

Veitch, Charles Neville

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REPORT to the COMMITTEE of the RETREAT
concerning the death of
CHARLES NEVILLE VEITCH

C.N.Veitch came as a Voluntary Boarder, Jan. 2, 1907,
An electrical engineer, aet. 28.

History of present condition.

Left work last Easter; back for 3 weeks in August but could not work.

Three times wandered off into the country, said he had contemplated suicide, went to lakes twice, and London once, but wired to relatives when he had spent his money.

Masturbation from 14 to 26 years.

On admission. Jan. 2

Feels that he is unsexed.

Much troubled with uncontrollable lewd thoughts which haunt his mind almost continually. Naturally averse to lewdness.

Feels he cannot associate with people. Says he is going insane and thinks his mental decay is dependent upon his past bad habits.

Feb. 23. Brighter; does not think he will become insane. Is now industrious, but says ideas are much the same.

Mar. 5. Went to theatre and did not return till following evening, having walked 60 miles. Says he contemplated the river Swale with suicidal intent. I insisted upon certificates although relatives somewhat adverse.

Seen by Commissioners; then calm and collected.

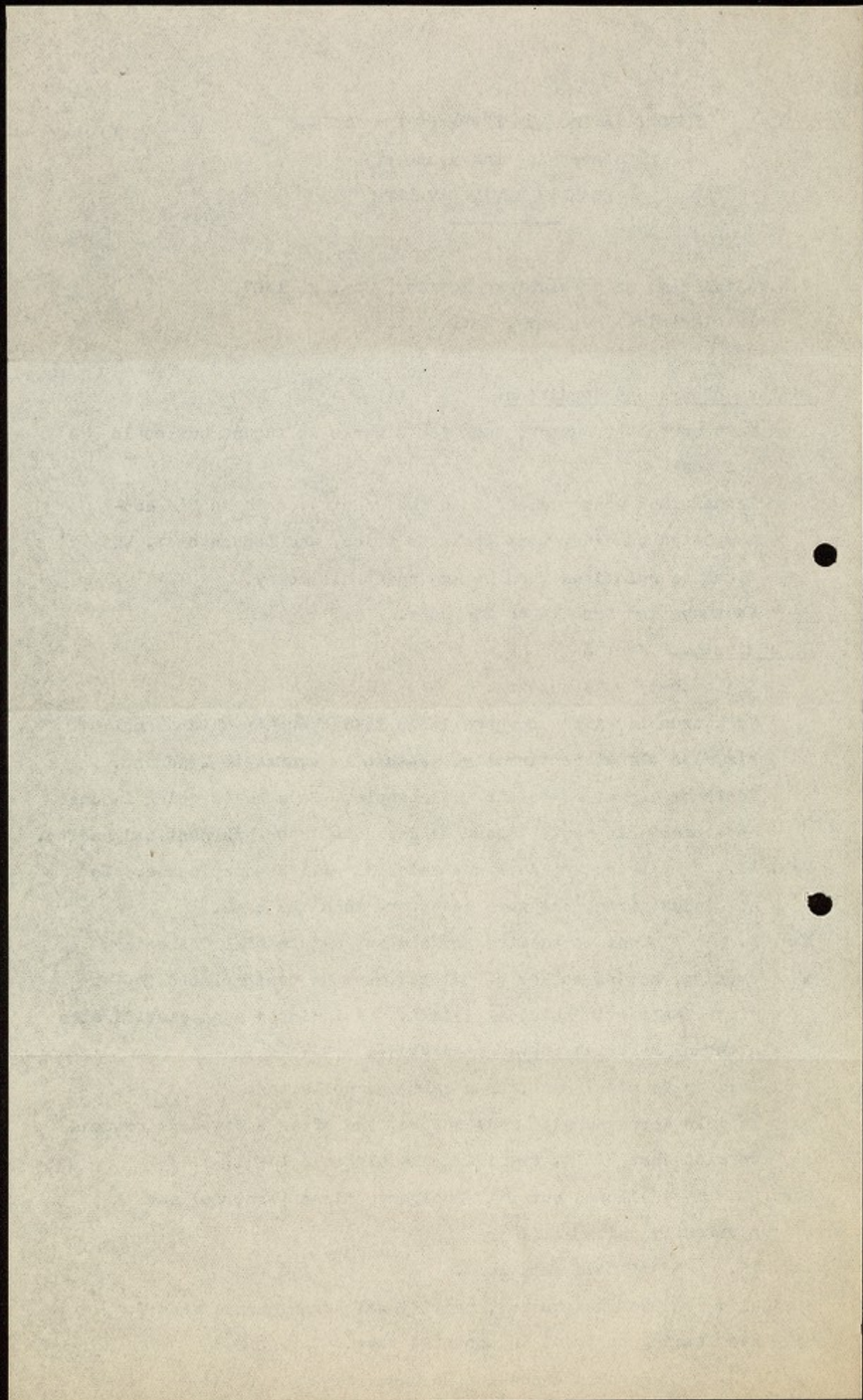
Rapidly improved with rest in bed, and after a few days resumed work at West Villa, re-wiring the electric light.

Mar. 20. Allowed out with another patient (Wintrip) now apparently quite well.

Mar. 29. Allowed out alone.

April 12. So much better, provisional arrangements made for his leaving on trial in about 14 days.

April 22. Found drowned in the Ouse



With reference to the question of permitting this patient to go out alone within a month of his having broken his parole and contemplated suicide, it should be noted that very soon after this his demeanour and conduct changed in a marked degree. He became cheerful, was able to take an active interest in work, and worked well and steadily. He said he felt quite different; that before he did not feel fit to work, but now his power of working had returned. He also said the lewd thoughts did not trouble him and he was glad to play cards with the ladies which formerly he would not do. He made plans for work in the future and applied through a friend to a well known company for employment.

In view of this obvious improvement and the importance of keeping him occupied and interesting him in useful work he was encouraged to take up some electrical work, and he rewired a considerable part of one of the wings, and in the evenings and at other times he made plans of the wires in these departments and also a plan to scale of the premises, showing drains, water mains and hydrants. As some acknowledgment of this the Committee of the Retreat on April 18th awarded him an honorarium of £7.7.0. Whilst doing this work the patient went about the grounds as he pleased and after the 29th March he daily took a walk outside alone, it being arranged that he should see one of the medical officers each time before he went out. On Saturday, April 20th he joined in a daffodil picnic and on his return said he had had a most enjoyable day and volunteered the remark that it was on account of such expeditions as these that the Retreat patients recovered.

The decision to permit the patient to go out alone was taken after careful thought and after consultation with Dr. Mackenzie. I felt that it did not involve any grave risk, whilst it gave him a much greater chance of recovery.

The alternative, which involved no risk, was to exercise continuous supervision day and night. This would have been positively injurious in my opinion, being depressing in itself, and it would

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the specific results of the work.

2. The second part of the report deals with the specific results of the work. It is divided into three main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work in the field of agriculture, the second section deals with the results of the work in the field of industry, and the third section deals with the results of the work in the field of commerce.

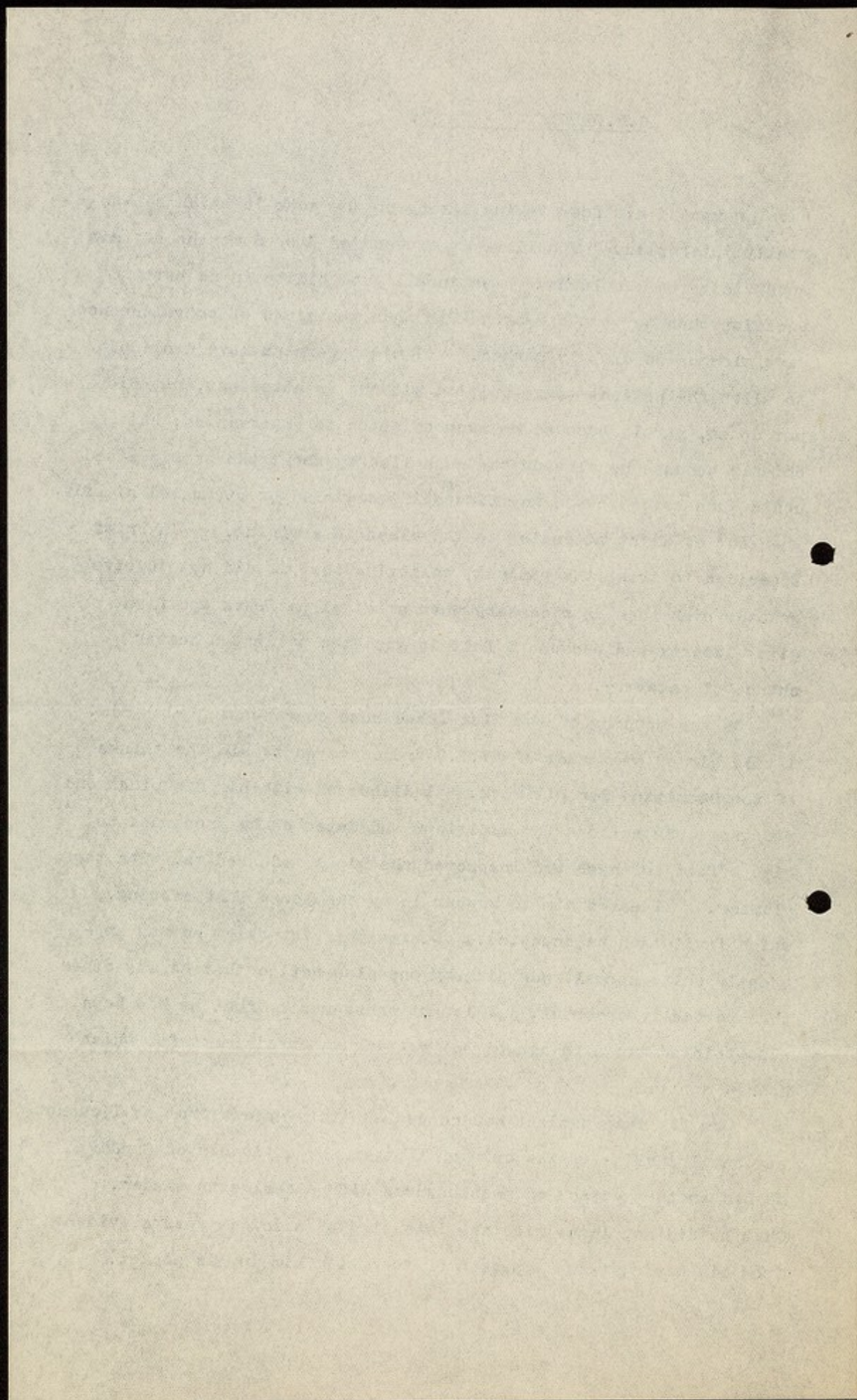
3. The third part of the report deals with the conclusions and recommendations. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the conclusions and the second section deals with the recommendations.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the appendix. It contains a list of the names of the persons who have taken part in the work, a list of the names of the persons who have given assistance, and a list of the names of the persons who have given advice.

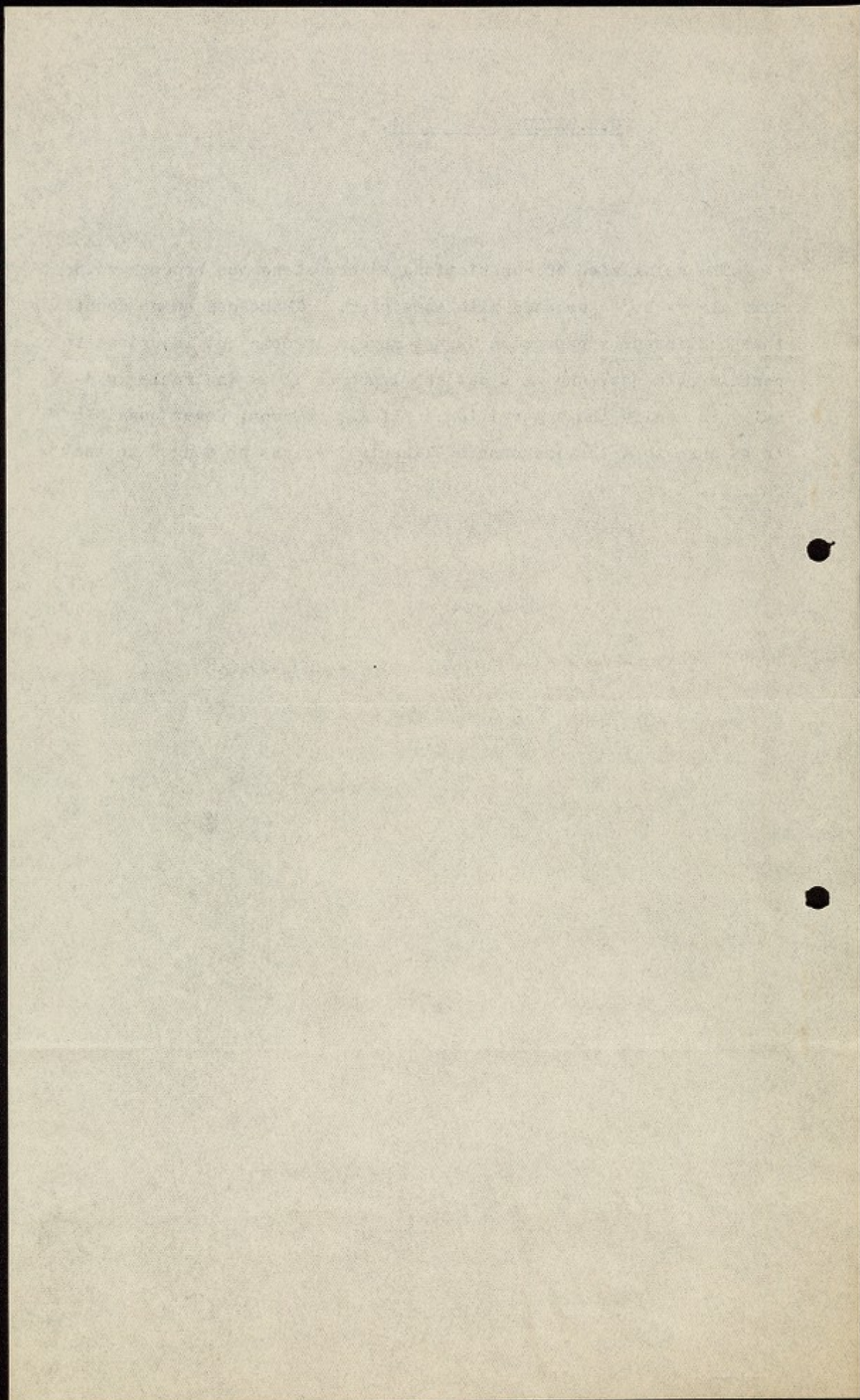
have prevented him from taking taking up the work in which he was really interested. I believe at the end of 3 or 6 months of this supervision we should have been in all probability in no better position than we were on March 20th when the signs of convalescence were already so clearly marked. I might perhaps have declined to allow the patient to go outside without an attendant, but did not do so, partly because he much objected to supervision, but chiefly because he already had much liberty about the premises and could then have escaped any time if he wished or strangled himself when out of sight attending to the electric wiring. In brief I decided to trust the patient, believing that it did not involve greater risk than is necessary when suicidal patients are first given liberty and because I felt it gave the patient a better chance of recovery.

On the morning of the 21st I had some conversation with him. I told him of the grant of £7.7.0 and conveyed to him the thanks of the Committee for his work. I discussed with him his plans and made some suggestions for additions and later on he proceeded to give effect to these and inspected the pipes referred to, with the plumber. I asked him to supper in my own house that evening, which invitation he accepted. During this interview he was apparently quite normal, nor did any one else notice that he was other than perfectly cheerful. I learnt subsequently that he had been disappointed two days ago at not getting an appointment for which he had applied.

How far this patient had concealed his symptoms from us I cannot say but I incline to the opinion that in the afternoon of Sunday he had another attack of restlessness with a desire to wander. That he did not leave with the intention of suicide appears evident from his having taken a packet of food with him in his pocket.



The relaxation of restrictions as convalescence becomes veident must always be associated with some risk. There can be no doubt that continuous supervision is not merely irksome but injurious to certain patients, and as a patient improves it is desirable gradually to modify the supervision. It is, however, never possible to be sure that the increase of liberty involves no danger to the patient.



JOHN HARDINGE VEITCH
& SONS,

PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, ✓

Telegrams: "Veitch, Durham."
Nat. Tel. No. 1 Y 2.

24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

Tuesday.

Dear Mr. Fieze.

Many thanks for your kind letter
and also for all the trouble you have taken.
I am sure that what has occurred has been
quite unavoidable. I shall come through by
the 8.20 from here reaching York 9.38, as you
suppose, and will drive direct to the Law
Courts. I think it will be best for the funeral
to be at York on Thursday afternoon if there is time
to arrange for it then. If possible I should
like to see you before the inquest.

Yours sincerely,

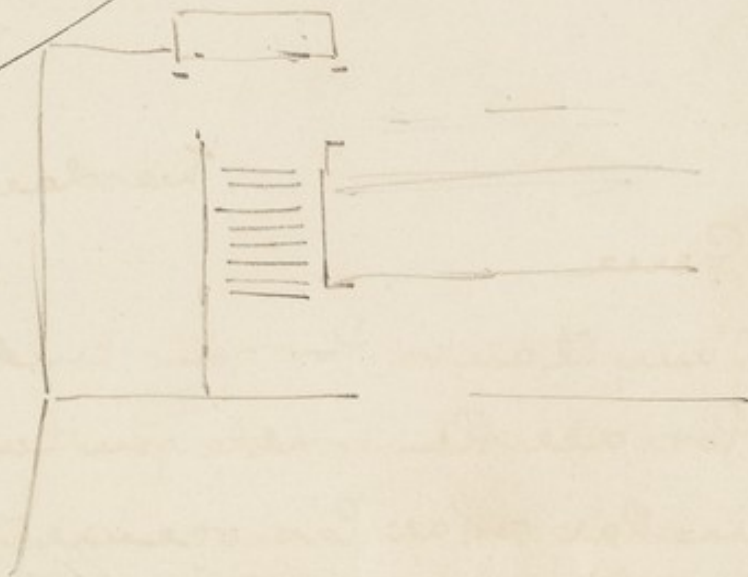
James H. Veitch.

Miss Thmaison.

c/v M. Tiddy

Pentreats:-

The Lizard



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24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

April 22. 1907.

Dear Sir,

I was certainly astonished to hear that my brother had once more disappeared. From a letter I had a week or two ago I understood that he had arranged with you to work, as far as I can remember, about the end of this week. In the face of this I can only conclude that he must be quite out of his mind. Evidently he has been deceiving everyone and has been more or less acting a farce, unless it is that he has these periodical attacks when he cannot control himself. I hope ere this that he has returned. In any event I shall be thronged in York at the first opportunity I have, as far as

I can tell the world have rather less than
£1. This is the ^{5th} ~~first~~ time he has gone
away in his name since last August.

Yours faithfully

Ernest H. Veitel

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PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,

Telegrams: "Veitch, Durham."
Nat. Tel. No. 1 Y 2.

24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

28.3.07.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly let me know how much is now due to you as I would like to send you a cheque up to date. Is it possible to say yet whether my brother is likely to be able to get back to work before long. I enclose 2 letters from which you will see what he wishes to do. I have had an enquiry from the Engineer at Newcastle as to whether he was ready fit to commence work and he is waiting for my reply before arranging anything for him.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest H. Veitch

1871

1872

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1882

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Telegrams: "Veitch, Durham."
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24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

March 11. 07.

Dear Sir,

Thanks for papers to land. Have
shown same to our doctor and will have
the petition filled in and signed but before
doing so I would like to know if you will
kindly tell me if there will be any difference
in the terms upon which you will receive
him. It appears to me that it will be a
very long time in any case before he is fit to be
at large and consequently the cost becomes
a very serious item indeed to me. In fact it
is quite impossible for me to continue to pay so
much for any length of time. In the event of your
being unable to reduce the amount I think it would

It is almost better to transfer him to some other
place. To himself the fact of the expense seems
to be a cause of worry. Will money counts
for the trouble you have taken, Sam.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest H. Vertel

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& SONS,

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Telegrams: "Veitch, Durham."
Nat. Tel. No. 1 Y 2.

24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

7. 3. 07.

Dear Sir.

Thank you for your letter to hand this morning.
I quite expected that my brother would return
to you or come home. I have been considering
whether it would be advisable to let him go into
the Power Station here. I do not think that I
could have any difficulty in this as the engineer
in charge is much interested in my brother. I have
not said anything to him (my brother) as I wanted
to know what you thought first. To me it appears
that if he goes back to the works he has been accustomed
to that he would soon be himself, it is what he seems
to want to do. Previous to his coming to you he
would not hear of going into any place but he

told me when I last saw him that he was quite confident of himself and that although his thoughts troubled him at times he did not take so much notice of them now. He was most anxious to put an end to the expense he had been the cause of during the last 12 months supposing that he should go into rooms until he had something to go to. The continual burden of his letters lately has been that the money we were paying for him was a great weight on his mind. He also said that he felt the monotony of his daily life very much. Did he question any reason for his going away?

Yours sincerely,

Ernest H. Veitch

JOHN HARDINGE VEITCH
(189)
& SONS,

PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,

Telegrams: "Veitch, Durham."
Nat. Tel. No. 1 Y 2.

24 and 25, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

6.3.07.

Dear Sir,

I was very much surprised to receive the telegram this morning saying my brother had left "the Retreat". When I saw him later he appeared to me to have improved and though not quite so cheerful as on the previous occasion I attributed this to a severe headache of which he complained. This is the 4th time he has gone away in this manner, the last time we did not hear from him for about 3 weeks, he had then however plenty of money but consumed his time to the amount of a few shillings. When I was with him last week he was very anxious to get started proper work again and was expecting to hear from one of the Corporation Engineers in

Newcastle who was arranging for him. He seemed
to worry over the expense he was the cause of
and said he wanted to earn some money to
pay back what he had cost us during the
case 12 months. I enclose a photograph which
you may find useful. Should you find it necessary
I am on the telephone from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
I am rather inclined to think that if he has left
York that he may be somewhere in his neighbourhood.
Good.

Yours truly,

Ernest Reitel

THE RETREAT,
YORK.

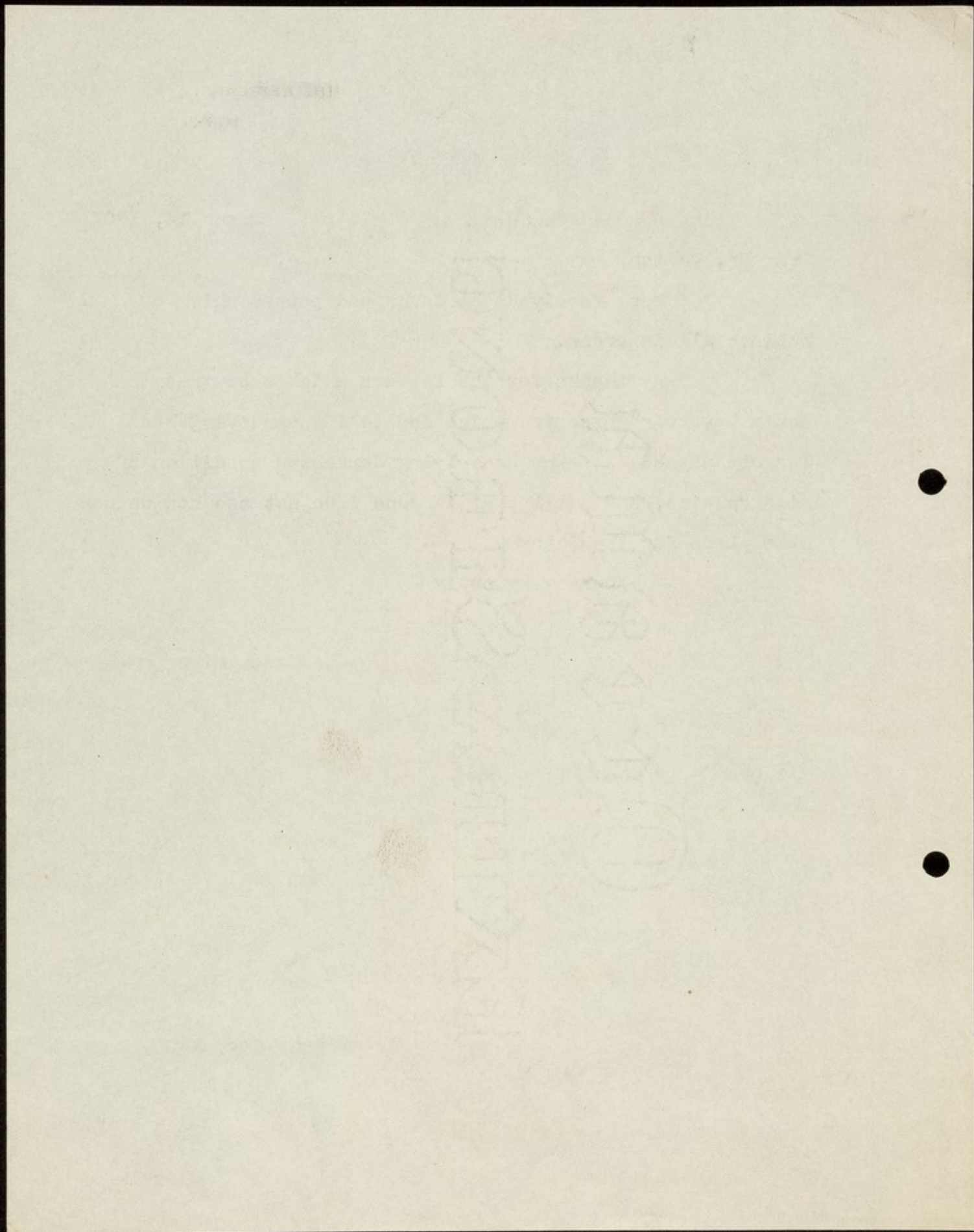
March 14, 1907

Dear Mr. Veitch,

I have received the forms and papers which are I
believe all in order.

Many thanks for the letters which show that the
acute wave of depression which led to the wandering has
largely passed. The underlying depressed condition of
mind remains, and until that is gone I do not see how we can
make plans for the future.

Yours very truly



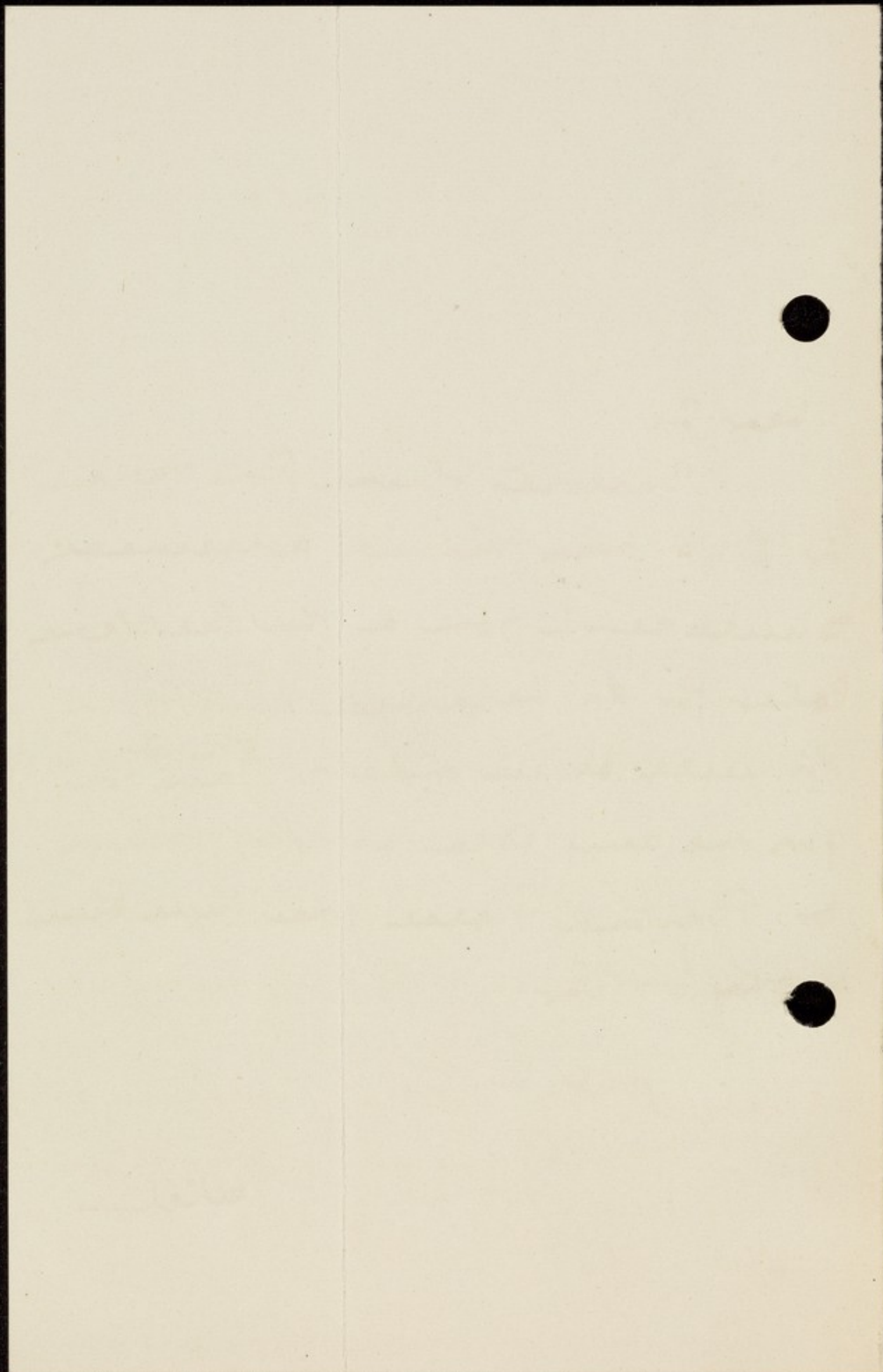
NEVILLE'S CROSS HOUSE,
NEAR DURHAM.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find cheque
for £25 also signed agreement.
I will send you a further cheque
later for the balance and trust
this will be in order. Can you
give me any idea as what opinion
Dr. Bedford Pierce may have formed
of my brother?

Yours Truly

Ernest H. Vail



Dec. 20. 06 (1029)

Dear Sir.

Many thanks for your plans this morning
and terms which are quite very reasonable. I am
sorry I could not arrange for my brother to come
to-morrow but will either telephone or write
you in the morning upon my return home.

I will then be able to say that day is well be ready. Yours truly
H. Veitel

York

The Rectory

Dr. Bedford Place

NOV 20 06

LETTER CARD



IF USED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD THE ADDITIONAL POSTAGE REQUIRED SHOULD BE
SUPPLIED BY MEANS OF ADHESIVE STAMPS.

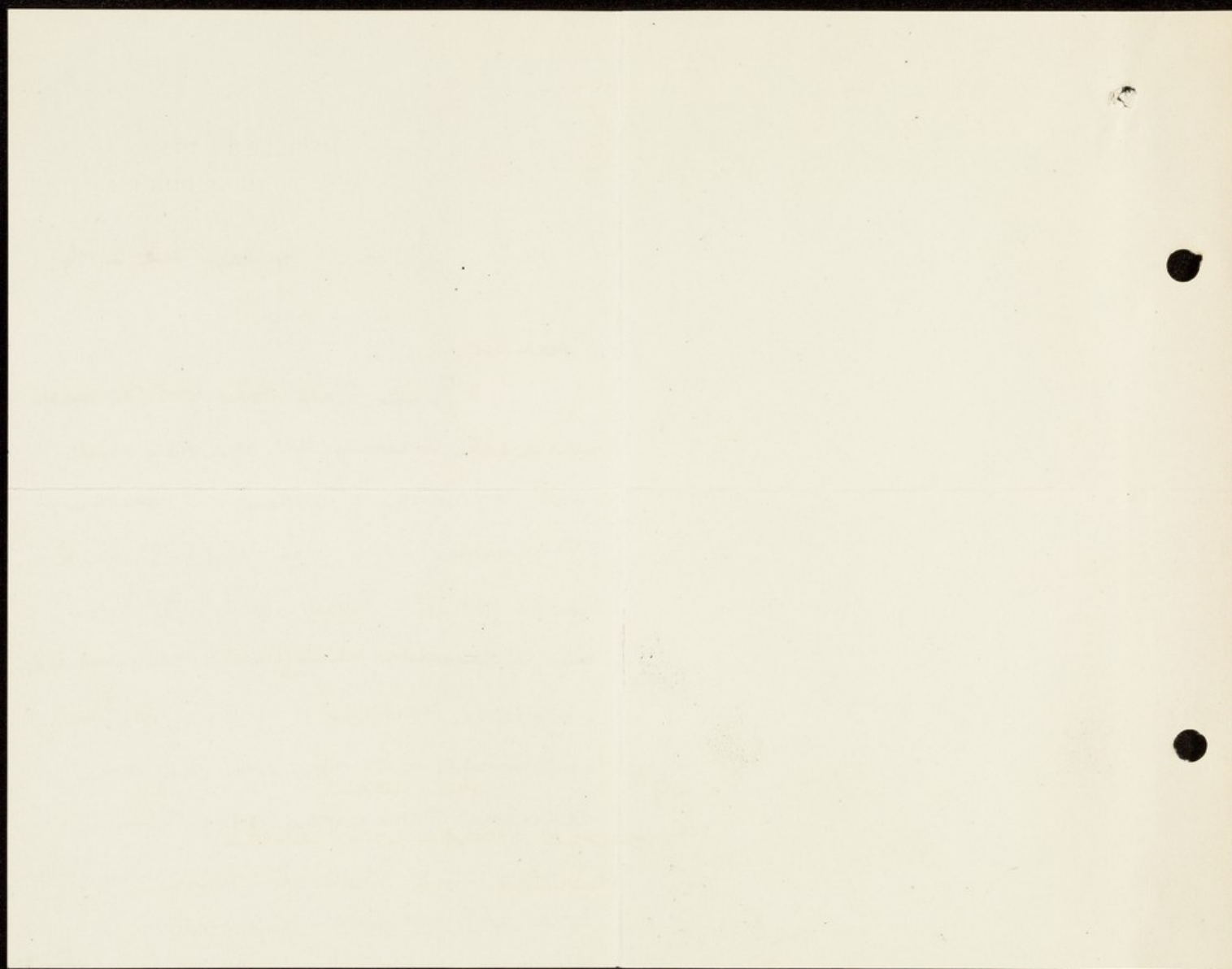
(1034

NEVILLE'S CROSS,
NEAR DURHAM.

Friday. Dec. 21. 06.

Dear Sir,

I find that my brother will not be able to come till one day next week, probably Tuesday. Of course I presume that you will have to charge us for keeping the place but it cannot very well be avoided. I shall be coming through with him and will advise you at the earliest possible opportunity of day and time. With many thanks for your kindness. Yours truly E. H. Pritchard



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 Charles H. Veitch of _____

_____ as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dring, etc., The Knight, York the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to pay or cause to be paid, to the said Richard Thompson

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

WITNESS my hand the 29th day of January 1907

Name Ernest Hardinge Veitch

Residence Kevel's Cross, Near Durham

Occupation Printer

SIGNED by the said Ernest Hardinge Veitch

in the presence of

Witness's Signature

Address, and

Profession.

Sam R. R. R. R. R.

45 South Street, Durham

Fire and Marine

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.

