unnecessary because I know you understand the mystery of silence. I am so grateful to have found the sweet little book which I threw away.

Au revoir but not good bye.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel A. Vick.

P.S. Kindest regards to Mrs Price and Miss Hamilton.

The Retreat,
York.
March 19th. 1917

Dear Dr. Price,

Thank you so much for lending me this book, but as I value it most highly please pardon my returning it before I leave. I have not quite finished reading up my subject.

I will take this opportunity also of thanking you for your great kindness. Words are quite inadequate and

Une Fable de La Fontaine. (en vieux français!)

Un sage chrétien a rencontré un stupide diable.
Bon-jour! dit-il au diable élevant son chapeau.
Bon-jour! répondit le diable.
J'ai souvent remarqué dit-il comme tu es sage.
Le diable flatté, répondu, j'en suis bien sûr. (grab. apple?)
Venez, dit-il, jouez avec moi un jeu de "saisi pomme."
Tout le temps le chrétien restait tranquille, mais le diable n'était pas rusé, il perdait tout le temps de ses affaires, finalement il s'est éveillé.
Où est la pomme, dit-il, en pleurant.
Ici, répondit le chrétien, c'est à moi.
A son surprise le diable commençait à sourire.
Bien, dit-il, je vous félicite c'était votre frère qui l'avait cueillie.
Qu'est que c'était cette pomme?
Dévinez-vous et je vous donnerai le prix de Nobel.
Morale. Ne jouez pas au "saisi-pomme" avec un sage chrétien.

(With fear & Trembling)

The Bridge of Sighs.

The King of Trumps was vexed with cares of state there was a frown upon his face

The Queen of Hearts made him some Strawberry tarts but failed to whet his appetite.

The Queen of Clubs retailed her woes, in them he found no solace.

Sending for the Knave of Spades to him, he said –

"Knave thy jokes were dull they grate upon my royal ear."

"Make for me a goodly jest which will delight my heart."

The Knave turned pale, his last jest had utterly failed.

He called upon a friend. The Knave of Diamonds for assistance.

"It is not death I fear," said he, "but the agony of living without the sunshine of my master's smile. I know not why things at Courts are all awry"

And then the Knave replied, –

"Beware the Queen of Clubs she striketh hard and hath the King's ear when thou art not sitting at his feet and ready to defend thyself. Be it at least an artist send him this and say there is no malice in thy jests though you hope your star was well pointed.

The Scarlet Pimpernel.

Twinkle Twinkle, little star how I wonder what you are!

Par nobis cura.

Wamba.

24th March, 1917.

Dear Bertram Watson,

I am very pleased indeed to hear that you are back at home and now in reasonably good health. I expect that you will have to take things rather more quietly than you have been accustomed to, but still there seems to be no reason why you should not have excellent health.

I am very pleased to be able to give a very good report of Miss Vick. She went to London on Tuesday, and my daughter, who was in London, has seen her and says that she is keeping quite nicely. The change in her is really marvellous, and most satisfactory.

The future, however, is a serious problem. I suggested that she should do some gardening or farm work, but I incline to think she is right when she says that she is not strong enough, for she gets tired more easily than a person of her physique ought to. She herself is most anxious to come back and work among the patients as secretary and general factotum. This, however, does not appeal to me, though there is no doubt that the suggestion is made in the interests of the family and of the Institution. Nothing definite has been fixed, but she talks of coming back after Easter. It is really a serious problem, for she is not

likely to be happy unless she is well employed, and I doubt whether she is strong enough for really serious work.

As regards Miss Coombes, I had quite satisfactory reports from the father, but I should imagine that the general level of intelligence is low, and that the recovery is not really as complete as one would like, though perhaps it is rightly considered as a recovery and the patient is no worse than she was before the breakdown. Perhaps I am unfair to her, and I hope that I am.

We are quite pleased at the result of these two cases, as neither of them seemed very promising at one time.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE
BARNET 506.

PARKWOOD HOUSE,
OAKLEIGH ROAD,
WHETSTONE, N. 20.
London.

30th May 17.

Dear Dr. Pierce

It was a great satisfaction to receive your official "discharge" on 25th instant of my daughter "recovered" and I wish to thank you and the Matron and staff for all the patience and care which were so largely instrumental in bringing about this happy result. Please let me know how matter-

stands between your institution and myself so far as accounts are concerned..

Yours sincerely.

R. Cliffton

Dr. Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

409.

24th May 17.

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N. 6.
London.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am delighted to say, in reply to your letter of yesterday's date, that my daughter is keeping quite well, working on her sister's farm at Rise for more than a month past. There is no reason therefore for her name to be kept any longer on your books and I shall be glad to hear that you

have done as suggested in your letter.

Yours sincerely

R Welch

My address for a time now will be Parkwood House, Oakleigh Road, Whetstone, London. N. 20.

(after to-morrow)

Dr Bedford Pierce
The Retreat,
York

NAT. TELEPHONE No 112.

THE RETREAT,

YORK.

23rd May, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I hear indirectly that Miss Vick is keeping quite well as I fully expected would be the case, and I now write to ask whether the time has not come when she should be finally discharged from our books as recovered. She is now on leave of absence, and it does not seem desirable that she should be on ours books any longer. On hearing from you I will send the usual notice of discharge.

I remain,

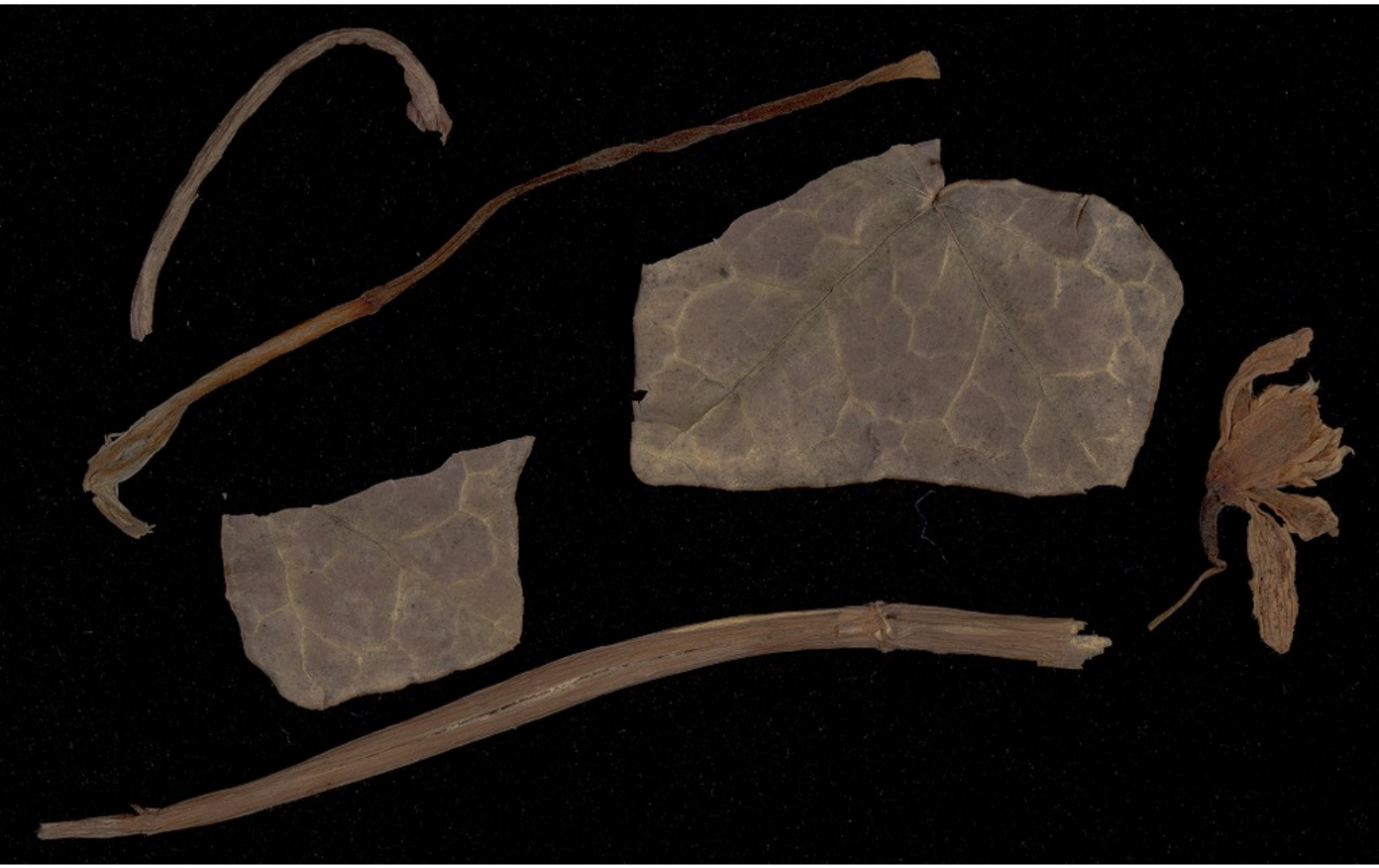
Yours very truly,

(Dedicated to Dr Bedford Price)

"Strength in Quietness" (Whittier)

The snow had vanished and gone save in patches on the top and ridges of the hills. For many days the earth had been fast bound with frost. The hard dry crust was almost black; but slowly its nature changed, it became check crossed with cracks and, then a little raised by some hidden force beneath, until like the barbs of the dragon's teeth, green spikes appeared, the swords of the coming knights and quite suddenly there came a tiny snowdrop – the very first. Trembling with rapture on its slender stalk its head bowed, not with exhaustion or dejection, but in thankfulness for the resurrection. Before all the world it stood, vainly trying to screen its beauty behind sharp pointed leaves.

(Vita)



832

11th April 17.

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N. 6.
London.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am obliged by your letter of yesterday's date. Though I consider my daughter to be quite well she wishes to return to York and will therefore, all being well, arrive by the train due at 6.17 to-morrow evening with nurse Smitheram. After spending a short time with you I hope you will approve of her going on to her sister, Mrs. Middleton, at Rise, nr. Hull, where I think she could be useful and happy for some time. With kind regards

Yours sincerely

R. W. Shore

returns in order to collect her things I did not realize she had left any of her property behind. We have sent her away for a holiday, she was looking tired and I wanted to see if I felt lost without her. I am thankful to say I feel extremely fit.

It is a great joy to see my small niece, her length could be measured in yards! She is in fact no longer small but rather like a willow wand.

Dalton, I visited the Francis Davis Studio. I have traced the "Peacocks." Mrs Swale procured a copy from them. They are going to send me one on

816

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N.

April 6th 1917.

Dear Dr Pierce,

With regard to my return I shall feel in honour bound to come back on Tuesday unless you give me permission to remain until Thursday, if that day is convenient I should ever so much prefer it, for many reasons, with which I will not trouble you.

It is proposed that Corporal Smitheman

my return. I hope by Thursday to have the design all fixed up. I simply must do those Peacocks. York is such a fine place for anything artistic. Cecile Lewis who brought the fan painting to England is a Yorkshire lady, living once upon a time just outside the old City.

With kindest regards to Mrs Pierce & Marjorie.

Yours very sincerely.

Mabel A. Vick

770

28th March 17.

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N. 6.
London

Dear Dr. Pierce

Having discussed the matter with my daughter we have decided that it will be wise for her to return to York for a short time, but it does seem that she could dispense with the services of a nurse. Her intercourse with nurse Smitheram has in every way been highly satisfactory but I am sure you will agree with me that it is time my daughter held a more independent position. This seems an opportune occasion to make the separation as the nurse says she is very ready for a holiday. Please let me have your approval of this suggestion as soon as ~~you~~ convenient, and if you would be kind enough to give her a letter of recommendation it wd be much appreciated.

I am sorry to say that my daughter, contrary to my wishes, is worrying over the expenses she is causing me and, though most grateful for past benefits, does not feel she would be justified in returning on the same terms. If you allow her to make up the time she has missed since leaving York perhaps you could then decide whether she could help in any way. She is unfit for anything permanent or arduous and still requires peace and quiet, but no further treatment: perhaps you could propose a different arrangement which would set her mind at rest. She feels it her duty to remain here until after Easter in order to see her little niece (from school in Birmingham) to whom she is much devoted, and I am glad to have received to-day your letter approving of her doing so. With esteem I am

Yours sincerely R W Shaw

Dr. Bedford Pierce, York.

29th March, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

Many thanks for your letter, there certainly seems to be no necessity for a special nurse now that Miss Vick is so well, and I should have thought that Nurse Smitheram could rightly be liberated.

Would you tell her that it would be a pleasure to me to act as reference for her at any time, as her work at the Retreat was good, and I shall be quite pleased to tell anyone so. It is not our practice, however, to give written testimonials except when people are going abroad, and as a matter of fact testimonials are of but little value. If Nurse Smitheram tells anyone that she has had experience at the Retreat and mentions my name that will be more effective from her point of view than anything that I cmight write.

With regard to the fees, we thoroughly realise that now that Miss Vick is so much better and no longer gives the anxiety that she did during the acute stage of her illness, the fees must be entirely revised when she comes back to the Retreat I hardly know what to suggest, much depends upon the accommodati she has when she returns.

I gather that she is wishful to help us in some way or other, but it may not be very easy to arrange this, though it is our practice to pay patients by the hour, usually 3d. an hour,

when they are doing useful work, quite a large number of the patients receive money in this way for gardening and so forth, but of course this is not intended to be payment for services rendered, but rather as a means of encouragement.

It is pleasant to hear that Miss Vick keeps so nicely.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

P.S. I enclose usual notice about patients on leave of absence, but I think this also will require special consideration by the Committee on Miss Vick's return.

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

28th March 17

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N. 6.
London.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I have had a good many delightful hours at the Thackeray Hotel with my daughter who is coming up to Highgate to-morrow.

I understand from her that, as she is so well, it will not be contrary to your wishes if she remains with us over Easter?

With regard to future arrangements I hope

to communicate later.
With kind regards
I am yours faithfully
R. E. Wicks

Dr. Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York

24th March, 1917.

Dear Bertram Watson,

I am very pleased indeed to hear that you are back at home and now in reasonably good health. I expect that you will have to take things rather more quietly that you have been accustomed to, but still there seems to be no reason why you should not have excellent health.

I am pleased to be able to give a very good report of Miss Vick. She went to London on Tuesday, and my daughter, who was in London, has seen her and says that she is keeping quite nicely. The change in her is really marvellous, and most satisfactory.

The future, however, is a serious problem. I suggested that she should do some gardening or farm work, but I incline to think that she is right when she says that she is not strong enough, for she gets tired very easily, more so than a person of her physique ought to. She herself is most anxious to come back and work among the patients as secretary and general factotum. This, however, does not appeal to me, though there is no doubt that it is made in the interests of the family and the Institution Nothing definite has been fixed, but she talks of coming back after Easter. It is really a serious problem, for she is not likely to be happy unless she is well employed, and I doubt whethe she is strong enough for really serious work.

As regards Miss Coombes, I had quite

AT HOME
DAILY BETWEEN 2 AND 4 P.M.
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER BETWEEN 2 AND 5 P.M.
TELEPHONE 204.

2, RIPON ROAD,
HARROGATE.

March 22nd 1917.

Dear Dr Bedford Pieree,

My wife and I have been away in the south of France for three months and I find your letter of January 4th awaiting me on my return. I am very glad to have such a good report about both Miss Coombes and my cousin, Miss Vick. I have seen Miss Oughtred and she tells me that the improvement in Miss Vick has continued, and that she is now sufficiently well to leave the Retreat. I think our holiday in France has been a success, I have had very little gastric trouble while there, and hope that from now onwards my food will be accustomed to travel along its new route.

With kind regards, Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

W Bertram-Walton

Dr Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

741

TELEGRAMS THACKERAY LONDON
TELEPHONES MUSEUM 1230-1231

THACKERAY HOTEL
(OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM)
GREAT RUSSELL STREET
LONDON

25th March 17.

Dear Dr. Pierce

This is just to let you know that my daughter and her nurse are now (2.30 p.m.) safely here after quite a satisfactory journey. I have had no opportunity of talking to my daughter but shall be writing you again. It is delightful to see her practically herself again and I wish to congratulate you thereon and to thank you for all your care of and attention to her.

Yours sincerely

R. L. Shep

19th March, 1917.

Dear Miss Oughtred,

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad to say that Miss Vick keeps nicely. She is sleeping well and is quite natural. All is in order for her to go to London to-morrow.

It is, as you say, a wonderful change from her unhappy and distressing condition a few months ago.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

	£	s.	d.
Washing and Mending			
Stimulants			
Tobacconist			
Stationery and Stamps			
Tailor			
Hosier			
Shoemaker			
Millinery and Dressmaking ...			
Sundries per Head Attendant ...			
Sundries per the Matron			
Extra Carriage Drives			
Extra Nursing...			
Dentistry			
.....			
.....			

£

Cheques should be made payable to "BEDFORD PIERCE, M.D., or order," and crossed "London Joint Stock Bank, F.R. Account."

TELEPHONE NOS. 898 & 899.
TWO LINES.

S

SOUTHLANDS,
RIPON ROAD,
HARROGATE.

TELEGRAMS:
"SOUTHLANDS" HOTEL,
HARROGATE.

March 17th 1917

Dear Dr Price

He had a very pleasant time yesterday afternoon.
My niece was so bright & delighted to be invited without a duel, and to be allowed to return from the station alone. Her condition was altogether a most pleasant surprise to me. Her face is all sunshine, but I told me she feels even so, she dread cannot bear much excitement and in the Cafe, when there was a little noise I noticed her chin moved very slightly from side to side a thing I would not have seen if, but I remember, it was the used to do at last autumn. He can never be grateful enough to you for all your kindness to his dear girl, and most thankful she came to the Retreat.
My nephew Benjamin Walton is expected home early next week.

Believe me
Yours very truly
Archie Brightwell

16th March, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I see no reason why Miss Vick should not go to London on Tuesday morning. I have wired to that effect, and she will arrive at 1.45 p.m. If she is not met at the Station she will go straight to the Thrackeray Hotel.

I do not know whether you are engaging a private sitting-room, but there would be some advantage in doing this, so that she could have rest and quiet, as she is not strong and she ought to be able to rest when she is tired. This she could not do in the public sitting-rooms.

So far as I know I have no prospect of being in London soon. Now-a-days one travels less than usual, and moreover being short-handed here makes it difficult to get away.

We are beginning to-day to let Miss Vick go about alone in the city, so that she shall be more used to being independent than she hasbeen lately.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N.

15th March 17. 6.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am highly gratified by your report of 12th instant on my daughter's condition, which I gather to be (practically) normal. Please therefore, as you suggest, kindly arrange for her and her nurse to come to London next Tuesday morning.

On hearing from you in course of post (or, better, by wire) that this is in order, I will book a room for them at the Thackeray Hotel, opposite the British Museum, a house well known to my daughter, where they would be very comfortable and where my wife and I can conveniently visit them. I shall then hope to get some idea as to what arrangements are desirable for the early future of my daughter. I much value all the remarks in your letter but should like to have a talk with you. Is there any prospect of your being in London at any early date?

Yours very truly

J. Collier

Dr. Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat, York.

719.

TELEGRAMS: "SOUTHLANDS" HOTEL.
TELEPHONE NOS. 898 & 899.
TWO LINES.

SOUTHLANDS,
RIPON ROAD,
HARROGATE.

March 14th 1917

Dear Dr Price. May I call and see my niece Miss Vick for about an hour on Friday afternoon? I am delighted to hear she is so much better.

With kind regards.

Believe me.

Yours sincerely.

R. Oughtred.

12th March, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I am glad to be able to report favourably as to Miss Vick's progress. She really is wonderfully better, and has now full parole to go about the grounds as she pleases. She has not, however, gone outside except when accompanied by her nurse, but we quite think it will be right for her to do so very soon.

Miss Vick has moved to-day to rooms in another department which were formerly occupied by Dr. Wilson. I thought it would be better for her to be away from the patients who were somewhat worrying, and after some hesitation she decided to move. She has been very kind to the patients and did not like leaving them.

She is very wishful to go to London to see you on your birthday, and I really see no reason why she should not do so. I should, however, like to have a talk to you about the future. I do not think she is yet well enough to return to ordinary life except for a short time, and something or other of an intermediate nature would seem to be desirable.

When you see her I feel sure that you will consider her so well that you will not want her to leave home, and yet I cannot but think that life in London is unsuitable for her at the present time, and that some regular and suitable occupation should be found. She herself is quite wishful to

come back here and help with the nursing. This is all very well for a short time, but I cannot recommend it. It does, however, show her kindness to the patients and sympathy, that she should be wishful to help. I may say that she drafted some rules for the conduct of nurses to the patients, which are excellent, and which I intend to read to the nurses during their course of instruction.

I did suggest some agricultural work to Miss Vick, or market gardening, or something on the land, but she thinks she has not strength enough physically for this, and I incline to think that she is right, for she gets tired very easily, and anything in that direction would have to be done very cautiously.

With regard to the visit home, I see no reason why she should not go early next week, for a few days or a week. You could then talk over things with her, and very likely you would be able to see clearly what is best to do.

There would be no difficulty in her returning her or going to our branch house at Scarborough, which just now is delightful, and where there is healthy companionship, people about her own age, but I do not think there is any need for her stay with us to be prolonged. Still, it seems to me to be a case in which it is really best not to hurry, and a little extra residence under care will rely be helpful in the long run.

5745.

Wood Corner.
Rise
Hull. Feb: 17th 1917.

Dear Mr. Pierce.

I hope to visit my sister next Friday. Feb: 23rd. If she could meet with with her nurse at 10.56 (from Hull) I could remain with her an hour and more, and still catch the 12.50 train home again. Otherwise I wait until 2.47. & just miss train in Hull at 4.16. & have to wait till 6.15. I will write to her myself.

Yrs Sincerely.

Emily O. Middleton.

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE, N.
London.

16th Feb: 17.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am very glad to have in your letter of 13th inst. the record of my daughter's progress and much hope that by the Spring she will be "quite herself" again. Her letters to me are entirely different from what they were, and happily indicate a very great change in her condition: there is in fact nothing abnormal about them. We are beginning to think what will be the best step to take for her benefit in the future: it is quite clear that she will not have to return to London. When you think the time has come to fix them I shall value your views as to her future.

Yours faithfully.

R W Moss

13th February, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

Just a line to say that we now feel justified in giving Miss Vick somewhat more liberty. We are withdrawing the night nurse, so that she now sleeps alone at night, although there is a nurse close at hand. She is now going about more in the city. I daresay you have heard that she went to a skating exhibition on Saturday and also to the "Elijah" at the Minster.

She is taking up lessons in pen painting and wood carving. This latter involves the use of sharp tools, but we are arranging that she only uses them when the nurse is about and when not in use they are carefully locked up.

It is very nice to see her increasing interest in all kinds of general topics.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N.

Feb. 6th
17.

Dear Dr Pierce

In reply to your letter of 5th instant — the enclosed voucher no doubt refers to the visit to Harrogate which you mention. My cheque for £5/5/- sent you on 15th August reached the N. P. Bank of England, West Hartlepool, on 13th September last.

I am much gratified to have your good report about my daughter and hope she will ere long be "quite herself".

Yours faithfully
R C Shea

Dr Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

Wood Corner.
Pyes
Hall. Feb: 5th 1917.

Dear Mr. Pierce.

It was a very great joy to see my sister so much more like herself.

We greatly enjoyed our outing together, & I have to thank you for allowing her to come. I must also say how sorry I am not to inform you more fully of my visits, but the journey is a long and tedious one - & until I see the sort of day it is likely to be. I cannot leave, & therefore it is very awkward to know beforehand whether I can really get away or not.

If you could ever entertain the thought of allowing Miss Vick to come here for one night with her nurse, just for a little change I should be delighted to see them.

Yrs truly
Emily O. Middleton.

5. Northumberland Terrace,

Tynemouth.

January 19. 1917.

Dear Dr Bedford Pierce,

I have to thank you very much for your letter of yesterday: it is splendid to know that my sister is still making progress. I thank you for your sanction to my taking her out to lunch to-morrow.

I have written to her, however, asking if Monday will be convenient as I have to go to Edinburgh this morning then on to Glasgow, in connection with the Government Standard Cargo Boats, & I shall not get back till Sunday: unless I hear to the contrary I shall understand that Monday will be suitable to all concerned. With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

W. Hampton Vick.

440.

5. Northumberland Terrace,
Tynemouth.
Sunday. 14.1.17.

Dear Dr Bedford Pierce.

I had the pleasure of seeing my sister yesterday & was very agreeably surprised to find her so much better, of course she has been making progress for some time.

I am personally very much indebted to you for all your kindness & attention to her & for the great attention your staff has shown to her. I would like to take my sister the nurse out to lunch on Saturday if you will kindly approve. With every good wish for 1917.

from Yours sincerely,

H. Hampton Vick.

Jan: 9th 17.

88, Talbot Road,
Highgate. N.
London.

Dear Dr Pierce

I shall be glad to hear how my daughter is progressing. One of her soldier brothers (from France) visited her last week and brought (what appeared to be) a hopeful report, but I shall value your own view of her present condition and apparent prospects.

Yours faithfully
R E Vies

5th January, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

In looking over my books I do not find that I received a fee for my visit to Harrogate on July 13th. I am an unbusinesslike person, but I hardly think I am mistaken and so I am venturing to send in an account. If I am wrong please forgive me.

I am glad to say that Miss Vick continues to improve, and we feel very much encouraged about her.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

R. W. Vick, Esq.
88 Talbot Road,
Highgate, N.

63. Borthaw
Goff.

19. December 1916.

Dear Dr. Bedford-Pierce.

I have written more than one letter to you, & held it back. I did not want to trouble you without good reason. But first one thing, & then another, has seemed to recall my intercourse with you, & those connected with you, in Goff, or at Thersenby — & added to the impression of my indiscretion in speaking, & writing, as freely as I think I cannot have done. We cannot recall our words: how I wish we could. I do not remember what passed. Each day here has pained me so, & prevented my knowing whether there was anything I could do to prevent harm.

I am sure you would act from the kindest & best motives — & you probably said a kind word to Miss Giles for me. & then she seemed to me to try & recall ~~that~~ the fact to my mind, the only distinct one beyond I could not recall all.

Some of the Mission Leaflets, & a note in a recent number of The Church Times, have also ~~troubled~~ troubled me a little — & made me feel how weak & foolish I was. I am not tired. I trust no real harm has, or will, come out of it, tho' I am afraid some has.

I hardly dare say now - I have been asked if I would like to return to Hoylake - but it was so expensive - & so refreshed - or to your care? that to seemed out of the question - & yet there has been this half remonstrance of things, like a big cloud, somehow. I can only leave it - for my own people say I am quite mistaken & that I have not upset anyone, & that if any perversion had arisen they would have heard of it.

Perhaps it came about thus Miss Elkin - I cannot say. I have felt as if I ought to do something, & drew out what: but it has not seemed right to stay on & on here.. the

How much we need wise good men to lead us aright, & save our country.

I do not long for stimulants - but as long as life lasts, we shall have to fight the world, the flesh, & the Devil, I suppose.

I have refreshed myself very imperfectly. I fear I have not been able to take advantage of opportunities - or perhaps for the helps I might have done - that to I must leave.

With kind regards & best wishes

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours

A. Vickers

14th September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

According to promise I write to explain the arrangements proposed for Miss Vick.

The room originally provided was not suitable, and we have consequnetly arranged for nursing in the Ladies' West Villa. This is a one-storied building overlooking the garden you visited. The sitting room faces south and the bedroom east.

The chief difficulty is the question of nurses. Miss Vick part of the time is clear and sensible, and then suddenly she gets desperate and is exceedingly violent. Thus this morning she is quite pleasant and says she knows that she is in a respectable Quaker institution, but during the night for a long time she was very bad. Two nurses were quite unable to control her, and as they could not leave to get assistance for a long time the situation was serious. I can give you details when you come over. We have been obliged to keep both the nurses who came with her, the older one staying another week at my request.

The sad feature of the case is the clear insight of the patient; she says she will never injure these nice nurses, and speaks of how kind everyone is, and then a wave of gloom comes over her, her expression changes, and she will attempt

any desperate act that enters her mind. At these times she makes statements as to what others have said which are grossly untrue; for example she told me that Dr. Veale and four other doctors told her that she was incurable, and for the time she believed these statements were true.

With regard to the expense, I hardly know what the Committee will say, but I should expect that two rooms in the West Villa with two special nurses would be about ten guineas weekly. At present Miss Vick has four specials including the two you provided, viz two by day and two at night, and besides these relief nurses have to be found for meals and the necessary times off duty. Of course, as soon as Miss Vick can be left alone more this additional expense will cease.

It is desirable that you should come over to see her as was arranged on some day before the fortnight elapses, but I am a little doubtful whether Mrs. Vick should come. You will be met with a passionate appeal to take her away, and she will tell you that if she stays it will mean permanent mnetal deterioration. This will be very painful for you, but I think you should come as I have told her you would be doing so. We should be glad to have the blue paper giving particulars of history as soon as possible.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

18th January, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I am pleased to be able to say that the improvement in Miss Vick continues, and it will be quite suitable for you to take her out to lunch on Saturday, and I see no reason why you should take a nurse with you provided she will be with you all the time she is away from the Institution. We are very wishful to relieve her as much as possible of the nurses' company, not that they are in any way distasteful, but I think the time has come when she should become more independent.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

? unlike

Dear Edgecombe

Just a few lines to report progress with Miss Vick.

For a time she was a very anxious ~~conceit~~ patient, she then improved a good deal was orderly & pleasant & able to go about a good deal. The idea never really left her but they faded considerably. About Christmas morbid age for no particular reason she had a relapse, tried to drown herself in the bath & made all kinds of silly accusations. That we were going to ruin her father, that she would be ordered to go along the city walls naked, that we would punish her by sending her to an asylum where she would be tortured.

But she has again improved, is now fairly cheerful & is very busily occupied with pen painting which she does excellently well. I have not discussed the ideas with her for some time, I have no doubt they are there but not on the surface. I feel a little more hopeful about her.

Miss Carrington is as queer as ever. She is really an extraordinary case and her antics & mannerisms are weird in the extreme. We hear nothing about her heart now — but she is always high coloured due no doubt to stimulants —

With all good wishes for the New Year

Yours

Dear Bertram Watson -

I am glad to report that Miss Coombe has been discharged recovered - ~~The day~~ ~~The last day~~ The day you saw her was the last time in which she was seriously confused. She had clear intervals before & the next morn. she was clear again wondering why she had said such daft things to you.

~~Left~~ For some time there was mild excitement & letter ~~not~~ writing to soldiers. She ~~then~~ went to Shrewsbury for a few weeks & then joined her parents at Redcar. They report that she is now quite well - but I should imagine that there is some degree of simpleness left. The brother also appears to have recovered -

Miss Vicks after you saw improved for about 2 weeks then had a bad set back. made some several suicidal attempts & the old delusions crowded out upon her. For about 2 weeks she has again been suicidal, a little variable but still gives no trouble & keeping herself quite fair painting which she does very absolutely well. I barely like to say much but incline to the opinion that after some ups & downs she will recover. She does not in the least complain of her detention & is really a pleasant patient.

I hope you will really better now & that you will have a successful happy New Years. ~~& general~~

Yours ~~sincerely~~ truly

11th January, 1917.

Dear Mr. Vick,

It is a little difficult to reply to your letter. Superficially Miss Vick has certainly been better lately. She talks much more reasonably, looks better, has lost a little weight, and occupies herself with knitting and pen painting, (the latter she does really beautifully), and there has been nothing to complain of in her behaviour for several weeks.

She has been to several parties and one dance, and has quite enjoyed herself I think. During the dance the nurse was anxious about her more than once because she seemed to want to wander away, to slip through doors, but we were not quite sure whether it was a desire for fresh air or a wish to escape, perhaps a little of both.

She presented a very charming piece of pen painting to the Matron, whom she calls Sister Hilda, and she read into this an allegory which was beautifully expressed. Following upon this Miss Head has received several letters, two of which I enclose, and Miss Head would be much obliged if you would return them as she would much like to keep them. As you will see they consist of beautiful poetic symbolism. I have not discussed them with Miss Vick, thinking it better to leave the matter, and consequently I can hardly say how far

she herself realises their symbolic nature or to what extent it really expresses her own beliefs. I incline to think that she knows quite well what she is doing in this respect, and I feel sure that she does not really believe that the Matron's name is Hilda. How far these are really morbid, therefore, depends upon one's point of view. If one is favoured with a mystical, artistic nature the writings appear really charming, although a matter of fact man of the world might consider them strange.

I fear, however, that the morbid ideas have by no means vanished, though happily they are less conspicuous than they were. It is a pity that we are in mid-winter and out-door employment is not practicable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

4th January, 1917

Dear Edgecombe,

Just a few lines to report progress with Miss Vick. For a time she was a very anxious patient, she then improved a good deal, was orderly, pleasant and able to go about a good deal. The morbid ideas never really left her but they fa faded considerably. About six weeks ago for no particular reason she had a relapse, tridd to drown herself in the bath, and made all kinds of silly accusations - that we were going to ruin her father, that she would be ordered to go along the city walls naked, that we would punish her by sending her to an asylum where she would be tortured.

But she has again improved, is now fairly cheerful and is very busily occupied with pen painting which she does excellently well. I have not discussed the ideas with her for some time, I have no doubt they are there but not on the surface. I feel a little more hopeful about her.

Miss Carrington is as queer as ever - she is really an extraordinary case and her antics and mannerisms are weird in the extreme. We hear nothing about her heart now, but she is always high coloured due no doubt to

With all good wishes for the New Year.

Yours very truly,

4th December, 1916.

Dear Miss Oughtred,

Miss Vick has been frequently visited, but I think it would be well for you to come to see her as she wishes.

For a time she decidedly improved and we almost thought convalescence was beginning, but since then she has relapsed, though perhaps she has not been so bad as before. She is now improving again and I think you will have a pleasant visit. She has many delusional ideas, though they are not expressed.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE No. 323. ~~233.~~

SOUTHLANDS,
RIPON ROAD,
HARROGATE.

342.

December 3rd 1914

Dear Dr. Bedford Pease.

This morning I received the enclosed note from my niece. May I come and see her? I have not asked her to do so before fearing it might not be good for her to see Belgians

and only retard her recovery. I do
not want the dear girl to think
I have forgotten her; she has been with
me four months this year.
With kind regards.
Believe me.
Yours sincerely
Nellie Wightwick

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE. N.

27th Nov. 16.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I am sorry to note from your kind letter of 24th instant that my daughter has been more depressed again after she had been doing exceedingly well for some time. This is very disappointing and I do hope for better reports, though you are accustomed to such fluctuations. From the reports of the relatives visiting her we thought she was on the highway to permanent recovery, but we must be patient, knowing that you and your staff are doing all you can for her.

I have the pleasure to enclose cheque for £155:1:2, in payment of the enclosed account.

Yours sincerely

R. Sykes

Dr. Rodford Pierce,
'The Retreat',
York.

10th November, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

You will hear from Mrs. Middleton, who is visiting Miss Vick, that there is certainly some improvement to report respecting your daughter. She is able to give more attention to matters and is not so deeply depressed. She says the ideas are still in her mind, but they are clearly not so dominant as they were.

We have carefully considered the question of Nurse Smitheram, and we all think it will be better for her to remain for the present. We have, therefore, told her this.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE, N.

Nov. 8th 16.

Dear Dr. Pierce

By your letter of 24th ult. I was very glad to hear that you were "certainly hopeful that improvement had set in" with my daughter, and shall now much appreciate your further report. I was pleased to hear of her taking some meals with the other patients and of her Turkish bathing. I hope her weight is decreasing. If the matron thinks she would now be quite happy without nurse Smitheram please say so and I will give her notice: this matter, however, requires, I think, careful consideration. I hope my daughter is kept fully employed, especially with her hands, and that she gets plenty of out-door exercise. Kindly render your account up to the end of October.

Yours sincerely

R W Hoss

Dr. Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York

25th October, 1916.

Dear Sir,

I am writing at Mr. Vick's suggestion to give you particulars of Miss Vick's illness.

I saw her first in Harrogate with Dr. Edgecombe, when she was depressed and dangerously impulsive, having lost all desire to live. She was obsessed with horrible thoughts relating to experiences when nursing at Hartlepool and in London, but in addition had distinct delusions that she was thought to be immoral.

I advised then that she should be placed under care as she was dangerous to herself and to others, having only that day had an alarming struggle with a nurse in order to secure a knife. She was admitted here on September 7th, and at first was exceedingly difficult to control, blindly attacking the nurses and constantly seeking opportunities to do something desperate. For a time she did not improve, and indeed seemed less able to give her attention to anything, but lately things have gone better and she is now reading with interest the life of Madame Recamier. There are still sudden attacks of fear when she is dangerous, and only yesterday she took up a stone to throw at the nurse.

At the moment she is constantly thinking she is to be transferred to a Workhouse or County Asylum where she will be severely punished for all she has done. She always

says she could control herself if she wished, but the next moment she says she knows she must have been mad. Though she implores me to keep her she will try to escape. The suicidal tendency is still present and when there is a hopeless wave of thought she is dangerous.

She plays the piano a little and reads a little but is unable to give her attention to anything for long, and suddenly returns to the same ideas. Her bodily health is good, but she is a little too stout and we have tried to diet her, knocking of starches and sweets, but she still weighs fourteen stones. She had a Turkish bath the other day and seemed better for it. We have given no sedatives and she now sleeps fairly well.

As for a diagnosis, the case is not easy to place. It is not an ordinary case of melancholia, and yet she is depressed with painful delusions. I see no specially unfavourable symptoms, though I do not like the repeated waves of unreasoning terror. I cannot but think that the horrors of the bombardment of Hartlepool has much to do with the onset, followed by nursing in London under unfavourable conditions. These evidently have been too much for her nervous organisation.

Miss Vick gets on well with the nurses, and she is certainly much more peaceable and less distressed. We quite expect she will progressively improve, but I cannot be quite

so certain of this as in some other depressed patients. If we could only get her better occupied in some sustained way I should be much more satisfied.

As you are abroad I am writi ng at length as you will be anxious for details.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Captain R. M. Vick, R.A.M.C.

85th Field Ambulance,

B.M.E.F.

Greece.

24th October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

We are glad to report some improvement in Miss Vick's general state. I cannot say that she is really better yet, because she still harps on the old idea that we are going to turn her out into some place where she will be badly treated, but she does not believe this quite so strongly as formerly.

She had a Turkish bath yesterday, which she enjoyed a great deal, and we think it will be well for her to have one every week.

Miss Vick has been much better to do with, and there have been no scenes of violence lately, and she had had some of her meals with the other patients which she much prefers. This has the drawback of her eating much more farinaceous food than we like; still it is pleasant to see that she has a good appetite and enjoys her breakfast with others.

I hardly like to say much but we are certainly hopeful that improvement has set in.

I shall be glad to write fully to Captain Vick.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

24th October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

We are glad to report some improvement in Miss Vick's general state. I cannot say that she is really better yet, because she still harps on the old idea that we are going to turn her out into some place where she will be badly treated, but she does not believe this quite so strongly as formerly.

She had a Turkish bath yesterday which she evidently enjoyed a great deal, and we think it will be well for her to have one every week.

Miss Vick has been much better to do with, and there have been no scenes of violence

TELEPHONE
1421 HORNSEY.

88, TALBOT ROAD,
HIGHGATE, N.
London

23rd Oct. 16.

Dear Dr Pierce

After seeing you at the Station Hotel, York, last Thursday we visited our daughter (my wife & I) and were glad to find her better than on our previous visit. I hope she is still progressing mentally and that she is not getting heavier.

Writing me from Salonica on 9th inst. my "doctor" son, R. M. Vick, F.R.C.S., M.C., &c., says "I am perfectly "certain from the description "which you give and have

"given at various times
"of dear Mabel's condition
"that the step taken is not
"taken a minute too soon".
He also says "Please ask
"Dr. Pierce to send me a
"professional report of
"dear Mabel's condition".
My principal object in
writing this letter is to
ask you to be kind enough
to send him the report
he asks for. His address
is Capt.n R. M. Vick,
R.A.M.C. T.F.,
85th Field Ambulance,
B.M.E.F.,
Greece.

For the present I shall
be remaining at the above
address and shall be
obliged by your letting
me know of my daughter's
condition. I remain,
Yours sincerely
R M Vick

When at the Retreat
I understood that nurse
Powell would be leaving
to-morrow. I told nurse
Smitherman that she could
remain for a week longer,
say until 31st instant.

Dr. Bedford Pierce
The Retreat,
York.

Wood Corner,
Rise,
Hull.

18th Oct. '16.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I wish to thank you for the hospitality extended to my wife and myself on Saturday last when we visited our daughter and were unfortunate in not finding you at home. We were glad to find her so well physically but fear that she is (or was) no better mentally and I shall be glad to have your report on her condition now that she has been under your care for more than a month. Do you consider her better than when she came to you?

Yours sincerely

R. Ellis

H. V. SCOTT,
CLERK TO THE JUSTICES.
TELEPHONE 13D.

Magistrates' Clerk's Office,
Clifford Street,
York.

8 th October, 1916.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I must apologise for having inadvertantly taken away with me from the Retreat this morning the papers relating to Miss M. A. Vick, which I enclose herein.

Yours faithfully,

R B Harrison

Dr. Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
Heslington Road,
York.

14th October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

The Matron tells me that she can now manage to supply trustworthy nurses from our own staff, and there is consequently no reason why the two nurses you provided should not leave. These nurses have really done very well and have been very agreeable in the household, getting on well with the other nurses, and there is no doubt that under the trying circumstances broadly speaking they have been very satisfactory. Consequently I should be very sorry that anything should be done to imply that they have not been a success. We thought they ought to have a little notice, perhaps a week or a fortnight. It might be a little easier for Miss Vick if one of them left say a week before the other.

I could not get Miss Vick to talk to me much to-day but she had a pleasant smile and was evidently not so much distressed, and the nurses' report was rather better.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

14th October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

The Matron tells me that she can now manage to supply trustworthy nurses from our own staff and there is consequently no reason why the two nurses you supplied

P.S. There is no Sunday delivery of letters here, & no post towards!

Wood Corner,
Rise,
Hull.

12th Oct. 16.

Dear Dr Pierce

From your letter of yesterday's date I am very glad to know that you are hopeful that my daughter has begun to take a turn for the better and do trust that she will go on improving. Variety of occupations cannot but be very helpful to her and I much hope she may be induced to "do" something with her hands, as well as her intellect, which was of the brightest. She used to be keen on languages so that perhaps she will take up Russian, especially if a nurse can work with her, though I am told it is a difficult tongue. I note your remarks as to my nurses and should now like to dispense with them, if it meets with your approval, so that my daughter would then be entirely under the control of your staff, in whom I have every confidence. If you agree to this please send me a note saying when you would like them to go and I will write them accordingly. I remain yours sincerely

R Elliot

October 11th, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

For the last two days Miss Vick has been certainly a little better. As regards your question as to whether she has really improved since she has been at the Retreat, I fear I must give a doubtful answer. For a time she certainly appeared to get worse; but I am hopeful that she has begun to take a turn for the better.

I wish it were possible to get her to take up some steady occupation. I found one of the nurses with a Russian dictionary, I suggested to-day that they get a Russian Grammar, and that she spend part of the time taking up this new language. I am very wishful that she should be employed in some reasonable way, even if it be for only a short time every day.

With regard to the two nurses whom you sent the report I get is on the whole favourable. They have been reported more than once of speaking to Miss Vick in an improper way, using expressions which a nurse should not address to a lady patient. One of them was spoken to about this and so far as I know it has not occurred again. They get on well with the other nurses, and we have no reason to be dissatisfied as to the way in which theyna

re looking after Miss Vick.

When nursing a patient on such intimate terms for such a long time the nurse is rather apt to become too familiar, and the complaints which have reached me hardly amount to more than this.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

H. HAMPTON VICK.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"MOORINGS, NEWCASTLE."

AND AT—
86, ST. VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW.
TELEPHONE—354, CENTRAL.
TELEGRAMS—"METALLIZE," GLASGOW.

TELEPHONE:—CENTRAL 4724.

7, COLLINGWOOD STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

September 26. 1916.

Dear Doctor Pierce,

I must thank you for your attention to me on Saturday; I do hope my Sister is more settled & that I may see her again on Saturday next & on every Saturday till further notice, but I will accept your guidance in this.

Will you please make a note of my address as above in case at any time you should wish to communicate with me.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. Hampton Vick.

at Woodbourne,
Rise Hall,
25th Sept. 16.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I was glad to receive your letter of 20th inst. with the better report of the condition of my daughter and hope she is making further progress towards normal mental health, of which I shall be glad to hear.

I have the pleasure to enclose cheque £13/2/6 in payment of the accompanying account. I remain

Yours faithfully

R W Shea

20th September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I am glad to say that since you were here there has been no serious trouble. Miss Vick has been very depressed and agitated and has talked in the same way about being sent away as insane and shut up for life, but she has really been able to take more interest in things and has not required any seclusion. It seems quite clear that your visit did no harm, and this being so we hope that you or Mrs. Vick will be coming over again before long.

With respect to terms; at the Committee yesterday the matter was carefully considered and the following terms were fixed, which I hope will be satisfactory to you. That Miss Vick has the two rooms at the West Villa and a day nurse and a night nurse at the rate of ten and a half guineas per week. While you provide the two additional nurses one guinea per week each to be charged for board, lodging and washing, but if the Retreat provides the additional nurses the charge to be three guineas per week inclusive for each.

Assuming that the present arrangements continue unti the end of the present month, I am asking the Secretary to send you a statement of account up to the end of that time. Of course if it were possible to do away with any of the nurse your account will be credited accordingly.

I hope that you or other members of the family will write to Miss Vick regularly. The letters may be addressed the West Villa, Heslington Road, York, so as to avoid the use of the word Retreat.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

14th September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

According to promise I write to explain the arrangements proposed for Miss Vick.

The room originally provided was not suitable, and we have consequently arranged for nursing in the Ladies' West Villa. This is a one-storied building overlooking the garden you visited. The sitting-room faces south and the bedroom east.

The chief difficulty is the question of nurses. Miss Vick part of the time is clear and sensible, and then suddenly she gets desperate and is exceedingly violent. Thus this morning she is quite pleasant and says she knows that she is in a respectable Quaker institution, but during the night for a long time she was very bad. Two nurses were quite unable to control her, ~~but~~ as they could not leave to get assistance for a long time the situation was serious. I can give you details when you come over. We have been obliged to keep both the nurses who came with her, the older one staying another week at my request.

The sad feature of the case is the clear insight of the patient; she says she will never injure these nice nurses, and speaks of how kind everyone is, and then a wave of gloom comes over her, her expression changes, and she will attempt

any desperate act that enters her mind. At these times she makes statements as to what others have said which are grossly untrue; for example she told me that Dr. Veale and four other doctors told her that she was incurable, and for the time she believes these statements are true.

With regard to the expense, I hardly know what the Committee will say, but I should expect that two rooms in the West Villa with two special nurses would be about ten guineas weekly. At present Miss Vick has four specials including the two you provided, viz two by day and two at night, and besides these relief nurses have to be found for meals and the necessary times off duty. Of course, as soon as Miss Vick can be left alone more this additional expense will cease.

It is desirable that you should come over to see her as was arranged on some day before the fortnight elapses, but I am a little doubtful whether Mrs. Vick should come. You will be met with a passionate appeal to take her away, and she will tell you that if she stays it will mean permanent mental deterioration. This will be very painful for you, but I think you should come as I have told her you would be doing so. We should be glad to have the blue paper giving particulars of history as soon as possible.

I remain,
Yours very truly,

at Wood Corner,
Rise.
Hull.

13th Sept. 16.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I was very glad to receive your letters of 8th and 9th inst. relative to my daughter's condition and to know that she was doing so hopefully. I trust she continues to keep "bright and cheerful" and that her mental condition is improving. I am afraid I forgot to say that, even

during the last few months she has found reading to be a solace. No doubt your institution is well provided with suitable books.

Within the next few days my wife and I should like to visit our daughter and I shall be glad to know if you think it will be wise for us to do so.

I remain Yours faithfully

R W Shaw

Dr Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
YORK.

57

AT HOME
DAILY BETWEEN 2 AND 4 P.M.
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER BETWEEN 2 AND 5 P.M.
TELEPHONE 204.

2, RIPON ROAD,
HARROGATE.

September 11th 1916.

Dear Dr Bedford Pierce,

I was very relieved when I heard that Miss Vick was at the Retreat. My own course in the matter has been one of some difficulty, but I suppose this is always the case where a relative happens to be a doctor. I should be glad if you will keep me informed as to Miss Vick's progress, and sincerely hope that with Institution treatment she will settle down.

Miss Coombes is taking a longer time to clear up than I thought she would.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

W Bertram Watson

Dr Bedford Pierce,
The Retreat,
York.

(67)

17, VICTORIA AVENUE,
HARROGATE.

Sept 10. 16

My dear Alice

I am glad you have decided at last under your care: it took them some time to decide finally! but I knew they would come to it at last. Under proper management she ought soon to improve. Dieting carefully with Iron will be beneficial: it has been

impossible little to carry it out.

As regards the nurse. My opinion is she has been with the patient too long. A change would be desirable. Her tact would be better if surrounded by entire strangers. There is too much of the sentimental element between them.

The nurse has at times been in a state of over-strain & from her point of view would be better away.

Yours sincerely

W. Edgecumbe

September 9th, 1916.

Dear Edgecombe,

You will be interested in hearing how we are getting on with Miss Vick. So far we have done better than I expected. There was a prospect of a scene on Thursday night and for two hours she had to be held in bed, but since then there has been no recurrence of this, and this morning she tells me that she slept well in bed last night.

I should rather like to have your opinion of the younger nurse who was with her, Miss Smitheram. She was altogether overwrought when she arrived here and was very much excited, throwing her arms round the patient's neck in an emotional way.

It would appear that Miss Vick dominated the nurses when in Harrogate. We are shorthanded here and would quite fall in with Mr. Vick's wish that the nurse should remain for a few weeks, but we should not do this unless her influence is beneficial, hence my mentioning the matter.

You will understand that I have no reason whatever to doubt that she is devoted to the patient and quite trustworthy.

We are cutting down starches and fats quite progressively and we hope that the change in diet will be beneficial

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

September 9th, 1916.

Dear Bertram Watson,

Just a line to say that so far Miss Vick has done pretty well here. We have had few scenes of violence and she is certainly more reasonable, and she is sleeping better. I do not want to count on this at all as a change often makes a temporary benefit, but we are pleased that things are not worse.

I cannot report as favourably of Miss Coombes for she is dull and unresponsive and rarely speaks, shirks her food, and I am not sure that we ought not to forcibly feed her more often than we do. I cannot but think she presents a good many symptoms of Dementia Praecox. Still one must not lose hope as such patients sometimes clear up wonderfully. I admitted a lady whom I felt to be a chronic case, she had been in a doctor's house for months tearing up things in a stupid, aimless way, and lo and behold she is now out on parole and a rational being!

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

September 9th, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

Just a line to say that Miss Vick seems very much better this morning, she is quite bright and cheerful and discusses things very reasonably, and has slept well. She says she has had a beautiful night, and this without any sedative. No doubt this improvement is not to be counted upon in any way, but it is satisfactory that there has been no fresh difficulty in managing her. She makes no difficulty at all about the change in dietary.

Nurse Smitheram is coming on duty tomorrow. [illegible] would like just to hear how we were getting on.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

at Wood Corner
Rise
HULL

15th Sept. 16.

Dear Dr. Pierce

I beg to enclose herewith the "Further Statement," asked for in your valued letter of 14th instant, the contents of which I hope to discuss with you early next week, as also the general condition of my daughter, who is, I hope, giving you and the officials less trouble.

I remain yours sincerely.

R W Shea

Dr. Bedford Pierce
The Retreat,
York

6th September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Vick,

I enclose with this a set of forms, those on white paper are required by constitution and should be filled up in every particular before the patient comes to the Retreat. The blue paper can wait until later. The telephone was not working well this morning, but I hope you understood that the medical certificates must be founded on recent examinations of the patient, not less than one week previous to the application to the magistrate for an order. It would seem better that Dr. Bertram Watson who is a relative should not sign one of the certificates, although his relationship is really not too close for this. I conclude that you will sign the petition yourself.

With regard to the legal question raised, placing a person under certificates does not automatically disturb their property, but you will understand that banks are sometimes difficult, and when they know that a person has been certified they may decline to honour cheques. If at all practicable before Miss Vick comes it would be well to get her to sign authorities to companies in which she may be interested to pay dividends direct into her bank, so that she will not have to endorse.

We shall be quite ready to receive Miss Vick tomorrow, and I need hardly say we will do all we can to make her comfortable and to promote recovery.

I propose to begin on the centre in the first place near the matron's room.

The matron will be glad to have the assistance of your nurse, and I conclude you would wish us to pay her the usual fees to the association to which she belongs. She would live in the Trained Nurses Department which is quite separate from the Retreat. Of course any such arrangement must be of a tentative nature, but I see no reason why it should not work satisfactorily.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

September 2nd, 1916.

Dear Bertram Watson,

I found Miss Vick's mental condition distinctly difficult, and write to you frankly giving my general opinion, though you will remember that I only saw her for about an hour, and it is rather rash saying much in such a case with only a single interview.

It was quite clear that continual efficient supervision was necessary. Miss Vick had lost the desire to live, the fundamental instinct of self-preservation seemed to have gone entirely, and I felt sure that she would be likely to end her life when opportunity offered.
No doubt this suicidal tendency varies from time to time: sometimes she will be safe, shortly afterwards quite unsafe.

Next it was quite clear that the constant super vision of nurses in lodgings was intensely irritating; and I thought she took a certain degree of pleasure in giving them trouble; and for this reason I felt satisfied in my own mind that institution care would be preferable.
In a well designed institution effective supervision could be obtained with very much less friction.

As regards the fundamental nature of the case I did not find evidence of deep-seated mental disorder.
She was able to talk in a very interesting way, gave me

a detailed account of her experiences, particularly referring to her mental strain during the Hartlepool raid, and difficulties whilst nursing in London.

It seemed to be the sort of case that needed primarily wise and skilful psychical management, and very probably matters would clear up with psycho analysis.

Somebody like Dr. Bernard Hart would seem to be the sort of person to have the care of her. How to arrange effective medical treatment under favourable conditions I hardly know, for I can quite understand the family hesitating to place such a sensible person into a recognised institution.

With regard to your suggestion that she be placed with a doctor not under certificates, it all depends on who the doctor is. Youwill see that my letter is not exactly written so that it can be forwarded to anyone, it is personal to yourself.

I hope you are now thoroughly restored and have strength enough for the pressure of work which you must be having. I have just returned from four weeks holiday and am A.I. I wonder if you and Mrs. Bertram Watson will be able to come over and see the Michaelmas daisies which will be out very shortly.

Yours very truly,