Boston Park.
Jan. R.

29. Dec. 1906

Dear Dr. Bedford Pierce.

It was kind of you to reply to my note —

Home duties are not always pleasant, are they? but indeed I have tried to fill the days usefully — some occupations do not prevent our thoughts going beyond our immediate surroundings — & mine have dwelt on many past blessings, with the feeling that I was laying cares on those I love by remaining in a Home of

this description one day longer than was absolutely necessary, that I had no right to lay: & missing blessings a Heavenly Father still gives. And I felt that probably I had said to strangers what might even and be influencing some opinion in keeping one here. I feel as if all ones weakest points were brought out.

One of my brothers, a bachelor, is now in the Borderland — not crossing the Bar; Happiness can surely only be looked for when we feel we are following the line of duty — it is not so as if we were rich people.

Of course there are interests & advantages in a City like York. for instance, that one misses in a remote country place. I tried to combine the two lives — not always with success. — but this is but Earth after all. With kind wishes for the New Year. Believe me to be

Sincerely yours.

A. M. Vickers.

12 Feby. '15

Dear Dr. Price.

I am obliged by yours re Miss Alice Vickers. I wrote to Dr. Jeffreys and he said he thought Miss Vickers was hardly ready for a change yet. So if you have anyone to recommend we should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely

Geo. Dixon

5 Feby. '15

Dear Dr. Pierce -

I am obliged by your very kind note re Miss Alice Vickers, and have written to enquire of Dr. Jeffrey as to her condition.

Of course we should much prefer having some convalescent guest, uncertified, lady or gentleman who could enjoy and appreciate our lovely district, garden, pony car &c. (which would be more or less wasted on some) if only we could hear of such an one.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely

Geo. Dixon

1 July. '15

Dear Dr Pierce.

We have a letter from Miss Vickers about taking her sister, which, we conclude will be through your kind offices and for which we are much obliged. Having Miss Abbott who is Certified and under the B. of C. we wondered whether it would prevent our taking another Certified Guest?

The Vickers have written to a Dr Jeffrey of Bordham Park, wh. whom I rather gather she is now residing and will let us know what they decide at an early date.

If we can take another Certified Guest I presume there will be no need to write to the B. of C.?

I am sorry to give you any further trouble in the matter but wish to keep right.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Geo. Pierce

34

23rd December, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am glad to hear that you are no longer worrying over the past, and are evidently trying to do your best in the present.

There is not very much news here. Things are going on very much as usual, and though there have been a great many colds and sore throats all are now nicely.

It will be a sad Christmas for many, and in view of the national illwill it is difficult for anyone to be cheerful at this time.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Bartham Park

19. Dec. 1915.

Dear Dr. Bedford-Pierce.

It was good of you to answer my note at Christmas, & I must apologize for writing again: but I see no other way of easing my conscience.

It must rest with you to reply, or not.

At Grace's suggestion I believe, I wrote to Mrs. Miller, (an old & intimate friend) last winter; telling her if she were here at The Retreat, & I asked her if she thought her brother Sir Arthur Liberty would contribute towards "The Entertainment Fund"? I think you told me that the lecture, or "Pops" was in answer to this note - & that a ~~subscription~~ donation was also added.

I do not remember whether Mrs. Miller wrote to me about this, or Miss Liberty, or perhaps neither - or whether I thanked them - but do you mind if either of them invited me to go to them here, or later in the summer?

If they did, & you told me, it must have seemed very serious of me to quite ignore it. (in 2 different letters.)

Mrs. Miller has said that her brother was a "disappointed man": but it never struck me that anything I might do, could cause him any disappointment, - & I did not understand what was meant. Even now, I feel at a disadvantage in writing just because I do not remember clearly.

There are other things too I wish I could remember.
but I was dreadfully hurt & upset about the Certificate —
which seemed to keep me away from those I loved, at
a time when I wanted to be with them.
And those homes are all changed —
I seemed very self absorbed I am afraid. & I wrote
many letters that did infinite harm
I had never before asked sin at Liberty for a Sub: & if
my people knew, I think they would be surprised — for I
have received many kindnesses from his family which
I never can repay. —
There seemed to be some connection too between
Mr R. — or Thoresby & Mr. Carter, which I could not
unravel, but I missed "the Reg" — & so where
I might possibly have helped, I was only bewildered. —
And I do not suppose that I could have made much
difference either way.
Sometimes I think that a continuance of this life will send
me quite silly — unfortunately I believe I said to some
one that I was afraid how I should stand the prospect
of all the coming to & fro at our house during war time; —
which was a mistake, as it may have made my
sisters say they would rather I did not return until the
war was over — as it seemed to amount to that.
I had better have left it, & trusted. —

The days pass, & do not return, — impressions are given that are not easily effaced. — & yet more is inferred than you ever intended.

Silence is golden. — & so are slight thoughts. & I think my faith ~~was~~ on the side of over conscientiousness.

I do hope that no great pain or disappointment may ever touch yr family life.

Please forgive my writing. — I have said too much & only hope that there is no ground for any uneasiness.

With kind regards

Yours very sincerely
A. Vickers.

PS. It is really because the family I speak of are such old & valued friends, that I feel I cannot afford to lose them thro' any act of mine, & I am afraid that if my people knew I had written they would be rather displeased. It would have been nicer if I could have kept my whereabouts a secret from friends — but it seemed more than I could bear.

I hoped I might have had an opportunity of seeing you, as I returning before I left you, & understanding what had actually passed with any of my friends.

913

Ashover
near Chesterfield.
Sep 3. 1914.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I have today received the enclosed form from my brother who asks me to complete the correspondence. The Commissioners say it is a question for you to decide whether Alice must first return to the Retreat. I hope you will not deem this necessary for I know the move is sure to upset her for a time, and therefore the simpler it is made the better. I have written to Dr Jeffreys telling him this and asking him to telephone you about it and arrange accordingly. I have suggested next Wednesday. Sep 9 as a good day for the move and have asked him to send a nurse to Hoylake. If however, you wish her to return to the Retreat you will probably prefer to send one of your own nurses. May I leave these details for your mutual arrangement? We are all exceedingly sorry that the question of expense makes the

more necessary and are most grateful to you and to all the members of your Staff for all you have done for my Sister.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Margaret H Vickers.

The Consent expires on Sep 22/14

869

TELEPHONE No. 165.

The Lawn,
Lincoln.

24th August 1914.

Dear Sir,

Mr Vickers has been to see me and it is proposed to send Miss Vickers here, they have written for an Order and consent to Transfer.

Will she need to return to you or may she be brought direct here.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. P. Russell

Medical Superintendent.

To the
Medical Superintendent.
The Retreat,
York.

Promise to return here: can go direct. Will send copies of certs. on due course. W

21st. August, 1914.

Dear Sir,

Miss Vickers is a patient of ours who has been on leave for about two months, staying at Hoylake. We hear that she is not doing well there and her friends are anxious to put her under care again, but they require lower terms, and we have advised a transfer. We shall be very glad if you can take her. Dr. Pieface is on holiday.

Yours truly,

Dr. A. P. Russell,
The Lawn,
Lincoln.

or if you will take her back. Will you tell me?

Truly

A. J. Russell

Pat. on leave from. Address transfer as they require lower terms shall be very glad if he can take her.

865.

TELEPHONE No. 185.

28th Aug.t 1912

The Lawn,
Lincoln.

Dear Mr. Pearce –

Friends of a Miss Vickers Ashowe have asked if Lady Carlisle would allow her at 2 guineas but I don't understand if she is a paying Miss or Lunatic

13th August, 1914.

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you some weeks ago advising you of the advance in terms when Miss Vickers returned to the Retreat. We understand from Mrs. Eliott that Miss Vickers will probably be returning very shortly, and though we ought to let you know that owing to the present state of affairs and the consequent high prices we are having to pay for food it may be necessary to charge at the rate of £3. 3. 0 per week instead of £2.12. 6 as mentioned in my previous letter.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. Vickers, Esq.

13th August, 1914.

Dear Mrs. Eliott,

Dr. Pierce is away on holiday at present, but we have written to Miss Vickers' friends with regard to arrangements for her returning to the Retreat, and will let you know when we have heard from them.

Yours very truly,

Asst. Sec.

543.

TEL: 113 HOYLAKE.

BRYNMOR
NURSING AND
CONVALESCENT HOME
HOYLAKE.

Aug 12 1914

Dear Dr. Pierce

As Miss Vickers is suffering from some delusions, her friends wish me to write & ask you to let me know when you have a vacancy for her.

I could easily care for her here, as she is no trouble, but her relatives do not wish to incur the expense of share of a nurse

she certainly now requires more companionship than I have time to give her - I am sorry this is the case as she is quite happy with the nurse now looking after her -

I could of course only drop her as a visitor - as I have already one certified patient living here -

Yours truly
C. Elliott.

11th August, 1914.

Sir,

In reply to your letter I may say that Miss Alice Mary Vickers is at present on leave and is with Mrs. Eliott at Hoylake, but it is possible that she may have to return before long.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary,
The Board of Control.

845.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
The Board of Control,
66, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.
Communications relating to different subjects should be made in separate letters.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,
66, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

10th August, 1914.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Control to say that they would be greatly obliged if you would let them know whether Miss Alice Vickers is on leave and, if so, whether she is residing with Miss Eliott at Hoylake.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

A Lounge.
Assistant Secretary.

The Medical Superintendent,
York Retreat.

Ashover
near Chesterfield
Aug 5. 1914.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am writing to ask your advice about my sister, who, as you know, is now staying with Mrs Eliott at Hoylake. I cannot help wondering what we must do if Mrs Eliott is unable or unwilling to keep her. We like Mrs Eliott exceedingly and if conditions had been normal, I am sure we should have felt every confidence in leaving Alice in her care. At the same time Alice's delusions are more varied and continuous than ever. She has been writing home virtually everyday and though she likes Mrs Eliott and all the members of her family, her letters have been more full of unhappiness even than when she was at York. Since we heard from Miss Elkins we have tried to intercept all letters to anyone but ourselves or my brother. I cannot help feeling that she misses the support of the authority that was behind her at York and

also that the strain of mental intercourse with normal people is proving a great tax.
I am sure the 'war' will prove a very disturbing factor.
If a move is necessary and York seems the best home for her, may she come back at once? We have many claims on our time and strength and are not equal to taking charge of Alice when she is at her worst.
I shall be most grateful if I may hear from you so that I may be prepared for an emergency. We do not want to disturb the present arrangement unless we are obliged.

Since writing the above I have a letter from Mrs Eliott dated Aug 4, which I am forwarding to my brother, in which she tells me that Alice is so off her head that she has arranged for a nurse to be with her for a fortnight and see how that helps her, so I feel sure there is real ground for my anxiety.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers.

21st. July, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

Many thanks for your letters. I really do not see in what respect you have been lacking in courtesy, but you need not worry about it as it is all past and the matter is of no moment. I hope you are getting on well at Hoylake.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE:-282.

THROXENBY HALL,
SCARBOROUGH.

July 19th 1914

Dear Mr Peirce.

I am sending you a letter I had from Mrs Vickers. this is one of several I have had, all more or less incoherent - I cannot make anything of this letter, & don't know who she is referring to, as I know no Mr & Mrs Warburg or Mr Pearson, & what she has got into her head about Mr Turnbull or Mrs Turnbull I don't know. She gives away very much in her writing - & I fear she is far from well - I have only written once to her, & then if would anything in her letter.

I have written to Marjorie, hoping she could come over for some tennis on Wed. if you can come that day -

We are all doing well.

Yrs sincerely

Edith A. Elkins

4th July, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

I have received you letter of June 30th, and write just to acknowledge it and say that I am quite sure that most of the matters you refer to are really not worth troubling about now, and it would be better not to dwell on the past but to look forward.

I hope the change at Hoylake will be a success, and I am quite sure that Mrs. Eliott will do all she can for you.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

15th June, 1914.

Dear Mrs. Eliott,

Miss Vickers is a poor creature, rather inclined to worry and not really knowing what she wants. She is neurasthenic in type, but before she came to the Retreat she thought things in the newspapers were directed towards her, and had definite delusional ideas. She worries her sisters and everyone she is with, but is really not a bad sort, and I do not think she will give you much trouble.

We have had no difficulty with regard to stimulants, but she is rather apt to dose herself with drugs.

When away she will be on leave of absence from the Retreat, so that she could come back anytime if necessary. Yours very truly,

G.F.S Lodge
29 Francis St
Westminster. S.W.

June 15. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter received yesterday. We shall hope to see Alice home on Wednesday the 24th of June, and shall be grateful if in telling her of the change, you will let her know that it is arranged for her to go to Mrs Elliotts at Hoylake on July 1st and that this arrangement is made with your approval. It would be a great help to us if you could arrange for someone to see her into the train at York if she cannot manage alone. I am not sure at what time the best trains leave Scarboro, but the best for the connection on to Strettow reaches Chesterfield at 2.17 or leaves Sheffield at 5 o'clock.

I am sorry we do not feel that we can let her stay at home more than the week, but we do not feel equal to it ourselves and we know that it would be no real advantage to Alice. I have asked Mrs Elliott to write to you and doubtless she will report to you occasionally.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers.

I much appreciate Nurse Ellerton & wish there were a larger number of such nurses.

With kind regards & thanks Yours truly

E. Elliott.

TEL: 113 HOYLAKE.

BRYNMOR
NURSING AND
CONVALESCENT HOME
HOYLAKE.

June 14. 1914.

Dear Dr. Pierce.

It has been decided that Miss Vickers shall come here for a time. & her sister desires me to ask you kindly to give me some advice as to the care of the case. I understand there

has been a little difficulty about alcohol & methylated spirit - & yet that the patient feels that she ought to have some money at her disposal & also that she gets out alone - if this continues it will be rather difficult to cope with this daily - still I am to be entirely guided by your wishes - & the Mother will "back me up".

I have to thank you for so kindly mentioning my name to Miss Dickers.

I do not think the patient will come till about July 1st.

12th June, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

Your sister is quite counting on spending a little time with you before going away elsewhere, and I think it would be well to invite her to do so but to limit the time, and arrange with Mrs. Eliott accordingly. We will arrange that Miss Vickers has leave of absence on trial, so that if anything goes wrong she can return without fresh formalities.

June 24th will be quite a convenient time for her to leave.

Yours very truly,

18th June, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

We are arranging for Miss Vickers to leave Scarborough by the 10.35 train next Wednesday. She will be able to catch a train leaving York at 12.22, Sheffield at 1.56 and arriving at Chesterfield at 2.17, and can leave Chesterfield again at 2.42.p.m.

Yours very truly,

c/o Miss Laing
27 Chatsworth Road
West Norwood. S.E.

June 10. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

After careful consideration and a visit to both Hoylake and Scotton, we have decided in favour of the former, and I have today heard from Mrs Eliott that she will be glad to receive Alice on or after July 1. We think at Hoylake the complete change from country to seaside, and the distance from York will help to remind her less of the Retreat. The fact also that Mrs Eliott is a lady counts for much. We are inclined to think my sister's last visit home upset her a good deal, and we therefore wish to be guided entirely by you whether we have her home for a fortnight before she goes to Hoylake or not. We intend for her to remain there till she returns to see you at the Retreat at the end of October, as we feel sure it would be more easily arranged for her to come to York from there than from home, and I am sure Mrs Eliott would go with her if it seemed best.

If you think it best for Alice to go direct to Hoylake, could you arrange for someone to see her safely started from York in a through carriage to Liverpool, or possibly better still, could you send someone with her as far as Liverpool where I am sure Mrs Eliott would meet her.
If she is to come home first we think it had better be on Wednesday June 24.
We shall be staying at this address till Saturday June 13, when we go till the morning of the 16th to c/o Mrs J S Wells. The Residence, Barcombe. Lewes Sussex.

Yours sincerely
Margaret A Vickers.

Ashover. nr. Chesterfield.
May 25. 1914

Dear Dr. Pierce –

We are very glad to hear this morning that Alice may remain at Throscenby until the end of June. We are writing to our brother, and will let you know as soon as we have anything further to report. We shall try to come to some arrangement before my sister & I go away from home.

With our thanks and kind regards

I am, Yours sincerely
Marianne Vickers

23rd. May, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

I have seen Miss Elkins and there appears to be no doubt that it is best for your sister to remain sometime longer at Throxenby. The house is available for at least a month or six weeks longer. After that visitors from the Retreat godover and it will not be so pleasant for Miss Vickers as it is now, and I think some arrangement should be made for her at the end of next month.

I am not replying to your brother's letter for which I am much obliged, as I expect you will see him.

Yours very truly,

23rd. May, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

Dr. Birnie, has showed me your note, and I have heard from your brother and your sister.

After considering the whole situation and talking it over with Miss Elkins, I am writing to say that I think it is better for you to stay a little longer at Throxenby. I expect you will be disappointed at the delay in returning home but I feel sure it is for the best.

Yours very truly,

Ashover
nr Chesterfield
May 20. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

My brother has sent me a letter he has written to you, asking me to read and forward it. We quite agree with what he says. We have very good replies from Mrs Coulter and from Hoylake. Miss Galloway Roberts declines mental cases. We have also set enquiries afoot which we hope may bring openings of a more homelike character, which if satisfactory I think Alice would prefer. Still until Whitsuntide is past it is more difficult to hear of vacancies or to arrange interviews, and so I think we are wise to let the arrangements for our own holiday stand, if, as we understand, you are quite willing for my sister to stay on at Throscenby. She has written to us three times this week and seems confused and excited.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers

be less satisfied about her
wellbeing, than we are while
she is receiving all the care
& comfort bestowed on her at
Shroxubry Hall.

Probably she would be much
less happy. I doubt for one mo-
-ment believe that she would be
more so; & therefore I should be
very grateful indeed if you
are able to keep her at pres-
-ent.

One of us would be very
glad, if you wish it, to come
over & see you.

Yours faithfully

Chas. Vickers

Telephone
4965.

7, The Ropewalk,
Nottingham.

May 19. 14

Dear Dr Pierce

Thanks you for your
letter of the 17th & for the
address so which you enclose.

My sisters have been plan-
-ning for months a series of
visits & engagements in June
July, & it would simply upset
all these to have to stay at
home now, until they had found
fresh quarters for Miss Vickers.
And when these were secured,
it is certain that we should

475

Ashover. W. Chesterfield.
May 18. 1914.

Dear Dr. Pierce –

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my sister's letter of Saturday last. We are writing by this post to the addresses at Knaresborough, Colwyn Bay and Hoylake.

We cannot help feeling that the surroundings at Throxenby or the Retreat are more helpful than any others are likely to be, and we hope that the change may help her to realize her present advantages. It is of course characteristic of her mental condition that the "other" thing would be better! I do not suppose it will be more possible in the future, than it has been in the past, to make an arrangement, anywhere, which Alice will admit to be satisfactory.

We will write again as soon as we have anything to report.

Yours sincerely
Marianne Vickers.

7th. May, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

Before I received your second letter I spoke to your sister, expecting that she was going to Mrs. Dixon's and explained the circumstances a little. I did not, however, say anything very definite and rather left the matter open. She is worrying a good deal about unnecessary things, and was certainly very thin. I am disappointed that she is not gaining more strength physically. There is a decided cardiac murmur, indicating valvular disease of the heart, but this gives little trouble and Miss Vickers walks uphill better than one would expect, and she walks a mile or two comfortably.

I cannot but think there is slow (very slow) deterioration affecting both her circulation and her mental faculties.

Yours very truly,

Ashover
nr Chesterfield.
May 16. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

I have just received a wire from Mrs Dixon in which she says 'How had let please make other arrangements', so I am writing to ask if you can help us again by suggesting some other place where Alice could possibly go for a time, or if you do not know of anyone likely to receive her, how do you think we can best hear of what we want? I am very sorry to be so troublesome, but Alice's letters still show such a disturbed state of mind that we certainly must be most careful that she is with people who understand such cases. The week before last we only had one letter from her during the week, but she wrote on May 11, 13, 14, & 16 and with the one week's exception that is about what it has been since she first went to York. Of course we feel it is a relief to her to write and far

better she should write to us than to anyone else. Still it is most distressing for the letter I enclose for you to see is a fair sample and if we try to answer her questions we completely fail to convince her or set her mind at rest.

Some while ago we heard of a widow lady living near Wimbledon, who was a nurse before her marriage and had some experience of mental cases. I dont know if she has a vacancy, but we feel real country surroundings would be much better for my Sister, and that the excitement of being near London and within reach of several friends would involve considerable risk. We fear she may be occupying a room at Throxenby that would otherwise be available for another of the York patients who needs the change, and we are most anxious not to trespass on your consideration.

Believe me.

Yours sincerely

Margaret A Vickers.

Ashover
nr Chesterfield.
May 4. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

I have been spending the weekend in Nottingham, with my brother Mr Charles Wicken and have promised him to write and let you know the result of our correspondence with Mrs Dixon of Far Sawrey. I visited Mrs Dixon about a fortnight ago and was very pleased with all I saw. The only drawback seems to me to be that Miss Abbott's condition is in so many ways like my sister's that I wonder how the two will get on together. However, Mrs Dixon is quite willing to receive Alice, so we are only too glad to decide for her to go, and I have written to Mrs Dixon asking her to receive Alice on June 10. If you approve, we thought Alice might come home for 3 weeks before going to Far Sawrey. That would mean her leaving ~~the~~ Throxenby on Wednesday, May 20. We hope Alice will settle with Mrs Dixon and be able to remain

with her till the Autumn so that on her way south she might stop in York to see you. We think this plan would be likely to arouse less opposition than if her visit to see you necessitated a quite independent journey. We are sure Alice will object to Far Sawley on the ground that it keeps up her connection with the Retreat, but we feel, and I am sure you are also strongly of the opinion, that there must be some authority behind to guide Alice, and that it is more wholesome that that authority should be an outside medical one, from whose decision there is no appeal. It would be a great help, I am sure, if you would tell her of the proposed plan, saying it has your approval, and that you strongly advise its being carried through. Alice is so anxious to visit her friends poor dear and none of them are able or willing to receive her, apart from ourselves, and we feel that it is most unwise for her to be at home for more than the three weeks. In her letter received today she says that Dr Burnie has told her, that her best plan is "to come home and after being with her Sisters

for two or three weeks get them to write and ask that the Certificate may be withdrawn." Alice is certainly much better than she was last October, thanks to the treatment she has received while under your care, but we thought her mentally far weaker when she was at home before Easter, than she was previous to October 1913.

I will not write to tell Alice of this plan till I hear from you. We wish to follow your advice and for my sister's name to remain on the books at the Retreat till you wish an alteration. This we understand means a weekly payment of 2/6 during her absence.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Margaret H Vickers.

11th. April, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

I am sorry to hear that you think your sister is weaker mentally. I, myself, should say she is rather better than when she came to us as her delusions in regard to paragraphs in the papers were then very prominent.

The additional information you give me is certainly strange and indicates a good deal of mental weakness, and I think you would be well advised not to discharge her from certificates until she has had a lengthy trial away, and you can judge how she gets on in private life.

I have not seen Miss Vickers since her return but it seems she expresses herself as being very well pleased with the change at home. It was certainly more satisfactory for her to go and see you rather than for some of you to have stayed in Scarborough.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE NOS. 920 & 3021.
TELEGRAMS: "VIGOUR, NOTTINGHAM."

16 STONEY STREET,
NOTTINGHAM.

April 9 1914

Dear Mr. Pierce

I enclose cheque for amt of enclosed a/c.

I see that no allowance has been made upon this a/c for the fortnight which Miss Vickers has just spent at home.

In acknowledging cheque will you please tell me whether credit for this absence will be allowed

Yours faithfully

Chas. A. Vickers

Ashover
nr Chesterfield
April 9. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

I think you will like to have some report of my sister's visit home. I am sure friends who saw her casually would think her much as usual, but we are clear that her brain is distinctly weaker. She talked exclusively and continually of herself and her own affairs. If we introduced another topic she simply did not listen, and if we pressed for an opinion, it was necessary to repeat what had already passed. Her delusions as to past happenings are as firmly fixed as ever. She also told us of a Dr Wright who was at Throxenby when she first went, "a very gentlemanly and exceedingly nice man!" He did not ask me to marry him in so many words, but that was certainly what he meant. His sisters would be delighted to have me with them as paying guest."

I have been corresponding with Mrs Dixon whose name you gave us and hope we shall be able to arrange for Alice to spend some time with her ~~when~~ during the summer. I said I was sure you would kindly answer any questions as to my sister's condition if she preferred to write to you herself. My sister Marianne and I want if possible to close our house for all but the first week in June, so if Alice's condition admits we think she might come home again for a fortnight or three weeks immediately before that and then go to Mrs Dixon's. You will be better able to judge in a month's time whether this is a wise plan, but certainly nothing had better be said to Alice till close upon the time. I am sure the feeling of authority at the Retreat & Shrosenby are a great help to her, and it remains to be seen how she will be when she feels more her own mistress. We are indeed most grateful for all that is done for her.

Yours faithfully
Margaret H Vickers

April 5. 1914

Dear Dr Pierce

I went over to Ashover yesterday to see my sister. I was very glad to find her so much stronger than when she left home.

I do not think that home is having a good effect upon her; it is almost impossible to stem the constant stream of protest against the difficulties of her position the painfulness of having to associate with incapacitated people at Throxenby Hall & especially at the Retreat.

I did my best to reassure her re finance: telling her that all her brothers & sisters knew all about it & would guarantee her against expenditure, which she could not afford.

I think she feared that she might not be expected back at home any more, it reassured her for a time to find her room & all her belongings just as she left them, but I left her

with the feeling that a great burden of other fears for the future was already taking the place of the old ones & that probably these too would soon revive.

It was difficult to maintain her interest at times & she would switch off from the conversation & sit brooding until recalled by a very definite appeal. –

I cannot help hoping that when she is away she is less subject to this gloomy introspection, & your own reports of her behavior at Throxenby support this hope.

You will no doubt hear from Prestwood about the arrangements for my sister's return to Throxenby Hall this week. We are very much obliged to you for the Windermere address. From the letters recd we think it seems a very excellent arrangement for the Summer.

Yours truly & Pierce

Yours faithfully

C. Wicker

3rd. April, 1914.

Dear Miss Vickers,

It will be quite convenient for Miss Vickers to return to Throxenby Hall next Wednesday. We are letting Miss Elkins know.

Yours truly,

Asst. Sec.

Ashover
nr Chesterfield.
Ap 2. 1914.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am writing to let you know that we shall be glad for my Sister to return to Throxenby Hall next Wednesday, April 8, and she will travel by a train which reaches York about 1.30. I am not sure yet of the times of the trains on to Scarborough but we will find out and if it seems necessary one of us will come as far as York with her. She is certainly in much better health than when she left home, and so long as nothing occurs to cross her wishes or to need a definite expression of opinion she is fairly normal, though still very mixed about real and imaginary happenings. We are corresponding with Mr Dixon of Far Sawrey and will consult you again before making any plans.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers.

26 Mar. '14

Dear Dr Pierce -

We have had a letter from a Mr Chas. W Victors, of Ashover Nr Chesterfield asking if we could take his sister who the leaves Thrasenley Hall towards the end of May - It was very kind of you to have us in remembrance and before we reply we should be glad to have any particulars you think we should know -

We expect Mr Moorhouse will be leaving us shortly as, since his brother & sister Annie's death his sister wants him to live with her - He has always been gentlemanly and civil and has kept very well and become quite fond of books and been willing to take plenty of outdoor exercise - We shall be sorry to lose him and hope this plans for living together may be a success -

Miss Abbott is well for her and wonderfully

industrious with her fancy work – She really makes some very artistic things in the way of fancy bags, boxes covered with silks &c. and fine work.

She has quite a good appetite but will not wear her teeth except when asked to do so and is consequently fond of soups and sloppy dishes and indigestible dishes rather than plain and more wholesome food – She will drive out in our pony car when pressed but does not often incline to walk beyond the garden – I think she has pretty near given up the moaning and has been more willing to meet any of our friends or go with Mr. Dixon or my daughters to call on friends and does not seem so distressed to see her relatives as before and they think her decidedly better – There does not seem to be a great deal for her to overcome to be normal but she is not yet willing to make the full surrender –

The weather here has been very unsettled and changeable but vegetation is very forward and our daffodils and violets are in full blow – Today is quite like Spring although it commenced with a thick fog –

Hoping you are well and again thanking you –

Yours sincerely

Geo. Dixon

17th. March, 1914.

Dear Sir,

Dr. Pierce asks me to let you know that it will be quite convenient for him to see you in Leeds on Friday at the time you mention.

Yours truly,

Asst. Sec.

C. H. Vickers Esq.

7, The Ropewalk,
Nottingham.

Mar 15. 14

Dr. Pierce

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter. I shall be glad to meet you with one of my sisters at your rooms in Leeds on Friday next about 2.30

Yours faithfully

Chas. Wicker

7 The Ropewalk
Nottingham
March 10. 14

Dr Pierce

Dear Sir

We should be glad to have an interview with you with regard to my Sister, Miss Vickers. now at Throxenby Hall. I should be very much obliged if you could name one or two early dates, which would be convenient to you.

It would suit us rather better if you could see us at your rooms in Leeds.

Yours faithfully
Chas. Vickers

Friday

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MANUFACTURERS.
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16, STONEY STREET,
NOTTINGHAM,

Feby 26 1904

Dr Pierce

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter advising my sister's visit to Thoresby Hall. She writes me that the expenses there are the same as at the Retreat.

We shall be glad to arrange to come over either to York or to Scarborough to see her whenever you consider this advisable, she has so

often asked us not to come, that we have not hitherto proposed to you, that we should pay her a visit.

I attach however much more importance to our interview with yourself & to the advice you may be able to give us, as my sister's constant letters reveal pretty clearly her own condition.

Unfortunately means are limited & her trustees feel that her future must not be compromised by adopting arrangements indefinitely

which are beyond her means
There will not allow for the
payment of a permanent
attendant in her own appart..
..ments.

I am Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Chas. Vicker

P.S. Thank you for the very
considerate arrangements
which you made for her
journey.

24th. February, 1914.

Dear Mr. Vickers,

I have persuaded Miss Vickers to go to our branch establishment at Throxenby Hall, Scarborough on Wednesday. I think this will be a helpful change for her, and she will be comfortable there.

After a bit I think it would be desirable for some member of the family to come and talk over the situation. Though Miss Vickers is a good deal better she is not well, and I suppose we can hardly expect her to recover from her worrying disposition. Making decisions seems to be very difficult for her, and possibly some arrangement might be made when she leaves here as to a mode of life which is likely to be agreeable to her and yet not require any initiative on her part.

Perhaps later on some member of the family could spend a week-end at Scarborough and see how she is, and then something could be arranged.

Yours very truly,

..forming this, if it is true.

She tells me that she is going to Throxenby Hall for a few days. This will, I feel sure, show how far she is able to take an in..terest in outside things again.

Her letters still are full of the delusion, that we send them back to you to read, that her nurses report her private conversations, & that her sisters suppress

7, The Ropewalk,
Nottingham.

Dr Pierce 23.2.14

Dear Sir

We have such constant letters from my sister quoting your authority for saying that you would like her sisters to come & see her & then consult with you as to her leaving York, that I should be very glad to have a line direct con..

invitations from friends
for her to go & visit them.

I am dear Sir
Yours faithfully

Chas. Wicker

Ashover
near Chesterfield.
Jan 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

It is some time since we heard from you and we shall be glad to have your further report of my Sister's condition.
From her letters it is evident that she is gaining ground though a great deal that she writes is as morbid as ever, and grounded on delusions which have no foundation in facts.
She reports that Dr Birnie tells her she will be quite ready to come home at the end of this month, and that then the certificate will be destroyed. Is this correct?
We know that she is worrying herself all the time about the expense of the present arrangement and complains that it shuts her off from natural intercourse with her friends. We feel sure that you will recognise this worry as a common symptom. As a matter of fact it has been, with her, a chronic condition for years; there is always

some insuperable drawback, the removal of which according to her own account, would enable her to lead a natural life. We have tried to meet her preference in every way, but the removal of one obstacle only makes way for another. While at the Retreat she is guarded from the excessive use of drugs and stimulants, and the care and surroundings give her bodily health every possible help. It is impossible for us to safeguard her in this way at home, and even more difficult to lessen the mischief she may make by misrepresentations among her friends, so this makes the next more a very difficult one. Would it be helpful or otherwise do you think, for us to come and see her?

I am sending this letter for my brother to forward in order that he may add any further question he wishes to ask.

My sister has certainly greatly enjoyed the Christmas festivities and been helped by them, and we much appreciate the many thoughtful kindnesses shown by everyone.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Margaret H Vickers

and I hope that when her mind recovers its balance she will feel less impatient unhappy than her almost daily letters represent.

I am
Yours faithfully
Thos. Wicker

7 The Ropewalk
Nottingham.
Jany 4. 14

Dear Dr Pierce

I am enclosing a letter addressed to you by my sister Margaret, under cover of one to myself.

I am sure that my sister Alice very much appreciates the great kindness shown her by everyone at the Retreat

Bootham Park.
York. 14. Dec. 1914.

Dear Dr. Pierce.

I do not like Christmas to come & go without telling you how much I wish you all, all that is good & best for the Season, & the New Year — & saying that I was very sorry to leave your care just in the way I did.

Thank you for all the care & interest that was taken on my behalf. I am better, but I seem as far off as ever from realizing my wish — & the

present, seems to have ended any happy intercourse that was possible before, with those I love. I am still so pleased to have confided to Hurce some of the pin-pricks of my life. I did not act wisely in many ways — & I'm afraid that prevented Miss Elkins from taking a change abroad she much needed last spring, & has generally in the way. — I am so sorry.

I believe too, last Christmas, when Hurce & I went to see "The Tales of Hoffman". She had a foreign for on expenses,

I suggested that the sapphires from the tickets should be spent on a bag - which I did not buy - but Sister Hilda showed me one afterwards that made me wonder! I really thought I think - that the tickets would be entered to my account - perhaps they were - but it was kind of you to suggest our going. I did not thank you.

The whole thing has been so strange & new, & against the grain very often. & a great strain, and it is still difficult to believe that it is real, & right - for this is not a normal life, is it?

Miss Elkins called to see Miss Beveridge not long ago — it was very nice to see her again.

I know it is very ~~wrong~~ feel so faithless. and ~~wrong~~ also how useless.

With kind regards

Believe me to be

Yours sincerely

A. H. Vickers.

P.S. There is no risk of ~~[illegible]~~ "rolling" !!! about the past. It is out of ones hands. — only I did not want you to think I was made of stone, — and if it is in my power to do anything for anyone one day. I will try.

I believe I am to stay until the first of June.

I have forgotten to say that since I came here I have been asked if I would like to return to "Retreat"?

It scarcely rested with me to say yes or no. I think – as I understood I was not eligible as a patient, & that the terms are higher than these, which as you know is a fair consideration.. but Dr Jeffrey does not inspire me with quite the same confidence as you did, & it makes me a little afraid.–

I do not think you quite approved of my going to Stoke – and I am only so sorry that I could not take advantage of the opportunities

that offered. Such is not
often come my way. —

7. May 1914. Seaford

Dear Q. Pierce

I have been thinking over what you said yesterday. It is really most kind of you to take so much thought & trouble for me.
Is it really necessary that what I do in the summer & autumn, be absolutely decided upon before I go home? or the future?
It is really true that expences are an object. Though my sisters would take a great deal of trouble for me to do the right thing.
I think it may be some time before I feel very strong. but you say that I am quite sound. & I do not need the care of a trained nurse, tho' I mustnot be expected to do quite so much as a strong person.
I can meet people easily too. & I think we could be happy together for some weeks at a time, if I did, as I did before, go away for awhile from time to time.
The winters at Aden are long & cold, & you cannot go out quite as much as further South.
I do not think it would be good for any of us to be always together. & and I dread that my nerves are not strong. I must not chafe at the limitations.

If I continue heavy expenses in the Summer, I have to economize later on when Comforts are more necessary. I imagine that the arrangement you speak of would be more than for an ordinary guest.

My sisters have liked Ashore for better than being in, or near, a town - & it would be difficult for me to upset them. They say too it is more economical for them: & they have the pleasure of entertaining their friends in a pretty neighborhood: but I always feel very isolated.

The Lake district comes very lovely, to go & visit strangers.

Miss Pierce made some suggestions, in the winter - but I am sorry to say I do not remember at all clearly what they were. & now the time has passed for me to avail myself of the thought. Even if it was practicable, - I expect it was doubtful. -

The garden looks beautiful after the rain! it is really an ideal home!

After all, I still have to leave a decision with others I expect - but I have spent so many long weeks with strangers in the past that I shrink from beginning again. -

Believe me
yrs. sincerely A. Whitaker.

I have some friends in a small way here

Ashover
nr Chesterfield.
May 13 1914

Dear Dr Pierce,

We still have no letter from Mrs Dixon, so she evidently has not yet heard definitely whether her friends decide to take her house for the summer or not. We hope as this is the case you will allow Alice to remain at Throxenby till something is settled. I am sure she ought not to be at home for more than 3 weeks before going away again, and if after all she cannot go to Mrs Dixon we should like to have some other place ready before she leaves Throxenby. It always upsets her if she is about when correspondence relating to her affairs is on hand. However careful we are she finds out. I am sure you are correct in thinking gradual deterioration is taking place. It is inevitable. She has drained her body of all nourishment all her life and it is the natural consequence.

I will send you word as soon as ever
I hear from Mrs Dixon.

Yours sincerely
Margaret A Vickers.

July 1.

There is another thing that perhaps ought to be said, as it sometimes leads to mis-understandings afterwards. I had gained in weight between May & October, last year — then when I was at Shrewsbury. Sister in her anxiety to feed me up stopped the hot water I had taken —

at home we have some on the dinner table — & I have found it a great help. if sat with the meal itself either just before, or soon after. Cold water, except in warm weather has seemed too cold —

Then at Supper, the very strong coffee & milk. this a great pick-me-up — was too heavy

with all the other good things —
& water to make it weaker, was
(out of Business) refused ?
that had something to do with my
not sleeping so well — the Coffee
as I had it was too heating.
& I have not found that I could
take milk with the other food —
perhaps in time I might — but
I should not like it at all.
I admire both the ladies very
much. but these little things
go against the grain & upset me.
My sisters say I should have a
cookery to go — but as I was not
staying on I did not want any
fuction about it.
I prefer water, or milk & water,
at supper if I may not have

the Coffee & milk diluted, — &
one of the other ladies at the
same table was allowed it.
As I have said, I am sure it
was done out of kindness, but
mistaken kindness. —
As a girl I was far too long &
wear full evening dress &

I believe when I was at St Bernard's
some suggestion was made about my
staying or living with Mr. Sawer &
his sister — but I was not able
really to think seriously of it.

Monday Eve.

Throxenby Hall.
Scarboro'.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am so sorry not to have had a word with you today. I was waiting with Miss Turnbull hoping to be called when you were at liberty. I came down stairs only to find you had gone.

Is it still necessary that my name should remain on your books?

I feel like a "Ticket-of-leave" person, and still frightened about it all. Though I am sure I am stronger than when I sent home last. I can almost imagine people pointing at me in the street. It is all very foolish no doubt, & unreasonable. & I had been reckoning so on this last visit, to ask you to release me as soon as you can - & for any advice you might be kind enough to give me to guide me for the future.

I cannot help feeling that my brother must have

been helping our expenses — at some self sacrifice to himself, & it has troubled me very much. But I have dwelt on this so often that it may still be a point in the certificate. Still I wish to do what is right, & I know you will remember this, & not ask more of me than can be helped. Thank you for all the thought you have given me. I have not been a good patient I expect — & please remember me to my who may care for the thought.

Rheumatism has kept me awake a good deal lately — but you don't believe in dosing for it, so I suppose it must have its way.

I am more than sorry for to have bearded a word about my friends at home — discipline comes in different ways. & perhaps I was too much indulged in my youth — it is chiefly that my sisters so capable & useful, & take a high standard in everything, which I fail to reach — & if I feel "out of it" it worries. I must take it humbly, &

but let the drops hurt — it is no one's fault, but my own.

Again thanking you, and with very kind regards to Dr Mackenzie, & yourself

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours

A. H. Vickers

PS. I wondered if as things stand whether it would be necessary for me to be inspected, or interviewed from time to time? it is a most painful ordeal than I can be aware of; though I know it is for our protection.

If I had been less frightened & nervous when I first came to you things would not have drifted as they did: but one fright my sister told me for my guidance I forgot, or waited for you to take the initiative.

I expect my general health is affecting my eyes not good, but I have found the light very trying lately.

Ashover.
Chesterfield.

30. June 1914.

Dear Dr. Pierce.

Before taking another step may I trespass upon yr. patience once more —

You have seemed to bear a good deal of my past sins of omission & commission. — whether really or. I do not know.

One gentleman I painted very much I am sure last summer at St Leonards — by, must I say it? having some whisky. before I left; I felt ill. & I had often found it help me to sleep — but I ought not to have done it is the way — I did:

I had taken it occasionally, at different places, but not regularly — that has troubled me ever since:

I have thought that the judgment Day could not be much more fearsome than the distress of mind I have suffered for nearly a year about that & other things — but weak brains play me such pranks. & it is not easy to control one's thoughts. Mr. Lester was a good man, in weak health. & I fear he too remembers the occasion with pain, — pain I ought to have spared him. —

I believe he sometimes goes to Scotland: he is fond of music — but I never saw, or heard of, him there this year. Please bury this in the pact with the many secrets you keep so well.

I fear I am not much good now

to anyone - but I hope at Mr. Ellis's I may find a stepping stone to brighter thoughts and a healthier life. —

The mistakes can rarely be undone. —

It has not been only at excess of L.S.D. that I have chaffed. I fear I never shall be able to pass Q.'s standard of sanity. — I do not like to think of the pain it would have caused my dear Father, & Brother.

I am not quick in responding to hints. if you will give me any — I should be glad to think over any suggestions my brother may have made to you. if you wish me to bear them — or that you care to give me in the future.

I have felt that a good deal of

the means my brother has used for my recovery has been un-necessary — I mean that I might have managed in rooms — don't mis-understand me. I don't want to give way to temptation in any form, —

Perhaps I am always too vague:

With kind regards

I am

Sincerely yours

A. H. Tukers.

What I have told you the others in their love may have been silent about — please believe I wish to do right in spite of all the unhappi-ness I may have caused — however impossible the future may seem. Strength has been promised for the day. —

Please excuse the blots. I have not time to rewrite this. —

Saturday. Aylesbury.

My dear Miss Elkins

I feel in a fix as to who I ought to explain partly why I did not call & see Mrs Hackney when she was in London – she was staying at Mr Langhill's was she not?

The great reason was the feeling I had about the Cat: another that I left myself too much to do at the last, and in the hot weather, to manage it. I ought to have asked you or Sister Hilda perhaps to have come with me – but you were busy too – or to have a carriage – I started one afternoon, & found I was so delayed about the gloves that the time was gone. – Then when she was at York. I could not remember the message properly that you gave me from Miss Thomson was it? or Dr. Pierce about staying at The Retreat for a few days. & you did not refer to it again. How in-capable I must have seemed! I am really very sorry. but I think it was out of the question then my spending more money in going to the oculist. I had had three glasses recently repaired. & as I grew stronger, my sight may improve. The fee was £2.2. & I think you said.

It was most thoughtful of Dr Pierce to suggest it: & I fear I have missed a good deal by not going. I am sure I have. I hope I did not miss seeing Mrs Pearson too – I

have been longing to see them both for months —
& I felt a little bit jealous to think that the two
Miss Blakeloches perhaps were to be with Mr. Hackney,
strangers to her. & I, who had so often longed
to help her should not be able to go.
I sent a note of sympathy from here.
I said that you & Miss Tambell would come here
for a holiday instead of prosecuting inquiries in
Derbyshire. There are the Golf links at
West Kirby — & why the sea here. & it is too
bad to suggest it but you could have a happy
time. & Mrs Elliott has taken the next house
for the Nurses & patients. Or Mr. Hackney
might like to come. I wonder if she would? I
scarcely know. — or Mr. Peacock? —
You will forgive my saying please did I tell in my
letters, & I repeating unless you can find something
very delightful in its place. I ought not to
have said a word of it: the very thought makes a
difficulties, — & you do not know quite what you are doing.
You & Sister never told me you knew Mr. Hackney.
I remember now that the latter spoke of staying
at Thoresby once.
Was Mr. Peacock your companion in The Motor Drive?
How could you go like that. & never tell me: but
it was no business of mine, — was it? —

3

Perhaps I am wrong in writing like this. Did you misunderstand me, but a good deal was at stake — & on the whole it may perhaps be as well I did not accept Mr. Turnbull's invitation, or suggestion that it was (made) very delightful — & I should have been glad to help Miss Turnbull thro' it. —

You gave me a choice too I think of dates — I could not remember what you said clearly. I might have put it down, & I have been worrying over & trying to remember what it was. —

I am so disappointed — for it was a very full of thoughtful kindness.

Believe me, with love —

Yours

Alice Wickers.

You said I was amiable, & adapted myself to people — but you did not give a reason for the remark — I am full of faults too, but not insincerity I hope. —

I have written to Mr. Price today.

Heymar. Haylake
Cheshire.

14. July 1914.

Dear Dr. Pierce.

I scarcely know how to tell you. yet I feel I must explain as well as I can. I let you know that I feel as if I had been unpardonably rude in declining, or ignoring Mr. Pierce's & Miss Thomson's very kind thought for me.
It was indeed most kind.
When the message was given. I was rather taken by surprise at the consideration. I am not even sure if it was Mr. Hockey, or Miss Thomson, who gave it. it does not alter my indebtedness. I was very tired & busy. and I let it slide & forgot all but the impression - as we said much more. (how could they?) I felt afterwards that there was an invitation. but my last night did it return at all clearly.
I feel I have lost a great deal of pleasure, & help. I have put myself in quite a wrong position with everyone.
I have longed for a talk with Mr. Hockey & Mr. Pearson for more than a year - & I cannot help feeling you may have planned it.
Had I availed myself of it. I might have taken a

fresh, happier start. — & I have had a chance that may be long in returning unless we, or both, would come here.

Mr Elliott has taken a second house & moved the Nurses & 2 patients into it.

Pressing this work on my very home gives me too little time to go to The Retreat, & I was too tired to have used the opportunity profitably. —

I must not go in for new glasses & an oculists fee at present if I can help it. The noise of the children on the Sands, in the hot weather is very trying - but we take refuge at the back of the house. —

I ought to have written to Mr Pierce & others, to explain, when I reached home - & I think I half repeated a note.

Mr Pearson is going up Bramcote to a Dr. & goes to London. So that I have indeed had an opportunity.

Again apologizing very humbly.

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours

Alice M. Vickers.

Wyndmar. Hoylake. Cheshire.

Saturday.

My dear Mr. Price.

I have written to Dr Price because I do not know to whom the apology is due, for my rudeness in ignoring so much kind thought as was shown in an invitation I received thro' Miss Elkins. — I cannot think what made me behave so, except that I was very tired, & had slept badly, & was packing. — But I should have enjoyed seeing you again, & perhaps my friend Mr Stanley too.

Can you possibly forgive me? — I am only so very he time has passed, & ever since I started on the homeward journey have been trying to puzzle out what was said.

Everyone was lazy at Llanrwst just then. Please believe that I am really grateful for the consideration: & to Miss Thomasson as well.

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours

Alice M. Vickers.

Should chance bring you to Aubrey, in Derbyshire one day will you call & see us? —

Tuesday Eve. The Retreat.

Dear Dr. Peace.

Dr. Birnie has suggested my asking you for an invitation to pass a Sabbath in the Abbey grounds in York. If you will be so kind as to give me one. I should be glad to take an early opportunity of using it.

I hear a rumour of Miss Peace leaving us for a time. which I shall regret for she has been most good. & the greatest help to

me. Perhaps this it will make me more self reliant, for my sisters are anxious that I should be able to take up life actually & manage my own affairs as soon as I can.—

Believe me
yours truly
A. Vickers.

will ma
lent, p
ions
lle t
ally.
offer
s.—
ty
Bell

Afternoon. 18 Feb.

Dear Dr Pierce.

I think I ought to tell you that my sisters would rather my affairs were not seriously discussed until after my niece is married — because my brother will have to be consulted, & he has as much on his hands as he ought to have until then, they say.

Also, that they hope I shall be able to make my home still with them, & resist from there.

I thought that perhaps you would allow me to go somewhere before I sent home, if they do not feel it best for me to go to them at present: any serious alteration in our life must not be hurriedly made. I am afraid I have talked too freely to Mrs Pierce. & there are two, & some things for to succeed for light discussion.

If my intellect is alright, my judgment & will power may not be so. but I should very much hesitate before ~~contracting~~ contracting daily intimate relationship ~~between~~ with anyone outside our own family.

I hope Mrs has not more public my confidence

of mind - they were not spoken with any expectation of their being repeated - mischief may soon be made that I should never forgive myself for as long as I live - as it is I have more to regret than I like to think of.

It is good of you to try & help me: I will write & ask my sisters if they can come - but they are neither of them very robust, & at this time of the year the weather is treacherous.

Believe me to be
Yrs truly
A M Wickens.

PS. I have not the means to make the times -
Please forgive such a hurried letter

Thoresby Hall. Thursday morng.

Dear Dr Pierce,

Thank you for your recent yesterday. I feel very banished, & out of the way at present. I fear too cold to be comfortable but I hope soon to feel at home.

I have had no reply to my note to you. I do not undervalue Dr Birnie's skill please, yr experience has been gained by practice, & so has others. & I do not want to be more of an invalid than is absolutely necessary. Not so I am tired, so that is why my heart troubles me I expect.

If one date rather than another suits you to see my sister please let us know.

Nurse Pierce said I did not trust you. I did not know quite all she meant. but if I had come ten before, I should have avoided the publicity I so disliked & dreaded. & perhaps have recovered more quickly.

When I tell you that 2 brothers were not mentally quite like other people, you may understand why I felt it painful at The Retreat. There was no danger of inheritance the doctors said. but I can never forget the association. It is delightful to

know such care is bestowed as you give to afflicted ones. I am thankful for every help & brightness that is brought into their lives. but to dwell upon it in the condition in which I was last autumn, only filled me with pain.

It may be well to say that an invitation from a Cousin at Bremerton last year may still hold good. & be available this Spring. It is near Hoffm. but I have heard nothing at all about it from anyone ~~for~~ since I left home.

It will be a great pleasure to me if I can help in any way, anyone at The Retreat at any time, if it lies in my power. but I do not feel myself yet, & I am sure I forgot, & still forget, a good deal I ought to have remembered; I am sorry to say, & have tried to recall.

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours.

A. Hitchcock.

P.S. Is it a mistaken impression that you may have met Mr. H. Pearson in Cornwall, or Goshen?

Sunday. Shrewsbury Hall Seacliff.

Dear Mr Preece.—

I am not sure that opportunity there may be of telling you a little of what is in my mind when we next meet, & as my sister advises me to do so, I think I had better write it, however trivial it may seem.

My visit home was a far greater pleasure than I expected — & my mind was more at rest than it has been for many weeks.

My sisters gave me such a loving welcome; my room was cared for & all in order — & they helped me with my needlework — without their help I could not have accomplished all that was needed in the short time. My friends too all seemed so pleased to see me: & an aged artist, who is blind, gave me one of his sketches, which we shall all value. We have visited him since we have lived in the village — he will be 99 next month.

I left home in great distress for it hurt me to think that my own sisters could not have a little more patience before sending me to an asylum — I was not violent, & should soon have recovered — the patients I dined are fles the best to be able to judge on that point.

I had doubted almost everything I had done, I think; my use of time, and money; and

from time to time in York. I thought my sister, or some one, had told you of these bouts — then you came into my room & glanced at my belongings — & spoke of "wasful" waste — & now I thought you might have known Mr. Lever, who was staying at my cousins, at Fleurdale, when I was there last summer.

Any pain or injury I may have caused anyone, I really deplored — the past has gone, & it is of no use spoiling the present by vain regrets more than we can help.

My sister has told me of your suggestions for the next few months.

How I have been longing I should very much like to spend that time I can with them again this year — It is most uncertain — no one can tell when these opportunities may occur again, or what may arise in the future. I was, too, so overpowered still by the strain, & reduced of nervous power, that I could not discuss much besides — but that now is gradually fading — & I hope I shall be stronger when I go next time.

I am sure that you should think it necessary for me to come to York again — I feel that I can

go on quietly, & do all that is necessary for myself. I think too with the help my brothers & sisters are able to give me from time to time. & that the way will open & guidance be given if I go on in trust from day to day.

I feel frightened about the future, & in thinking & thinking of things. but my imagination & sympathy run beyond facts I am afraid. & I had not slept well for a long time.

My head is not quite strong yet, but I am not afraid of going about alone now, or of meeting people — except that I think it wrong of us care for our friends to know that we are nervous patients.

I hope you will tell me as soon as ever you think I may leave. My sisters are quite free for some weeks to come. Everything here is extremely nice & beautifully arranged & I am very fortunate in being allowed to have the opportunity of sharing in the advantages. but I am so homesick sometimes, & shall be thankful to take my place again as soon as you will allow me.

I have another lady friend at Clapham Park who has a few P. Guests. She has said that she would always remember a little kindness I was able to show her — might I offer to help her part of the summer? I am only afraid

of my own strength.

I am afraid this all comes very vague & unpractical – but we land the character of being business like when it comes to the point.

My visit home has cleared many doubts & made me look at things differently, for the time I felt at least.

With kind regards

Believe me

Yours Sincerely

A. M. Vickers.

442

Ashover
Near Chesterfield.
Dec 6. 1913

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am wondering whether by any chance my letter to you has miscarried. I wrote asking for a report of my sisters condition, and posted from here at 10. am on Dec 1.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers.

before Christmas, which will I think be all the new clothing she needs for some little time. If at any time Nurse would let us know of any need we shall be most grateful. We do not want to send needlessly for we know it must add to the difficulty of keeping count of her belongings. We do greatly appreciate the care and kindness she is receiving.

Believe me

Yours truly

Margaret H Vickers.

Ashover
near Chesterfield
Nov 30. 1913.

Dear Dr Pierce,

Will you be so good as to send us some report of my sister's condition? We have very frequent letters from her, and in all of them she tells us of the attentive care she is receiving. Sometimes she writes in a perfectly reasonable way, in fact when writing to outside friends (she sends these letters for us to forward) she seems quite able to exclude all reference to her delusions, and no one would imagine anything was amiss. At the same time most of her letters to us harp on the old impressions, and naturally contain many, many expostulations at our having taken her to York, and at her being kept there.
Probably you realize that she never is contented. Certainly as long as I can remember, and that is over 40 years, though every member of the family has been tasked in the endeavour to

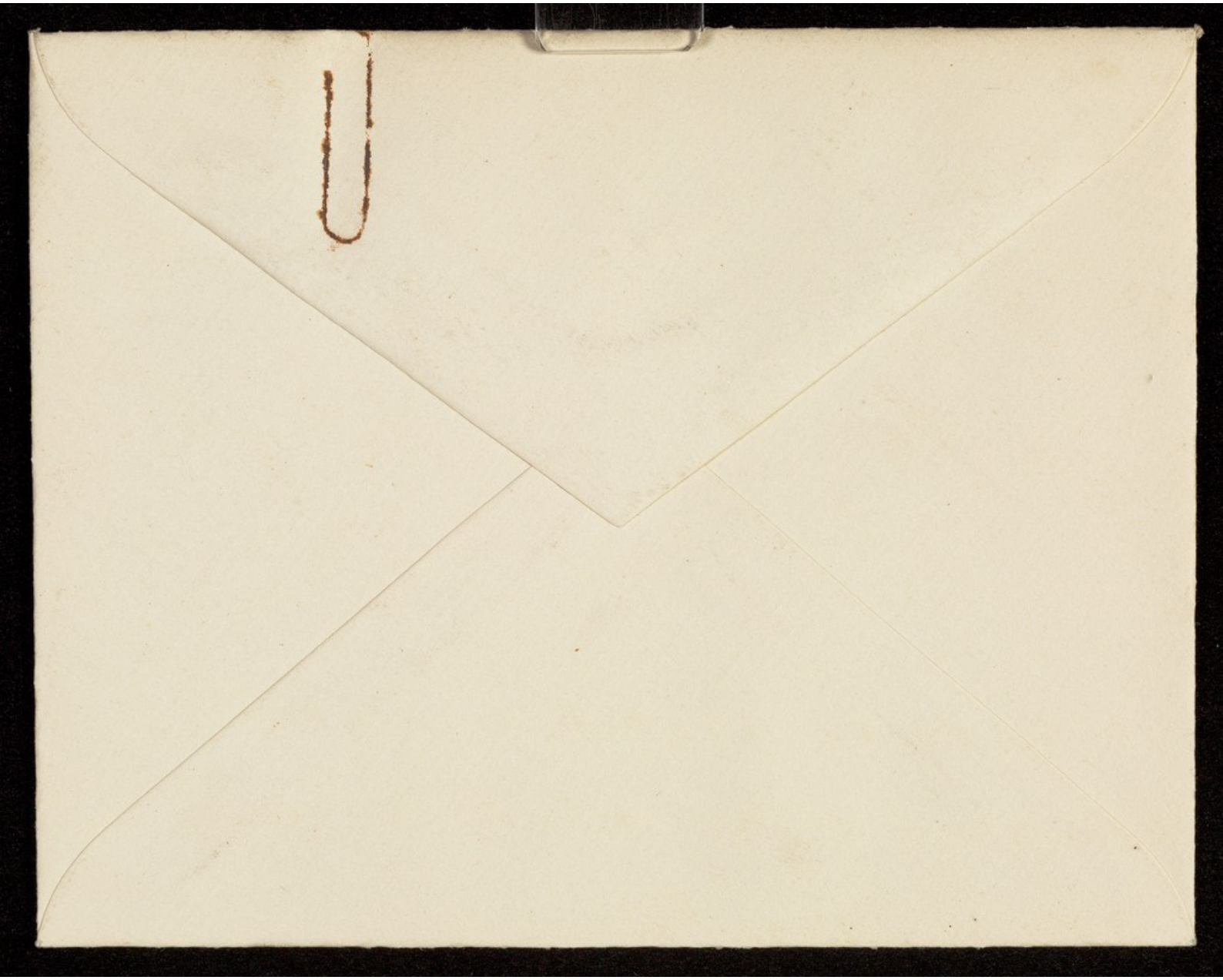
provide her with helpful surroundings, she has never been happy, but has nursed an attitude of self pity. We fully realize what mischief she has done herself by the use of aperient medicine and other drugs, but as a rule it is quite impossible to prevent her obtaining them. She has repeatedly been under treatment for intervals of two or three months away from home, when she has improved greatly, only to relapse as soon as supervision was removed. The responsibility of her presence is such a growing tax, that my younger sister and I have felt compelled to stipulate that half of the year she shall be away from home. As neither of my brothers can receive her for more than short (one week) visits, this has meant that she has gone to boarding houses or as a private paying guest, except when a nursing home has been necessary. You will understand what a constant difficulty this has been, and how increasingly a cause of great anxiety, as we realize the uncertainty of her mental balance.

We are sending my sister a new dressing gown

Miss Vickers

Ashover -

near Chesterfield



TELEPHONE NOS. 920 & 3021.
TELEGRAMS: "VIGOUR, NOTTINGHAM."

16 STONEY STREET,
NOTTINGHAM.

Nov. 22 1913

Dear Sir

I enclose signed agreement for the payment of fees at the Retreat for Miss Alice Mary Vickers.

Thank you for your letter saying that these have been settled at 48/- a week.

Will you please send me a copy of the agreement. I do not think it states what notice is required for the removal of a patient.

Please say if there are any extras beyond the laundry &c referred to in the agreement which are at present being incurred for my Sister.

Yours faithfully

Chas. Vickers

Nov. 11, 1913

Dear Miss Vickers,

I am afraid I cannot yet give you much idea as to the prospects of recovery. On the whole Miss Vickers has do done quite as well as we can expect. Though she is fitful and looks at things from such an unhappy point of view she really takes an interest in what is going on.

We are keeping her in bed almost entirely and doing our best to improve her general nutrition, and we quite expect that if she can gain weight and strength her special troubles will be relieved.

Yours very truly,

Nov. 11, 1917

Dear Miss Vickers,

I sincerely I cannot yet give you much idea as to the prospects of recovery. Dr. Ohm thinks Miss Vickers may do done quite as well as we can expect. Though she is fright and looks as things look much an unhappy point of view and really takes an interest in what is going on.

We are keeping her in bed almost entirely and doing our best to improve her general nutrition; and we quite expect that if she can gain weight and strength her special trouble will be relieved.

Yours very truly,

Ashover
nr Chesterfield
Nov 10. 1913.

Dear Dr Pierce,

We should be most grateful, if, at your convenience, you would send us some report of my Sister's condition. I think from her letters she must be very much as she was before she left home, and I expect it is too soon for you to express an opinion of her chances of recovery. It is so distressing that she is so unhappy. It has always been so, and something different to the opportunities of her own life has always seemed to her the only chance of happiness. We have asked her not to write to her friends direct but to send any letters she wishes to have forwarded through us or my brother in Nottingham. We do not want her to feel that she may not write to us as much as she likes, though letter-writing does seem to add to the confusion of her poor head. She writes most appreciatively of the kindness shown her.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers.

I have not seen Q's prospectus and terms, & fees. So that I have no idea of the expense I am incurring

Grace said I might trust you if I did not appeal against the Certificate, & I have trusted. The kind I had money, no opportunity. I should not have remained I fear.

Shall I be allowed no liberty whatever?

I almost regret I did not send for a friend.

Thank you for the use of the beautiful bed-room.

4. Nov. 1913.
(Too late I fear)

Dear Dr Pearce.

May I please see you again at your convenience. Also, & as soon as you have the quiet opportunity? I have been to blame for not telling you before the week expired that I was ready & trust you to help me get strong enough & return quickly & my home & sisters. & any advice that you are prepared to give me I shall be pleased to consider.

I have remembered that the lady of whom I spoke this morning, died while & say she hoped & see me. but the opportunity has never come. & my cousin, at whose house we stayed told my sisters "I also brought no money with me. as I did not quite know your rates in this matter with regard to patients - & should like to send for some if you do not object.

I feel that matters may have come to a serious crisis in our home life - but that it should not be renewed would trouble me terribly - the very thought upsets me, & makes me anxious. Miss Collier says

It was always talk: so it only have been only fear. She says I will soon be well.

what a friend you have been to her. & I do
need one now to be not to lose time.
My sister thought I wanted rest when I came -
to let Nurse write to them - but moving from the
Dormitory upset everything, - and may make
them feel that I do not respect their wishes
this for one thing has worried me.
Then I am not sure if my sister saw you, or
Dr MacKenzie the day she came, & who I ought
to have asked advice from?
Dr Bourne? or you? - or Dr M.
It seems a case of too many cooks perhaps
in my mind.
I have had less flatulence than I often had
& I have taken more milk than I can at home
but the food is not quite what I am accustomed
to - we had more poultry & no beef. & their
I always have toast for breakfast - but I could
not expect just the same here. You asked about the food.
Things have lost their balance - but I think
with more sleep I should soon feel stronger.
Nurse seemed to check my coming to speak to you
or Dr Bourne greatly
Please do not use this in evidence against me.
I must have been greatly [illegible] in writing this letter
& [illegible] I am
yrs truly A. M. Vickers.

Ashover
nr Chesterfield
Oct 30. 1913.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I enclose the forms which I hope you will find in order. Both our doctors tell me they are decidedly of the opinion that if Alice came to you as a voluntary patient her chances of recovery would be considerably lessened by the uncertainty resulting from the feeling that she might leave at any time, and therefore as I gathered your opinion was the same, we are thankful that it has been possible to have the certificates made out before she leaves home.

We intend to travel tomorrow by the train reaching York about 2.20 and will come straight to the Retreat. I do not anticipate any difficulty.

Yours sincerely
Margaret H Vickers

Ashover
Nr Chesterfield
Oct 29. 1913

Dear Dr Pierce,

I am very much obliged to you for the papers. I told my Sister yesterday exactly what was proposed for her. She took it quite rationally and has seemed better ever since she knew. I always find that when things get very bad and she is absolutely unmanageable I have to screw myself up to telling her that I insist on being obeyed. As a rule this only happens about twice or three times a year, she always gives in and is sweetness itself for a while. The thought of the Retreat seems to have helped her in the same way and at present she would willingly go as a Voluntary patient. We all feel this would not be fair as the reaction is sure to come. Both Dr Sarah Gray of Nottingham & Dr Ida Fox of Ashover, saw her yesterday and are willing, I believe, to sign the certificates.

I hope to be able to post all the forms duly filled in by Thursday's night post, I cannot get them before, though I will let you know at once if there is any hitch.
Unless I hear to the contrary tomorrow, I shall bring my sister to you on Friday Oct 31.

Yours faithfully
Margaret H Vickers.

Ashover
nr Chesterfield
Oct 28. 1913.

Dear Dr Pierce,

I was in Nottingham yesterday and was able to consult with two of my brothers and tell them of your advice with regard to my sister. We all feel that she would have a far better chance of recovery under such care as she could receive at the Retreat, than under any other conditions, but we would far rather she were certified before she left home if it is possible.

Dr Sarah Gray of Nottingham, who has known her for nearly 30 years is therefore coming once sometime today, and I hope Dr Ida Fox who has attended her for the last 4 years, since we came to live at Ashover, will give the second certificate if possible. Of course we know they may fail to secure the necessary evidence, and in that case we shall

follow your advice and bring her to Mrs Thornton's rooms, and leave her there under the care of one of your nurses, with Dr Kemp in charge of the case. We should like to make the move on Friday next, Oct 31, if convenient to you. I am writing for our 10.a.m post as Dr Gray may not be here in time for me to catch the one at 5.50 this evening. Will you kindly let me have the necessary forms and any further instructions you wish to give?

Yours faithfully
(Miss) Margaret A Vickers.

Telephone
4265.

7, The Ropewalk,
Nottingham.

To Richard Thompson Esq.
Treasurer for
"The Retreat"

Dear Sir I beg to enclose
Cheque for £31. 4. —
being fees for one Quart.
commencing today for
Charge of my Sister
Miss A. M. Vickers at
the rate of 48/. a week
Yours faithfully
Chas. N. Vicker

We were kindly told
I know not
this has
been paid
rec.

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

WITNESS my hand the 22nd day of November 1913.

Name Chas. Vickers

Residence 7 The Ropewalk Nottingham

Occupation Lace Manufacturer

SIGNED by the said Charles Henry Vickers

in the presence of

Witness's Signature, Louie Evans

Address, and 35, Laurie Avenue, Nottingham

Profession. Clerk

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.

Nov. 21. 1913

Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of the Retreat Committee the terms for Miss A M Vickers were fixed at 48/5 a week –

I enclose the usual form of agreement which please return to me when signed & witnessed –

Yours faithfully

Wm E Waller
Secy

Chas. H Vickers Esq.

Wo. 21. 1913

Lieber Herr!

Ich hr. Herzog Ihr Ms. Referat Commissär hr. Lenn für Ihre Mitteilung über Ihr Urteil of 13th a. Lieb. –

Gewähren Sie Ihnen für Ihr Interesse bisher Ihnen bei der weiteren Behandlung. –

Mit vielen Grüßen

Ihr ergebener

G. Hellen Sen.

Herrn Hr. Martin Sy.