

**S Misc.,**

**Publication/Creation**

1915-1916

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yykzwm25>

**License and attribution**

Works in this archive created by or for The Retreat, York are available under a CC-BY-NC license. Please be aware that works in this archive created by other organisations and individuals are not covered under this license, and you should obtain any necessary permissions before copyright or adapting any such works.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

A. E. B. SOULBY,  
SOLICITOR AND  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.  
TELEPHONE N° 69.

MALTON,  
YORKSHIRE.

19th Sept. 1916

Dear Sir,

re. Miss M.E. Smith

In reply to your letter of the  
4th inst, I <sup>shall</sup> ~~should~~ be obliged if you  
will forward the Gold rings and keys  
to me.

Yours faithfully,

*A. E. B. Soulby*

The Secretary of The Retreat,  
York.



19th Sept. 1916

Dear Sir,

re. Miss M.W. Smith

In reply to your letter of the

4th inst. I should be obliged if you  
will forward the Gold rings and keys

to me

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary of the Retreat.

York.



3rd August, 1916.

Dear Miss Stawell,

I received your wire when my only colleague was a lady, and it was quite impossible for me to leave, but in any case I could not come to see you except at the request of Dr. Gould and your brother, and I hardly see how it is possible for me to be of any assistance.

The matters raised in your letter I cannot deal with at all. You will understand, I think, that I have no locus standi, and in any case I should have thought that you were better placed in a quiet country town than in a city or in an Institution for Mental Disorders. Is not the best course to put up bravely with any present difficulties, and it will be easier to do this if you will not forget that all are doing the best they can for you.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



3rd August, 1918.

Dear Miss Stawell,

I received your wire when my only colleague

was a lady, and it was quite impossible for me to leave

but in any case I could not come to see you except at

the request of Dr. Gould and your brother, and I hardly

see how it is possible for me to be of any assistance.

The matters raised in your letter I cannot

deal with at all. You will understand, I think, that

we have no focus stand, and in any case I should have

thought that you were better placed in a quiet country

town than in a city or in an institution for mental

disorders. It is not the best course to put up bravely

with any present difficulties, and it will be easier

to do this if you will not forget that all are doing

the best they can for you.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Feb 23 1915

Dear Friend, re A J Hyman

Allan Rountree

There is still outstanding to our  
books a charge for A J Hyman of 4 guineas  
for the time she was staying at the  
Retreat - Can you say where we  
should send this account to - I believe  
it has never been rendered as there  
has some doubt as to the proper person  
to repay us & the matter has been  
overlooked -

Yours truly

B. E. Waller Secy.

Leamington 24. 2. 15

Dear Friend

I think you had better send  
the account to Miss Eva Hyman  
Y. W. C. A. Aberdeen Walk  
Leamington

She mentioned to me the other  
day that she had never received  
any account.

Yours sincerely

Allan Rountree



THE RETREAT

1812

THE RETREAT

OF THE ARMY

IN WINTER

1812

BY

W. B. CHAPMAN

1812



19th November, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that you are in difficulties, but I very much doubt whether any report or certificate from me would really help you at all. I should be obliged to give my name, and it would at once be seen that I am the Medical Superintendent of a Hospital for mental diseases, and the fact that you were here and at Scalebor Park would create a presumption against the state of your mind at that time. Of course, I do not properly understand your difficulties, but from reading your letter I incline to think that the less said about the Retreat the better. I can, of course, write a statement about your condition when here, but I am not doing so until I hear from you again.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Lieut. C. L. Lister,

15th Northumberland Fusiliers.

Stafford.



10th November, 1918.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that you are in difficulties, but I very much doubt whether any report or certificate from me would really help you at all. I should be obliged to give my name, and it would at once be seen that I am the Medical Superintendent of a Hospital for mental diseases, and the fact that you were here and at Seaford Park would create a presumption against the state of your mind at that time. Of course, I do not properly understand your difficulties, but from reading your letter I incline to think that the less said about the matter the better. I can, of course, write a statement about your condition when here, but I am not doing so until I hear from you again.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Wm. J. E. Dwyer,

10th November, 1918.

Seaford.



25th November, 1915.

25th November, 1915.

This is to certify that

Mr. Claude L. Lister was under

my care from April 9th, 1904

to May 10th 1904, suffering

from mental confusion and

defect of memory. This was

due to injury to the head from

a fall from a horse fifteen

days before admission. He

greatly improved under treatment,

but was not thoroughly well when

he left.



25th November, 1915.

25th November, 1915.

Dear Sir,

As requested I send  
you a copy certificate respecting  
your stay at the Retreat, which  
perhaps may be of some use to  
you. This taken with

Dr. Smeeton's certificate makes  
it quite clear that the mental  
disturbance was dependent upon  
the injury you had received.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



I told all my <sup>male relatives, of military age</sup> ~~male relatives~~ re-  
-lations were serving.

They gave me no.

I was medically examined at  
York - by the P.M.O. of the  
Northern Command.

I told him about my fracture of  
the base of the skull (the War Office  
knew of it 10 years ago) and he  
said that it only showed how  
strong my constitution was.

In applying for a Commission I  
was very particular in pointing  
out, to the Authorities at the  
War Office, that my knowledge of  
Infantry drill was nil.

All my previous experience has  
been with mounted troops, & it  
has all been on Active Service  
- where parade ground details  
is lacking.

On this account I asked (if  
possible to an Infantry Battalion) to

15<sup>th</sup> B<sup>n</sup> North ~~St~~ <sup>Ed</sup> ~~London~~ <sup>London</sup>

No 8 Parade

Rugby Camp

Cannock Chase

Stafford

21<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for  
answering my letter so promptly.  
I fear that I shall have to tell you  
my difficulties a little more fully.  
I trust that it may not be nec-  
-essary to use any certificate  
which you may send me - but I  
want to be on the safe side and  
have all the certificates I can  
get.

I am much afraid that you must  
prepare yourself to be inflicted  
by a long letter - but I will be as  
concise as I possibly can!



To commence with I will answer  
your letter categorically.

It is, I admit, doubtful whether a  
certificate from you would help me  
much.

At the same time I trust it  
the will cease to labor hand out  
of it.

The fact that the Retreat is a Hos-  
pital for mental diseases would  
not prejudice my case in any way.

Previous to my hunting accident  
my mind had always been normal.

I have, in my time, been through some  
bad illnesses. Three times the doctors  
have given me up. Twice (on  
different illnesses) they called home  
that I could not live through the  
night.

However, as a parent (not my  
father!) once told me, it was  
evident that I was intended to do  
some good in the world before I  
left it!

I am out now to do some good -  
if they will only let me.

Since I was with you I have been  
living a life of idle nothingness.  
I always had a hot temper - but it  
was always over within a month  
or two.

Then again, the people amongst  
whom I have been living have known  
me. I have been very careful to  
avoid any topic of conversation  
which would be liable to upset  
me.

However, I am not writing an  
autobiography - so must try to  
be more concise.

You tell me that you do not per-  
fectly understand my difficulties.  
I will do my best to place them  
clearly before you.

I think that I told you, in my  
first letter, that I applied for a  
Commission because my only  
brother (Capt. W. Hunt, wounded - &  
a prisoner for 15 months) was an old  
Acting (he & I shared a cabin in  
the transport home from S. Africa)



to his 'report'?

The letter was fairly 'strong' - at any rate it stopped his mouth.

He then lied to me. He told me that his Medical Officer had 'signed a Certificate' to the effect that I was 'unfit for Active Service'.

I told him that I did not believe him - for his Medical Officer had never examined me.

I, subsequently, saw the Medical Officer (now on Active Service) & he gave the flat denial & even having signed any such Certificate.

2.  
He sent to a depot - where I could be thrown 'in' into the for two or three months. Instead of this I am put in the Batt<sup>y</sup>.

He is a recruit (practically a recruits' Batt<sup>y</sup> - feeding on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>ies</sup>).

Then the trouble commenced (5 months ago).

Our Colonel (Col Raddam of Raddam) is not a Soldier - & it is only by courtesy that he is 'called' a Gentleman.

He is one of the old Nithian-Ghans. (Means the J. African Vihor because he was at Haldia! Lc Lc).

He has seen no service, does not even know present day drill, & is impossible in every way. I, personally, have seen Active Service in 2 campaigns - the Matabele 1896 & the late Boer War -



in which I was badly wounded.  
To come as brief as possible of  
the trouble I am now in: -  
Joined this Batt<sup>n</sup> (after 7  
days leave) at the end of last  
June.

Porter 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of  
the largest Company (over 300  
men) in the Batt<sup>n</sup>.

My Company Commander happens  
to be on Brigade Duty - I am,  
therefore, in Command of the  
Company.

My first duty was on the following  
day - i.e. to take the Company  
(with the ~~Brigade~~ Brigade) to  
church parade.

Honestly I did not know a  
word of Infantry drill & I  
got horribly worried at (I  
was immaculate Col) for

not bringing my Company up in  
the correct formation!!

This was only the beginning.

Within 5 days he reported  
that I could not train recruits  
& that he did not consider that  
I was physically fit for service.

After this I appeared before  
the ~~Brigade~~ Brigade - with Col  
Roddam in attendance.

The whole proceeding was so  
subtle, so absolutely con-  
-trary to all Military Rules &  
regulations, & so absolutely  
relegated to foolish fools  
(I call) like Roddam,  
that I only smiled.

I, the same day, wrote a  
letter to the Military Sect<sup>y</sup>  
(through Roddam) in answer

That is, practically, a Court  
Martial charge ~~on~~ against Col  
Roddam.

I have other Court Martial  
Charges against him - but they  
would be too lengthy even to  
summarise.

On his charge of physical un-  
-fitness I demanded a Medical  
Board at Guel.

It was a strong Board - a  
Col, Major, Capt & Lieut.

They examined me up & down  
& their final report was  
a bit for General Service?

This was a huge ~~and~~ disappoint-  
ment to the Colonel.

My father (whom you know)  
wrote to me "How can I have  
beaten him twice. Perhaps he  
will come to his senses. Our



Denies are not always either  
"wise or courteous"

Roddam could not be wise  
- because he was born with  
a revolver head.

He could not be courteous  
- because he is a cad.

After he had been beaten  
twice he has done his level  
best to ~~degrade~~ degrade  
me in every way.

At last (after 5 months)  
he went too far.

I took absence without leave  
- I (under the circumstances)  
it is a wonderful certificate  
for me that I stood it  
so long.

I was not away from here that  
time I think that I have a  
perfect defence.

However, I want your  
certificate.

I only want you to say  
something like the enclosed.  
I am awfully sorry to  
trouble you over what may  
be a minor matter - but  
may be important.

Yours very truly  
Holland I Lester

P.S. The May Court Martial  
me for this.  
I do not think that this deals -  
but I must have every  
possible precaution.  
HLL



Proposed form of Certificate

I certify that Blond L  
Lustin was under my care  
(date) suffering from the  
results of the fracture of  
the base of the skull.

When he came into my charge  
he had been unconscious for  
6 weeks.

It is possible (in fact  
probably) that under, in  
normal circumstances, this  
might not upset him it  
probably would do so if he  
was under the impression that  
he had, in months, been ~~under~~



unjustly treated.

Under such circumstances Le  
would probably act without  
due thought.



-creams) for five months and, on the whole, I think that I love up wonderfully well. asse

wonderfully well. Will it be necessary to ~~discuss~~<sup>ascertain</sup> the fact that the Retreat is an Asylum - or could it be passed as a home of rest.

I am writing a similar letter to  
Lecroix Park & also to some  
of the doctors (poor Dr. ~~Law~~ Er-  
nest Colly is dead) who treated  
me before I came to you.

I am more than sorry to  
trouble you, but I feel sure  
that you will recognize that the  
matter is urgent,

Yours, Dear Sir,  
Ever truly

Bland & Lupton  
 Leint 15<sup>th</sup> North Co. Furler

The  
Medical Superintendent -  
The Retreat -  
Lease

15-12 B<sup>3</sup> *Northumbria*  
*Fusilis*

No 8 Parade  
Rugley Camp  
Canoe Club  
Stafford

18<sup>th</sup> June, 1915.

Dear Li,

I expect you remember me &  
the few weeks I spent at the Retreat,  
some years ago.

I hardly thought - that the doctors  
would pass me for the Army again  
(I have been on two permanent pensions  
for 14 years), but I had to try.  
My inf. & nurse, brother (Lenin Capt -  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt - 1<sup>st</sup> Royal West Kent -  
Regt) was wounded three times &  
taken prisoner at Mons. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
August last year.

He is, of course, still a prisoner.  
I told the Army doctors (I was ex-  
amined at York) about the fracture of  
the base of my skull etc.  
I, still, after all these years, have



that constant shrill whistle in the  
left ear.

However, though I am wonderfully  
well in myself, my patience (or  
should I say my temper?!) still  
has its limits.

I will not bother you by telling you  
the whole story - of a Colonel who is  
no soldier etc.

suffice to say that, for five months,  
I have, in my opinion (and the  
opinion of, practically, every  
officer in the Batt<sup>n</sup>) been  
treated with gross injustice &  
unfairness.

I shall be 45 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of next  
month & held some important  
appointments during the War in S.  
Africa.

This injustice has been festering  
here a sore for five months - &  
the wound was reached last  
week, when I took the days leave

of absence & things matter over.

I do not think that they will destroy  
action. For they (especially the Colonel)  
know that I have a very strong  
case.

However, they might do so - & I  
must be fully prepared.

Will you read me (to read me not  
later than Monday) a certificate  
to the effect that I was under severe  
suffering from the result of a frac-  
ture of the bone of the skull &  
that under exceptional circum-  
stances this would probably  
affect me and make me act  
without due thought.

I leave the wording, of course,  
to you.

Do not put it out that they  
would think that I was unfit to  
continue serving in the Army.  
I am - & my one object in joining  
was to get to the front - which I still  
trust I may do.

This sore has been festering (I in



'the time I so serious an accident they  
'well have got some instability of  
'temper & lack of concentration.'

Could you not send me a certifi-  
-cate something on the same lines.  
It is all I want.

That covers so many apologies for  
troubling you

Yours faithfully

Bland L Lister

Dr. Bedford Pierce

The Retreat

York

Dr. Pierce away for a few days. 23/11/15.



15th Bn North - Gloucesters

No 8 Parade

Rugby Camp

Canmore Chase

Stafford

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1915

Dear Sir,

I received a certificate from

Dr. Pimston (Hovingham) this  
morning.

It ran as follows:—

"I certify that in March & April

'1904 I attended Bland L Lister for an

'extensive fracture of the base of

'the skull. He was very seriously ill at

12th St. East

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri

ST. LOUIS  
MISSOURI  
BOND  
HICKEY



4th February, 1916.

Dear Mr. Middleton,

I have talked over the question raised in your letter with Dr. Mackenzie, and we feel that it is difficult to advise you definitely. Experience has shown that people who have had serious illnesses similar to yours are not easily upset by shocks, operations or trouble of an exceptional character. We have, however, had no experience of war, and the anxiety and strain of trench warfare is very serious. I would suggest that you place the facts before the responsible medical officer, and he may think it wise to put you on some other kind of work, something on the lines of communication perhaps, but it is really impossible to say what is the effect of warfare upon anyone. Some of the very strongest seem to get knocked out, while some of the weaker ones do very well.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



4th February, 1911.

Dear Mr. Widdleton,

I have talked over the question raised in your letter with Dr. Woodhouse, and we feel that it is difficult to arrive at a definite conclusion. It is known that people who have had serious illnesses similar to yours are not really upset by shocks, operations or removal of an excruciating character. We have, however, had an experience of men, and the anxiety and strain of work, and it is very difficult. I would suggest that

you should consult the responsible medical

officer, and say that it was to put you on some

other kind of work, something on the lines of communication

perhaps, but it is really impossible to say what is the

effect of a certain amount of work. Some of the very

alleged cases have been knocked out, while some of the

others have done very well.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



B Coy No 23 Provisional British  
Heaton Park Rd. School  
Newcastle on Tyne.  
Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Sir,

I was a patient in your institution some five years ago suffering from nervous breakdown and was with you for three months. I was away from work about a year & was under my own doctor for about three years being treated for sleeplessness. Now sir one thing is worrying me very much.

Shortly I shall have to go to the front and I am afraid my mind will give way when I get there I would rather be killed than such a thing happen.

Dr Mackenzie told me when I left the Retreat that I should live a quiet life without any excitement, in order to avoid another breakdown At present

I feel a little better than I was a year ago but am still horribly nervous and







am in dread of another breakdown so I  
am writing for your advice should I  
go to the front under the circumstances?

Also I may say I suffer from varicose  
veins & I think will shortly have to  
appear before a medical board, before  
which I shall probably make mention  
of my breakdown and your advice  
would help very much. I am writing to  
you because my doctor, doctor Blackburn  
has gone to the front. I am sorry I cannot  
come through for an interview my home  
address is 112 Burbank St, West Harlepool  
and I was admitted to the Retreat  
suffering from acute mania April 1<sup>st</sup> 1911  
I believe. I shall be so ~~greatly~~  
grateful to receive a reply

I am,

Yours sincerely  
A.B. Middleton.





could being of opinion than  
anything longer would unsettle  
her. She seemed the better  
for that trip. But he ~~is not~~  
<sup>thinks</sup> that a change in the  
autumn is apt to disturb her  
for the winter.

She was at Studhead last  
year.

Please do not trouble to  
write to her, or to me, unless  
you consider it advisable. I  
shall not expect any answer.

With kind regards, +  
sincere apologies for troubling you  
Yours sincerely D. S. Stawell

THE CASTLE GATES,  
SHREWSBURY.

Sep. 16. '15

Dear D: Pierce

I enclose a letter from my  
sister Henrietta as she so anxious  
you should have it, in spite - or  
perhaps partly on account - of my  
advising her not to write to you  
in that way. In her strange,  
inconsistent way she has sent us  
two letters, which you have been  
so very kind as to write to her.  
Though they entirely support our  
point of view, and give advice

which she does not, or cannot,  
act upon.

You know enough about her  
and us to make it unnecessary  
for me to comment on the letter.  
Set with regard to the question  
of change - during the past 12  
months in October she went to  
Lyme Regis, with two friends of  
my sister Melian's for a fortnight;  
but she came back rather more  
unsettled. In April & May

she was away for six weeks,  
first at a cousin's in Hampshire,  
then for 3 weeks near Rye in  
Sussex. We had considerable  
difficulty in arranging for a  
suitable place, & of course when  
the time came she objected very  
much to going. However, it was  
fairly successful, though she came  
back with a bad cold, in spite  
of what she now says. In  
July we arranged for her to go  
to Swanage for a week, &



as bid with another sore  
throat, shed them last  
spring winter - I was glad  
her stayed in the rec.  
air of Sussex by the  
sea - but in the work  
by the family  
said I must come  
back. I never before  
put up with this  
place so long but that  
I hoped to find it  
uncertain me spent  
an end of the way  
but it could easily be  
managed some other  
way unless for my  
written of doctor

at  
Castle Hill House  
Shetisbury -  
Sept. 1861

Dear Dr. Pierce -

I was much  
disappointed when  
got any answer to my  
last letter to you, now  
here I had one from  
your mother to whom I  
wrote since, with  
her that you had  
written to him - I was

him I wanted a  
change very badly & did  
not want to waste  
any time as I was  
by now the day  
some was work  
either hemming & bell-  
making, or helping  
in a hospital - or  
staying in rooms  
in or near London  
here I could play to  
soldiers I have 3  
sisters - in law perhaps  
live with me - or  
at a rate to stay with me

London, of friends -  
unless of course I could  
be at home.

That my sister Dorothy  
in the least realize  
that I suffer, after all  
I have said is shown  
by her saying of a few  
weeks ago, that I  
was not here found  
Hindhead any more  
interesting than here!  
This place does not  
suit me at all I  
have been here much  
too long - I have been



coming to England a  
few days even a  
week in Dublin I  
am most anxious  
to go on to see him  
as I haven't seen him  
all these years - but he  
seems not to know  
that he will do  
beforehand

like St. Leger, instead  
of other horses that  
he has. As I have  
made the Commission  
regarding this, they have  
not come before me  
since last October  
I have therefore had to  
be greatly advise  
the things I want -  
I hear that Mr  
Rephew is now  
in Dublin and  
he comes to Dordn

I shall go up to see  
him, but I feel I  
want a change very  
much & want to  
stay in my friend  
Miss Jordan's, who  
will care me, so  
that I shall be near  
& able to get up  
quicker from Bromley  
than she is so  
be in some force  
again even if he  
is not passing there!

after that I will  
stay by the sea  
till the end of October  
then do some  
war work.

After that we do  
nothing I asked if  
somebody would put  
back me up.

from my brother  
Henriette Stawell

of course if my  
rephew is not



that I can inform  
Duland & see my  
replew - but I don't  
know - as Dr. Kemp said  
that many of your other  
Certified patients can  
travel anywhere. That  
is quite right - but saying  
I think it is wrong that  
I can't be Certified  
perhaps if you saw me  
you could get it done or help  
to get it done - Dr. Ford said  
himself that I might have  
asked the Commission about  
it last October -  
I wish the pre board  
to succeed above - if

895

at  
Castle Hill House  
Aug - 20th

1915

Dear Dr. Peice -  
You can imagine  
my bitter disappointment  
at hearing that my  
replew sailed from  
Southampton last  
Sunday - that my  
sister - a law  
(probably 2 sisters)

left at once from Winchester  
to spend Sat. evening  
with him at  
Southampton. She  
said there was no  
time to let me know -  
which is of course  
absurd. I attribute  
it entirely to my  
brother's over-caution  
about everything -  
and he did not let

me even take a trip to my  
cousin at Eastleigh -  
Arthur being accompanied  
by the children's nurse  
& I was prevented  
seeing my brother at  
Southampton in the  
same way.

This way of treating  
me is quite unkind  
& I have therefore  
told my brother that  
I will ask for to come  
see me & my sister  
a short bit. He said



the hotel bill for me - nor  
is it at all necessary for  
their expenses I think  
when I want so much to  
save money for sandbags -  
that I sh<sup>d</sup> easily have done  
this all the time, except  
for my kitchen - as soon after  
I came from Thoxenly Mrs  
Mureton thought it perfectly  
natural for me to go into  
housework for a few days  
return by myself.

I enclose this <sup>letter</sup> in the  
I have bunched up here a  
little, but at the sea - it  
is not matter as I go in  
a boat.

Yours truly  
Henriette Stawell

Mr. Gold said it was  
considered a sign of  
insanity to write to the  
Prime Minister & the  
Queen - This was an  
absurd view, as I told him  
I received an answer from  
the Prime Minister that  
he had received my letter on  
the subject of cotton being  
made contraband & a  
very gracious letter from  
the Queen saying she much  
appreciated the kindly  
thought that prompted me  
to write to her -  
I then asked my sister - in  
law if she would write me

you the see in Scotland  
or N. Wales, etc. I feel the  
the most invigorating places,  
let her let no woman  
think she can go -  
but we like you without  
losing time by waiting there  
she can go - I have  
upon my mother's side we  
pardon her all my  
our plans to put an  
end to all this strain  
think she has caused,  
especially as he himself  
is still probably to write  
us the same time we  
she will find it a  
asked me the things that  
satisfied me. I ask him not

to delay at let me ask  
Miss Forester who stops here  
to know if people we can  
be objective to go with  
me for a week to  
Cleveland or better yet  
here, stopping a night  
at home, or back either  
of my cousins the Miss  
Greens to go with me  
until my sister - in law  
can do so - This will  
not be far or out of  
the way - but of course  
I don't want them to  
take 2 tickets or pay



that, with a little  
persuasion I am  
sure I can pay for  
travelling & a hotel  
or such like bills  
You are quite right  
in thinking I have  
seen too many  
specialists of a kind  
the kind that gets  
one into a gloom  
& does not get one out  
or that keeps one in

894.  
at  
Castle Hill House  
Shaftesbury  
Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dr. Pierce -

Thank you for  
your letter. I feel  
sure however that you  
can give some advice  
I know that my people  
spend time & thought  
turning on me - but

as they never ask me  
what I want to do  
or where I want  
to go, they have made  
subtle mistakes,  
and I am even for  
your advice of  
consulting me about  
arrangements. I feel  
sure if you just  
said it could be  
good for anyone  
especially a sensitive

person with such very  
decided views of  
Carter as I have him  
to be free to do what  
they want he will  
alter his ways as  
he already seems  
inclined to do  
just before I was  
there I was to  
have a much  
better chance  
27 a month so



my sister - in law can  
 get a passport to  
 France & see her son  
 if he is wounded - I  
 we like to be at liberty  
 to go into her -

I am  
 yours very truly  
 Henrietta Stawell

---

What we do me  
 most want to be  
 to go to the sea  
 & high lands in  
 Scotland etc

people - I have lost  
the chance of  
going into Miss  
Jordan's life Oct -

as my sister  
didn't take my

suggestion to go

to find lead in

her - near there



I never saw him, as  
I did not go home - &  
thus he had not time  
to come here - I clearing  
here one up to London  
for the day - on Saturday  
he afterwards  
went - on to stay with  
my friend Miss Jordan  
at Bromley Common  
wh. we have been  
an easy journey up  
back in one day -  
to London - I believe  
my nephew who has  
been in England all

791.  
at  
Castle Hill House  
Shaftesbury -  
Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915

Dear Dr. Peirce -

I had very much  
wanted to see a London  
renew specialist but  
advice so that I should  
feel stronger & about the  
strained feeling that  
Dr. Blandford directly  
gave - also if only  
to prevent any commission

coming over me - as  
one has been here twice.  
I have been 3 years  
here - with very great  
changes - but have  
felt much stronger  
at the sea steadily  
about.

I lately had the sad  
news that one of  
my nephews fighting  
in the Dardanelles  
was killed. I had

been free to travel up  
about as I liked, which  
I certainly ought to -  
I was here at  
home by nephews while  
they were training in  
Cairo - My mother from  
Australia, the doctor  
one came home -  
the end of June - was  
about 3 weeks in  
London - but to my  
great disappointment



Once having got scared  
about me twenty years  
ago - he has been left  
me to arrange a single  
thing for myself - tho.  
many people have said  
I was a woman that  
could do anything I  
tried - & I have never  
made a mistake about  
the places & the kind  
of life I thought we  
sought for.

I'd like a London  
specialist too I'd  
be glad -

Yours very truly  
Henrietta Stawell

<sup>2</sup> these years - I feel  
Stawell will be leaving  
soon for the port from  
Ireland - I hoped to  
go up to London if  
he came thro' it to see  
him - but as he isn't  
coming - I am very  
anxious to go on  
to Jersey - to stop  
near him & see him  
if it is only for  
a week or a few  
days - I'd be  
glad if you could

urge this on my people -  
his site is at  
33 Leabrook Square -  
if they can't arrange  
it - I will like to go  
away into some of  
them - & at any  
rate - be free to stand  
by myself - & pay  
for my own ticket  
my own bills at  
rooms or hotels -  
just leave the great

waste of money of Mother  
paying other people's  
fares to come & take  
me about from here  
or wherever I am -  
or paying for them  
to go into me - then  
I am more capable  
than interested in  
everything than most  
people - It is from  
this - caution that  
Mother does these things



✓  
TELEPHONE 193.  
AT HOME  
2 TO 3.  
7 TO 8.

THE CASTLE GATES,

SHREWSBURY.

May 12<sup>3</sup>

Dear Dr. Pierce

My sister Henrietta is so  
anxious that you should get the  
enclosed letters that I send it  
on, sorry as I am to trouble you.  
Much of it needs no comment,  
+ you will have an idea how  
she is, perhaps, from it. I have  
said that at any time we will  
take her up to see you, who  
have seen so much of her, but  
her present craze to see someone  
in London is not <sup>because</sup> ~~that~~ she wants  
advice but simply that she is  
convinced that anyone who "understands"



her" will tell her she has been  
always wrongly treated, and is  
to do whatever she wishes to.  
Any different opinion would merely  
stamp the doctor as useless, no  
matter what his position or experience,  
& there would be the same craving  
to go to someone else. Of course  
my refusing what would simply be  
a useless & irritating visit has  
made her redouble her efforts to  
get it.

When she had the "out door  
life" she was just as unhappy, &  
said she needed interests & occupations,  
that all her talents had no scope, &  
bore. She used to tell quite  
bitterly to complain that she never  
had enough food.

My brother would not allow his  
boy to see her because she wrote  
continually to him, <sup>(the boy)</sup> in spite of  
repeated warnings. Trying to persuade



TELEPHONE 193.  
AT HOME  
2 TO 3.  
7 TO 8.

THE CASTLE GATES,

SHREWSBURY.

2

him of the truth of her grievance  
against us & putting the lad  
in an impossible position with  
regard to my sister Melan, who  
has charge of him during his  
parents' absence in India. Of  
course now he is nineteen &  
just got a commission, so he will  
soon be able to take his own line.

She passed her 12<sup>th</sup> Aid  
course very well - before there  
was any idea of war - but  
her attempts at nursing were  
not a success & it had to be  
discontinued.



from her cousin's (the address  
in her letter to you) she has  
gone to some friends at Sussex,  
+ so far all seems to be  
going well. After a six  
weeks change we expect  
her to return to the Fields,  
where really she has got on  
better than anywhere else.

I must again apologise  
for troubling you. Please do  
not write to Henrietta, unless  
you think it worth while.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Richard Stawell



short visits of a  
fortnight to the sea  
where I wanted to write  
I cannot eat a  
mid-day meal  
more than just  
coffee & fruit - & find  
it a great strain  
trying to keep  
an endless list of  
that they keep  
accounts for me.  
all these years I  
have not spent

at North Shocham  
Farmhouse  
Eastleigh  
Hants

April 28<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dr. Peirce -

I suffer terribly from  
the way my family  
treat me - there  
for years wanted to  
consult a London  
specialist & have been  
surprised that no

Worth has easily repaid  
this - tho I had  
congratulations for looking  
it - for another reason  
than that he knew the  
effect it wd have on  
me - ! at the same  
time unspeakably  
worried by the 2 hats  
from a commission.  
but that did not seem  
to trouble him - I thought  
that alone I wd wish  
for a specialist.

I always thought it a  
great mistake of  
going to the colonies &  
leaving the heart fresh  
in the forests - I  
have always wanted  
the life of the  
life - & the sea-side  
life. I felt sufficiently  
rested to take up  
some occupation -  
I have thought of some  
I wanted this  
but have not had



then I can come  
up later -

Someone is waiting  
for this - so excuse  
haste -

Yours truly  
Henrietta Standa

So much as a  
week but waiting  
for family - we  
been allowed here  
my nephew is the  
only who will be  
going to fight soon -  
because I said the  
family had made  
mistakes about me -  
we see my sister  
in law who has  
been in England

Ysish has just  
arranged for me  
to go to some fresh  
people on May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
then I leave here -  
thorough once they  
are I do not  
with go. I will  
ask that one of  
them go with me  
now else that I  
go with this

Almuth, a girl  
Ysish knows to  
the sea-side -  
after that I wish  
to go some nursing  
having passed First  
aid Nursing - also  
I will like to go  
up to see a doctor  
specialist. If  
it can't be  
arranged by land



✓  
Lea House  
Mill Road  
Leethorpes  
3-3-16

Dear Mr. Pierce,

We thought you  
would like to know,  
Elsie passed away  
this morning. Under  
the circumstances we

Cannot grieve. It is a  
happy release to all  
her sufferings. We visited  
her every week, & she  
often spoke of you.  
At times for a few  
days she was quite  
normal, but could only  
speak in a whisper,  
we thought it would  
be lasting, but were  
given to understand it

was a bad sign.

Trusting you are well.

Yours Sincerely  
B. Sleight



Cedar Grove  
Mill Rd  
Chesters

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1/13

To Mr. W. E. Waller

Dear Sir

After forwarding  
you the cheque  
for £2-2 this morning  
for more Purses &  
services, my husband  
on returning from

business said he  
was sure it was  
paid, and on  
looking on the  
file found the  
bill received.  
Will you please  
return cheque  
and receipt

and oblige  
Yours Truly  
J. S. Long



for Easter.

Again thanking you  
for all your kindness

Yours truly  
B. Sleight

Dr Bedford Peirce  
York.

586.

43 Mill Road  
Leethorpes  
Mch 31:15

Dear Sir,

Your letter to hand,  
with respect to Elsie's removal.  
We are also greatly disappointed  
- like yourself. that Elsie has  
not recovered under your  
treatment, but we feel you  
have done all you could,  
& therefore we must still

Keep hoping for the better.  
We thank you for all  
your efforts, also the Nurses.  
Would you kindly send  
me the names of the  
two nurses who have  
been the most with Elsie,  
Sister Florence is one.  
Mr Sleight will write them.

I have taken the  
liberty to send you a  
small Furbot to day



27th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re Miss Adelaide Elsie Sleight.

This patient, who was admitted on June 6th 1914, is being transferred on an Order under the Lunacy Act, 1891, Section 19 to Bracebridge Asylum. I have informed the Guardians of Cleethorpes' Union of my intention to apply for the Order of transfer, and as she came from Cleethorpes I conclude she will be chargeable to Cleethorpes Union, now that her father is no longer able to pay for her maintenance as a private patient.

We are proposing to send her on Tuesday next, and I will send with her particulars of the case. She is not particularly troublesome, but is rather noisy, whining and crying in a mechanical sort of way.

Yours very truly,

The Medical Superintendent,  
Bracebridge Asylum.







TELEGRAPH OFFICE  
BRACEBRIDGE.

TELEPHONE NO.  
LINCOLN 143.

Bracebridge Asylum,  
Near LINCOLN.

30<sup>th</sup> March 1915

Dear Sir,

Addelaide Elsie Slight

Will you be good enough to  
forward me one of your blank  
Orders of Removal to enable  
me to make the necessary  
copy for the Board of Control

Yours faithfully

J.S.

E. George

Clerk of Asylum.

Similar one  
used in this case  
much obliged.

D<sup>r</sup>. Bedford Pierce  
The Retreat  
York

582

100-100000-100000

I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th  
inst. for which I am obliged. I will be  
pleased to have your attention directed to  
the fact that the same has been forwarded to  
the proper authorities for their consideration.

100-100000-100000



549.

GRIMSBY UNION

J.F. WINTRINGHAM, LL.B.  
SOLICITOR,  
CLERK.

St Mary's Chambers,  
Great Grimsby.

22nd March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re ADELAIDE ELSIE SLEIGHT.  
-----

I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, for which I am obliged. I note that you are proposing to remove the above patient to Bracebridge Asylum, Lincoln.

I am, Yours faithfully,

*J. F. Winttingham*  
Clerk.

Dr. Pierce.  
The Retreat.  
YORK.

GRIMSBY UNION

St Mary's Chambers

Great Grimsby

22nd March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

re ADELIAIDE ELISIE SWEIGHT.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th  
instant, for which I am obliged. I note that you  
are proposing to remove the above patient to  
Bracebridge Asylum, Lincoln.  
I am, Yours faithfully,

Clerk.

Dr. Pierce.  
The Retreat.  
YORK.



17th March, 1915.

Dear Mr. Sleight,

I am sorry that I cannot report any improvement in your daughter.

With regard to the transfer to Bracebridge Asylum, it will be necessary to know whether you wish her to go as a private patient or as a rate aided patient under the care of the Guardians. If as a private patient it will be necessary for you to apply to the Asylum and ascertain whether they will receive her, and then write to the Board of Control, 66 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., asking for their consent to the transfer. If there is room very likely the Asylum would receive her at about £1. 1. 0 a week. If this cannot be managed and you advise me that after the end of the present month you can no longer maintain your daughter at the Retreat, I will get an order from a Magistrate and remove her under the Lunacy Act, 1891, Section 19. It is certainly desirable that she should be moved, as she is again very noisy and I think a change of surroundings is advisable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



17th March, 1915.

Dear Mr. Stirling,

I am sorry that I cannot report any

improvement in your daughter.

With regard to the transfer to Broadbridge

Asylum, it will be necessary to know whether you wish

her to go as a private patient or as a rate aided

patient under the name of the Guardians. If as a

private patient it will be necessary for you to

apply to the Asylum and ascertain whether they

will receive her, and then write to the Board of

Control, 60 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,

asking for their consent to the transfer. If

there is room very likely the Asylum would receive

her at about £1.1.0 a week. If this cannot be

managed and you advise me that after the end of

the present month you can no longer maintain your

daughter at the present, I will get an order from a

Magistrate and remove her under the Lunacy Act, 1891.

Section 12. It is certainly desirable that she

should be moved, as she is again very noisy and I

think a change of surroundings is advisable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,



With very kind  
regards from  
Wm. Slight and  
Yours very sincerely  
W. Slight

578.

Cedar House  
Mill Rd  
Glastonbury  
MAR 14<sup>th</sup> 11/15

Dear J<sup>r</sup>

We are sorry we  
have not been able  
to come and see  
our daughter, but  
hope to do so this  
week, my husband's  
travels has not been

well enough to  
take the journey.  
We are not able  
to keep our daughter  
at the Retreat any  
longer and should  
be so pleased if  
you will please  
make arrangements  
and have her  
removed to  
Gracebridge Heath

Alas! I wish the end of  
this month. We are very anxious  
to see her before she is removed  
and shall come over on Sunday  
when we hope to see you.  
We are very sorry to hear she is  
not improving.

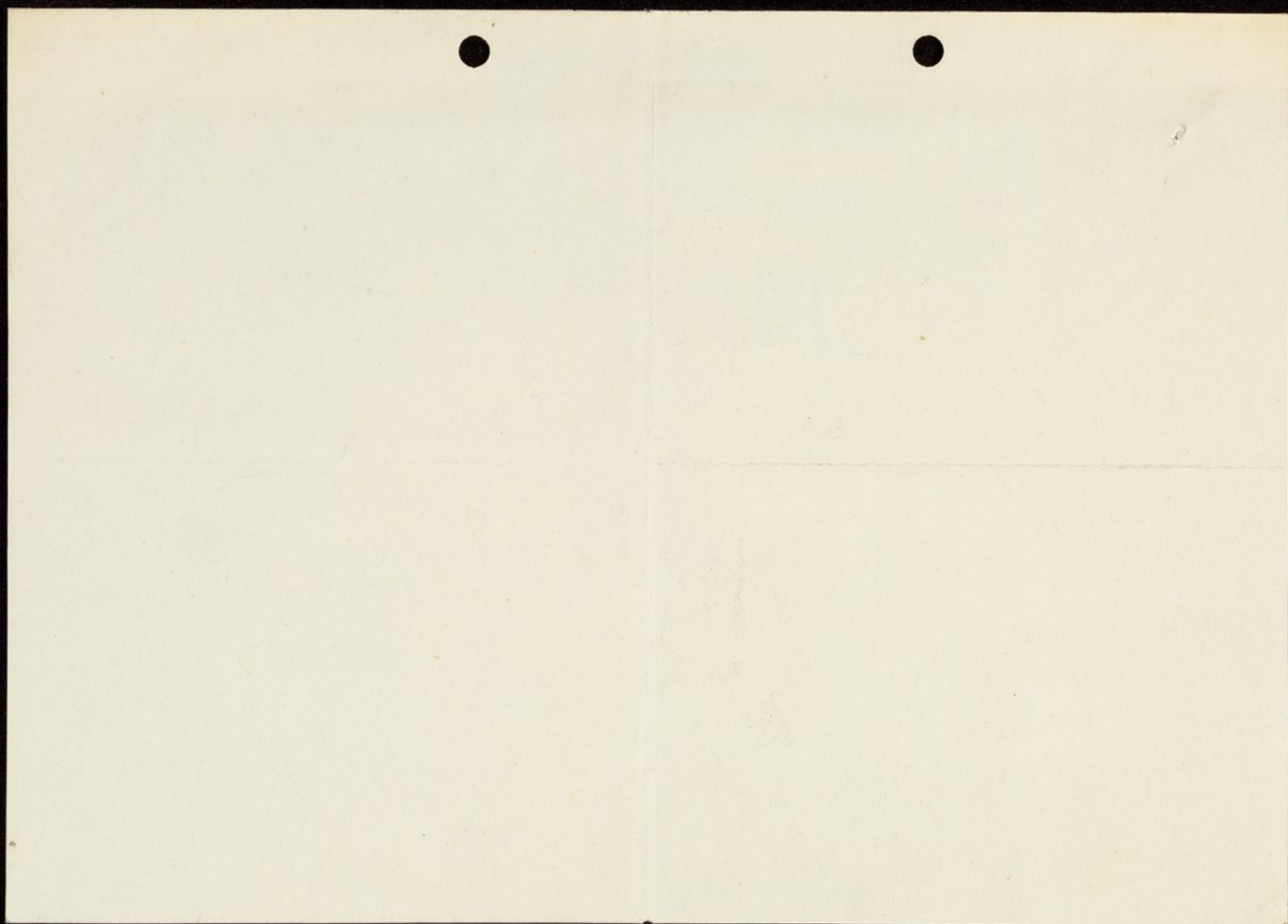


43 Mill Road  
Cleethorpes  
Feb'y 25<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dear Dr. Pierce,

We were very pleased  
to receive your letter, but  
sorry Elsie is no better.  
Mr Sleight will not be  
able to get over to York on  
Saturday, but hopes to next  
week sometime.

Yours truly  
D. Sleight





Corpus Christi College  
Oxford

Whit-Monday '75

My dear Deane

I am very thankful for your letter, -  
having been much more beaten since I wrote  
the Marsh ~~For~~, - and ashamed of myself for being  
beaten, which made matters worse - I ~~paste~~  
through Sheffield last night and have just  
the idea of it you give me. I will really come  
to Walsley one of these days if I live, - I've only  
rec'd the first sheet of your letter yet, - quite  
overdone with not short hand writing

Ever Yrs faithfully  
J. Ruskin



Joseph Christy College

Oxford

Writ - Monday 1/2

My dear friend

I am very thankful for your letter -  
having been much more beaten since I wrote  
the March ~~last~~ and ashamed of myself for being  
beaten, which was a matter worse - I ~~post~~  
through which I lost ~~the money~~ and have just  
the idea of it you give me. I will really come  
to Wobley one of these days if I live - the only  
reason the first shot of your letter yet - quite  
overdone with not short hand writing  
Yours faithfully  
T. R. Martin



2.

Wattlefield

3<sup>rd</sup> July '75

My dear Susan.

Did I ever tell you of that long and  
very precious letter of yours? I know I never read more  
than the first half of it, - not in disrespect - but in  
extreme sense of its value. I folded it up, and put  
it away, for a quiet time. Have kept it by me ever  
since; and read it, for the first time, yesterday.

is through Sheffield, where I will certainly  
call and see you, and talk over all this with  
you. You are still there as I return from Bristol  
to Oxford. It seems to me likely that my work  
will indeed really lie there. All that you say is  
entirely wise and right; and things have  
developed lately which are free as I  
am, - still more free to act  
in any way that seems open - or  
to be bound on any.

Write me a line to Brantford. Compton,



2.

Watfield

3<sup>rd</sup> July '72

My dear woman.

Did I ever ask myself that long and  
very painful letter appeared? I should never read more  
than the first half of it, - not in despair - but in  
bitterness some of its value. I forced it up, and put  
it away, for a quiet time. Then I got it by me even  
now; and read it, for the first time, yesterday.  
I thought of it, when I was thinking  
of you, and you, and talk over all the  
if you are still there as I return from Devon  
to Oxford. It seems to me like that my work  
was almost really in there. All that you say is  
entirely true and right; and things have  
been so lately which have me, for as I  
in regard, - still more - I feel free to act  
in my own way that as a person - or  
one claim on me.  
Write me a line to Brompton (London).



... in Sheffield, and at  
leisure send me your supplement,  
modes of recreation. These however,  
will be sent down to you being

For who "man works," can always be taught  
the meaning of rest.  
Your affectionate  
and very grateful friend

John Ruskin

Henry Swann

I scratch out mentally because I do not  
know how to write it - but that is  
all that I have to say *itherto*.



and at  
in the last days of my life  
of recreation. My business  
and me your support,  
in the field, and at

the whole "man work", can always be found  
in the morning of rest.  
and very grateful friend  
to the  
of the

John R. Austin

Henry Swan

of the out mentally - because I do not want  
to be - but that I can  
of the  
of the