

St Louis Mo
Nov 13 1907

My attention is drawn over the Federal Statutes for the purpose of the Statutes which to have an actual existing fraud disbursement was committed in advance. I find the offer made an application on behalf of the ex-

Dear Sir

Enclosed is the copy of a letter which I received from the Secretary of the Treasury in reply to my inquiry as to the authority of the Comptroller in matters such as appear therein.

Yours faithfully

Jas. Stephens

Wm. H. Wolfkiel Esq
Secretary Board of Trade
St Louis Mo.

inconveniences which an affection such as Mrs Stephens' may entail on a family

I may perhaps just point out that the analogy between commerce or the medical profession & the Retreat is not quite strict in that the latter aims at no private profit, all the Directors & Committee men being honorary workers.

Our Com^ee does not meet next until Tuesday 18 25th inst. If by that date you find you can conveniently send another similar instalm^t so that I may be able to report that half the arrear has been paid I think I may promise a sympathetic reply to your

7 June 07

Dear Sir

I am obliged for yrs of 6th covering chq. £30 wh. I have sent to the Retreat & the Sec^y will forward you a receipt direct.

I note carefully all you say & can assure you that the Com^ee is not unsympathetic to yr difficulty — indeed our experience with management of the Institution has made us only too familiar with the many unrehearsed

request for some further time for the discharge of the remainder, provided that an early date can in any case be looked to

It is, I hope need not say, unpleasant to us to have to correspond thus, but it is essential to the administration of the Institution on its present lines, that a/cs should not be allowed to get into arrears

Laxity in this regard

on our part would soon force us to advance some what the terms charged: This we are very unwilling to do

I am
Yrs faithfully
Rich Thompson
Hon Treas.

Vivian H Stephens Esq
Secretary's Office
P.O.

Mein, O tiefe Lust
und Ding, verfleckend t'ro
t'ron, t'ro entzücken
Nun, tut i'n Sunnel
to di ohnmächtiger of
Die Dahlinder en ve
Thesaurd Sun, tief ofs
Schmerz to allerd t
Jet nach anders
Lust with Sporn

in ewigen Wand Dein
Feer in to ohnmächtige
wird die tiefste Strafe:
Die nur ein neuer un-
endlicher Lust

Dein
Ein treuliebendes
Herz Schwesterchen
Die Treue

Wenn N Mitteilen
Bestimmung offen
Pfl.

18 March 1907

Dear Doctor Pierce,

When I visited my wife yesty week, I refrained from asking to see you, both because Sunday is presumably your day of rest and also because I wished to weigh carefully any proposal before submitting it to you.

On the whole, my visit was encouraging. I took up various family letters and was pleased with the intelligent interest which she evinced in these and in my plans for her future, including

plans of residence and a Tour as the last stage of convalescence. I did not, of course, expect after her long illness, 1¾ years, an entire absence of morbid remarks. She made no such exited demonstrations as on the previous occasion, about five weeks before.

It seems clear, however, that her recovery is being impeded by certain things.

Her sore distress concerning the dormitory and the enforced companionship with people lamentably afflicted continues; and I was much surprised to find that she had been compelled to remain there so long, as I had understood on my previous visit that the change was

only temporary, of a disciplinary character intended to promote her better self-control in the infirmary dormitory. From the time she went to Holloway in Jan. 1907 I never knew her express such intense repulsion to her surroundings as on the occasion of my visit of about six weeks ago. It was this repulsion, apparently, that caused the excitement which then followed my departure, and which she complains caused her to be treated with harshness — her clothes being literally torn off her as she was bundled into bed. When well she is naturally shy and timid, by no means given to

complain and truthful to an almost hypercritical standard.

On this last occasion for the first time either in the North or at Holloway, she complained of threats of a padded room. Surely that is not necessary; or at all events such warnings should not, I imagine, be given without your authority.

The following details seem vexatious: —

As she has always been fond of knowing the time, and I did not want her to trouble the nurses, I took care some months ago to buy and bring her a watch, which being of gun-metal (worth only about 7/6d) would not come in the category of articles of jewellery not entrusted to the keeping of a patient. This has

THE FIRST AVENUE HOTEL.
HIGH HOLBORN.
LONDON. W.C. 190
TELEPHONES:—
"MANAGEMENT." No. 106, HOLBORN.
"VISITORS." Nos. 3096 & 3097, HOLBORN.
TELEGRAMS: "FIRST AVENUE, LONDON."
THE GORDON HOTELS, LIMITED.
THE FIRST AVENUE HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, BRIGHTON.
AND CLARENCE ROOMS, BRIGHTON.
THE CLIFTONVILLE HOTEL, MARGATE.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, FOLKESTONE.
THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, LONDON.
AND WHITEHALL ROOMS, LONDON.
THE BURLINGTON HOTEL, EASTBOURNE.
THE ROYAL PIER HOTEL, RYDE, I. OF W.
THE LORD WARDEN HOTEL, DOVER.
THE GRAND HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, MONTE CARLO.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, CANNES.
THE HOTEL VICTORIA, LONDON.
THE GRAND HOTEL, BROADSTAIRS.
THE HÔTEL ROYAL, DIEPPE.

5

been taken away from her; and some weeks ago one of the points you mentioned to me was that the nurses complained of frequent enquiries about the time.

A little handbag which I gave her just before she went North has shared the same fate.

She seems to have no private, locked receptacle for her letters, bookets; and she dislikes having to leave about letters from myself

6

and relatives.

It is also only fair to remember that it is more difficult for a person of my wife's age than for a young girl to accommodate herself, after seventeen years of married life and control of a household, to a great change of habits, e.g. going to bed at 7.30 p.m. instead of after 11.0 p.m. as is so usual in London.

As far as I can make out, shortness of staff has placed obstacles in the way of some of the patients getting as much of the open air as not otherwise have been granted.

I

I attach very great importance now that the Spring is beginning to my wife making some improvement and not sinking, in the absence of the elasticity of youth, into a chronic state of distress and dejection, and I have tried to do my best to prevent this by showing to her by letters and messages from friends that her place is being kept for her and her return to all the usual round of life eagerly desired. In all the cases, I beg of you to be so kind as to consider carefully the following

proposal:—

Could she not, on promise of improved behaviour, be restored to the original dormitory with the hope of going after a week or a fortnight to Thorncroft? and, if she behaved well, could she not then go? If such a course commended itself to you, I am sure that Sister Florence would try to make it a success as I think she is interested in my wife from the accounts I have given to her.

My object in writing is, I need hardly say, not critical but practical and limited to the

desire

THE FIRST AVENUE HOTEL.
HIGH HOLBORN.
TELEPHONES:-
"MANAGEMENT" No 106, HOLBORN.
"VISITORS" Nos 3096 & 3097, HOLBORN.
TELEGRAMS: "FIRST AVENUE, LONDON."
LONDON. W.C. 190
THE GORDON HOTELS, LIMITED.
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THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, LONDON.
AND WHITEHALL ROOMS,
THE BURLINGTON HOTEL, EASTBOURNE.
THE ROYAL PIER HOTEL, RYDE, I. of W.
THE LORD WARDEN HOTEL, DOVER.
THE GRAND HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL METROPOLE, MONTE CARLO
THE HÔTEL METROPOLE, CANNES.
THE HÔTEL VICTORIA, LONDON.
THE GRAND HOTEL, BROADSTAIRS.
THE HÔTEL ROYAL, DIEPPE.

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of facilitating the recovery of an individual patient whose interests I have to consider, whilst at the same time I recognize that the Chief of such an institution as yours has to take many circs. into account in arriving at his decisions.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Vivian A. Stephens

Dr Bedford Pierce.

P.S.

P.S. I was much gratified to hear from Doctor Kemp that my wife had gone to a performance at a theatre and had behaved well; and I have also to thank you all for your courtesy in granting me interviews with my wife on a Sunday, in view of my residing so far away.

THE FIRST AVENUE HOTEL.
HIGH HOLBORN.
LONDON. W.C.
TELEPHONES:—
"MANAGEMENT," No 106, HOLBORN.
"VISITORS," Nos 3096 & 3097, HOLBORN.
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THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE AND CLARENCE ROOMS, BRIGHTON.
THE CLIFTONVILLE HOTEL, MARGATE.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE, FOLKESTONE.
THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE AND WHITEHALL ROOMS, LONDON.
THE BURLINGTON HOTEL, EASTBOURNE.
THE ROYAL PIER HOTEL, RYDE, I. of W.
THE LORD WARDEN HOTEL, DOVER.
THE GRAND HOTEL, LONDON.
THE HÔTEL METROPOLE, MONTE CARLO.
THE HÔTEL METROPOLE, CANNES.
THE HOTEL VICTORIA, LONDON.
THE GRAND HOTEL, BROADSTAIRS.
THE HÔTEL ROYAL, DIEPPE.

16 Jan. 1907

Dear Doctor Pierie,

I should be very glad if, so soon as you can spare the time, you would be so kind as to let me know how my wife, whom I tried to cheer and usefully exhort at Xmas, is now getting on. Is she now free from the dormitory, with less agreeable inmates, to which she had to be sent just before Xmas and which she seemed to dislike

so much? How does she now occupy herself? Is the time arrived when she would be able to do typewriting for me if her typewriting machine were sent up to her?

In seventeen years of married life she has got into the habit of centering her pursuits and occupations around myself, so much so that in all probability she finds it very difficult, at her time of life, to block out a different round of employments.

It seems to distress her more than it would some people of different temperaments

to think of herself as in an asylum, the modern conception of a specialist hospital for maladies of the nervous system not being quite in accordance with her non-scientific manner of considering the subject. I am inclined to think that when she was well enough to be at Throxenby, she would be much encouraged and would try harder to complete the recovery. The kind of physical exercise which she used to like best and which used to benefit her most was cycling. It would

be a great pleasure to me if it were in my power to do anything for her which would at all assist your endeavour on the medical side to promote her well-being.

It has occurred to me that, if her condition were suitable — as to which you are, of course, the judge — it ~~would~~ might stimulate her to do her best, if the next time I went north, she and a nurse went with me to Scarboro and to Throxenby for the day, returning in the evening.

She used to like typewriting for me.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Vivian A Stephens

(831

Enclosure

Secretary's Office
General Post Office
E. C.

11 Oct. 01

Dear Doctor Pierce,

Please accept my best thanks for your very prompt and much valued letter as to my wife's transfer to your care from the Holloway Sanatorium.

I duly obtained the consent (in duplicate) from the Commissioners, and have to-day sent the two

copies and the order in duplicate signed by myself to Dr Moore. The Commissioners require the transfer to be made on or before the 16th instant, and the patient to be accompanied by at least two efficient and responsible persons.

I enclose the form which you will require.

I did not know that there wd be any difficulty in Nurse Large and perhaps one of her colleagues as well coming up to London for the transfer; and, after carefully thinking over what you say, I would still

prepare, if it cd be effected, the following arrangement:

Nurse Large and Nurse Pallister to arrive in London to-morrow evening and travel with my wife on Sat. or Sunday;

or,

if that is impracticable, Nurse Pallister and Nurse Markell.

I have considerably brightened up my wife in the two interviews which I have had with her in the months which have elapsed since

my return to Rome by impressing upon her that she is now about to enter upon a new and encouraging stage of the convalescence; and she certainly seems more ready to try to pull herself together and take an interest in things, e.g. at my request she started reading again & read Marie Corelli's last novel & liked it.

She is thoroughly weary of Holloway and everything belonging to it; — and I think not

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to enable her to get more exercise and variety. Before she went to Holloway, she used to have under medical advice — long daily walks in the country near her home with her two nurses or with a nurse and a servant.

Again, when her brother and I went to Holloway last January to see about her admission, we were shown a dormitory containing about six beds and were told that

there was the usual number. But, without any communication with her brother or myself, she was placed, and has long been in a "observation" dormitory of 15 ~~persons~~ patients, where a nurse was on duty all night to prevent suicidal tendency. It has been highly distressing to her to have to consort with so many patients every night; and my point is that her relatives were not consulted as to whether they were willing to pay for something better.

When I first saw her about 2 months ago, she was weeping bitterly — an almost unprecedented thing with her — at the threats used to her that she was about to be relegated to something or other they called "Tiger Court" — a place where very obstreperous persons were kept; and I wrote to Dr Moore on the subject.

As to the picking of the skin, I should like to tell you that her father suffered very badly from gout (he was

without some cause.

On the ground of suicidal tendency and habit of picking at her face and fingers, she has been kept all through the heat of this splendid summer in a small part only of the beautiful grounds of Holloway; nor was my brother-in-law or myself asked if we would care to enter into some arrangt. under wh. she cd have a special nurse told off

much too fond of alcoholic beverages) and my wife has been accustomed to saccharine, instead of sugar, for many years. I forgot to enquire at Holloway whether she got saccharine or not. With little exercise, much despair & gout in the system (with or the saccharin) the picking could be accounted for.

Could she have a room to herself and her special nurse when she is at The Retreat? Could she have Nurse Pullister if Nurse Large cannot be spared?

I

I have thought it necessary in fairness to my wife, and probably useful to you, to mention to yourself alone ——— of course, confidentially, — these details of the life at Holloway.

I have told Mr Moore in my letter to-day my preference for two nurses coming down from York, saying that that course would encourage my wife to believe that she was at last making a fresh start. So that, if you can manage, with convenience

to your self, the departure from the general rule to wh. you refer, Dr Moore will, if he feels aggrieved at all, feel so with me and not ~~against~~ with me of his professional brethren. I am well aware that in the medical, as in other professions, the unwritten laws and usages are very strong.

I will hope that you will be so good as to write me at the Office in the morning or afternoon. The address is:— "Vivian Stephens
Secretary's Office
General Post Office
London"

I shall carefully act on your much esteemed advice in regard to my own health. I have run in consequence of dark nights, and autumnal inclemencies, removed to

"Fifth Avenue Hotel
High Holborn
W.C."

When at Hind Head, I used to cycle only between the Hotel and the Station at Haslemere 3¾ miles distant, — not into London. I shall spend weekends on the hills or by the sea.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly
Vivian St. Stephens.

P. S.

It occurs to me on reading over my letter, which I have had to write in great haste, that I had better mention that any enquiries I made of Sister Florence or Nurse Large about my wife was explicitly made provisionally, "subject to approval" – to use an offl. phrase, of yourself.

Also, when I was up North I found that Nurse Large and Nurse Pattison were curious about the rights of the

metropolis; and I thought that if there was any interesting journey to be taken, as a little change from the regular routine, I would prefer that this should fall to the lot of your staff rather than to persons with whom I was not acquainted. A peep at London, if only a very brief one, is generally welcome to the younger generation; — but, of course, this is a very secondary aspect of the matter.

V. H. S.

Don't trouble to send any long reply. I recognize the value of your time!

I should like her to have for a nurse-companion later on Nurse Large, who is, I understand, well qualified professionally and whose personal qualities are, I think, of a kind which would be congenial to my wife. In the meantime, while my wife is at Throxenby, I should like to come to an arrangement under which Nurse Large would be able to give all her time, or practically all her time, to her, — taking her for walks, playing games, learning golf with her &c. as the convalescence

The official address (10 – 5) is 725 Secretary's Office, General Post Office.

Hind Head Beacon Hotel
Haslemere
Surrey
22 Sep. 04

Dear Doctor Pierce,

You will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that I increased the large stock of health and energy acquired during my residence and explorations in the North, during the stay which I afterwards made at Bexhill and at Newquay and other places in Cornwall. Needless to say, I remember with gratitude

and pleasure my intercourse with yourself and your accomplished staff, including your representative at Thrxenby Hall.

I have been giving careful, though not unduly anxious thought, to the question of the best measures for promoting my wife's recovery. Dr Moore, and Dr Smith — who more immediately superintends the female side at Holloway Sanatorium (where my wife has been since January) concur with me that a complete change of surroundings is now very advisable for her; and

and I arranged for her stay in Virginia Water not to be continued beyond the present month. I want you to be so good as to help me as follows.

My wife has already had nine months of the regular treatment; and I greatly desire that she might now go to Thrxenby Hall, and — as her recovery proceeds — play games, learn golf, walk on the promenade and enjoy the freer life and the magnificent air which blows over Thrxenby from moorland and sea.

Tuesday or Wed^y. for three or four days and have the last day or days of the holiday made up to her in some manner. Then, when she had seen my wife comfortably installed in Moroccoly (assuming that her experience of the patient made her favour that course) she could go on with her holiday, and commence duty as her attendant after the holiday was terminated.

I ought to have written this before, I admit; but I have had a great deal of public and private

proceeded. My wife has had no such special attendant hitherto; and as her naturally retiring disposition has been accentuated by nervous exhaustion, the want of a definitely appointed companion, of congenial character, has, I think, contributed to retard her recovery. Inter alia, the want has greatly restricted her use of the grounds, — particularly unfortunate during the long continued heat which has visited the Thames Valley.

For the two-fold purpose of (1) determining whether my wife's present condition is such as to make her a suitable inmate of Thorxenby – with a special attendant, and (2) commencing acquaintance, before the two journeyed together so far as Scarborough, I should like Nurse Large to reside near my wife for say three or four days and see her each day and her nurses and doctors.

The journey North might perhaps be broken with advantage at Harrogate, a place which my wife has expressed a desire to see.

I have expressed these wishes of mine with a brevity amounting almost to crudeness, in view of the fact that your time is precious, and, I need hardly observe, with complete recognition of the principle that your expert opinion must be the decisive factor.

So far as I am aware, the only difficulty in the way of my proposals is that Nurse Large is taking her holiday from the 28th instant to the 10th prxo. I wonder whether it would be impossible for her to come up on Monday or

extend over the Hindhead region are exceptionally beautiful, in the autumnal garb of russet and sorrel.

I hope that Mrs Watts continues to derive enjoyment from the pastels, with which I persuaded her to experiment; and that Miss Stowell is still careering safely on the bicycle which her brothers presented her with.

I described my wife's case to Sister Florence and Nurse Large, who both very kindly and sympathetically said that they would do their least to benefit her under any arrangement which you might

express to attend to since I resumed work at the Office on the 11th instant. I read some tough foreign books towards the end of my long rest; and now I can clear off a good day's work at the Office with much ease. I am at present engaged on numerous rearrangements of island posts resulting from the promise made in the Chancellor's Budget Speech in April last that, save in very exceptional cases, delivery of letters should be made at least three times in the week at each place in the United Kingdom.

You will probably agree that I have adopted a mode of life well calculated to keep up plenty of working energy on resumption of sedentary work after so much rambling in woods and wilds, sea-bathing and athletics of divers kinds:- I am residing in a very good Hotel (where "nutrition" is very well looked after indeed), 850 ft. above sea-level and 3½ miles from Haslemere Station, which is 42 miles from Waterloo. I bicycle each way; and I breakfast at 7.30 am. I have been painting in water-colours and using the pastels a good deal in the last five weeks.

I have had some interesting chats with my chief, who is good in water-colour, oils and pastels, and has often exhibited sculpture (bronzes) in the Royal Academy Exhibition's. Sister Florence thought you wd be interested in pastels; so I will add that for 11/3 I got from Messrs. Reeves a box of 100 beautiful French pastels, and that I have picked up – besides Winsor & Newton's 1/- handbook, an excellent manual published at the same price by Messrs Leschertier, Barbe & Co., Jermyn Street, Regent Street, W. There are many beautiful "bits" for painting in the 15 acres of ground belonging to the Hotel. Just now the moors which

see your way to authorise.

Trusting that circumstances may enable you to approve the scheme which I have submitted, and with kindest regards to yourself, as also to Dr Mackenzie and Dr Dooley and Dr Kemp, not forgetting Darley and Smith and Simpson and of course, Richards,

I am

Yours sincerely

Vivian A. Stephens

P.S. I had some interesting games of golf with my brother and some of his friends at Tintagel. We had

two foursomes on successive days: he and I played a man who like my brother had had some 10 years experience, and another who, like me, was a novice. They won the first; but Bertie and I exhorted each other with such earnestness that we won the second. Family rivalry, added to the golf spirit, induced a delightfully stern competition.

transfer.

I have simply told her that, when I was staying at Scarborough at the Royal Hotel, I went up on several occasions and played tennis and croquet at Throxenby, and that I had been an introduction through my brother to the Lady Supt. there and to yourself. I think it is better that — at all event until she is well herself — she should not know more of my relations with Scarborough and York.

I

Sec. O.
G. P. O.
13 Oct. 06

Dear Doctor Pierce

I have to thank you for the convincing explanation, as to the nurses who are to accompany my wife, - contained in your further letter. I am now happy.

I wired this morning to Dr Moore that you could take my wife with your institution at any time and that you had suggested Tuesday for the transfer

I contemplate cycling over to Virginia Water this afternoon and having a brief interview with my wife, by way of compensation to her for any disappointment she may have felt in not travelling to-day. I will tell her that the time has now come for her to exercise her will in the right direction by co-operating, under the influence of invigorating air and new environment, with the medical and nursing staff she will meet in the North, who will have the

knowledge

knowledge how to promote her convalescence and every desire to give the most valuable direction.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly

Vivian H. Stephens

Dr Bedford Pierce

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 Jane P. Stephens of London as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dringate The Mount York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson as such Treasurer, or to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall from time to time be or become due and payable for the Lodging, Maintenance, and care of the said patient in the said Hospital, or whilst under the charge of the Authorities of the said Hospital, and all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid or disbursed by or on behalf of the said Institution for any articles of Wearing Apparel, or other necessaries, 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 6th day of December 1906

Name W. H. Stephens

Residence 21st Avenue Hotel, Holborn, London W.C.

Occupation Civil Servant Secretary's Office, G.P.O.

SIGNED by the said

in the presence of

Witness's Signature T. A. Stephens.

Address, and 44, Sandersons Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Profession. H.M. Inspector of Schools.

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.