

Wilson, Monica

Publication/Creation

1915-1915

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OUR MISSIONS.

ORGAN OF THE
FRIENDS' FOREIGN
MISSION ASSOCIATION.

EDITOR:
MARY HODGKIN.

ELM RIDGE,
DARLINGTON.

19. X. 1915

Dear D. Pierce,

I have been asked by my friend, Miss Hilda Milson, of Reading, to write to you about her sister Monica, on whose behalf I believe application has already been made for her admission to the Retreat.

Monica Milson & her two older sisters were all educated at Polam Hall. I was at School with M. M.'s sisters & know the family very well. They are Congregationalists & have always been earnest members of their Church, helping largely both with time & money.

About two years ago M. Milson lost all his money through a serious failure in business, brought about by the indolence of others & by his own over-kindness & lack of business capacity. Miss Milson at once resigned & took a secretarial post & is now keeping the home together. Her next sister was in a specially good situation as

ELM RIDGE
DARLINGTON
17 X 10 1/2

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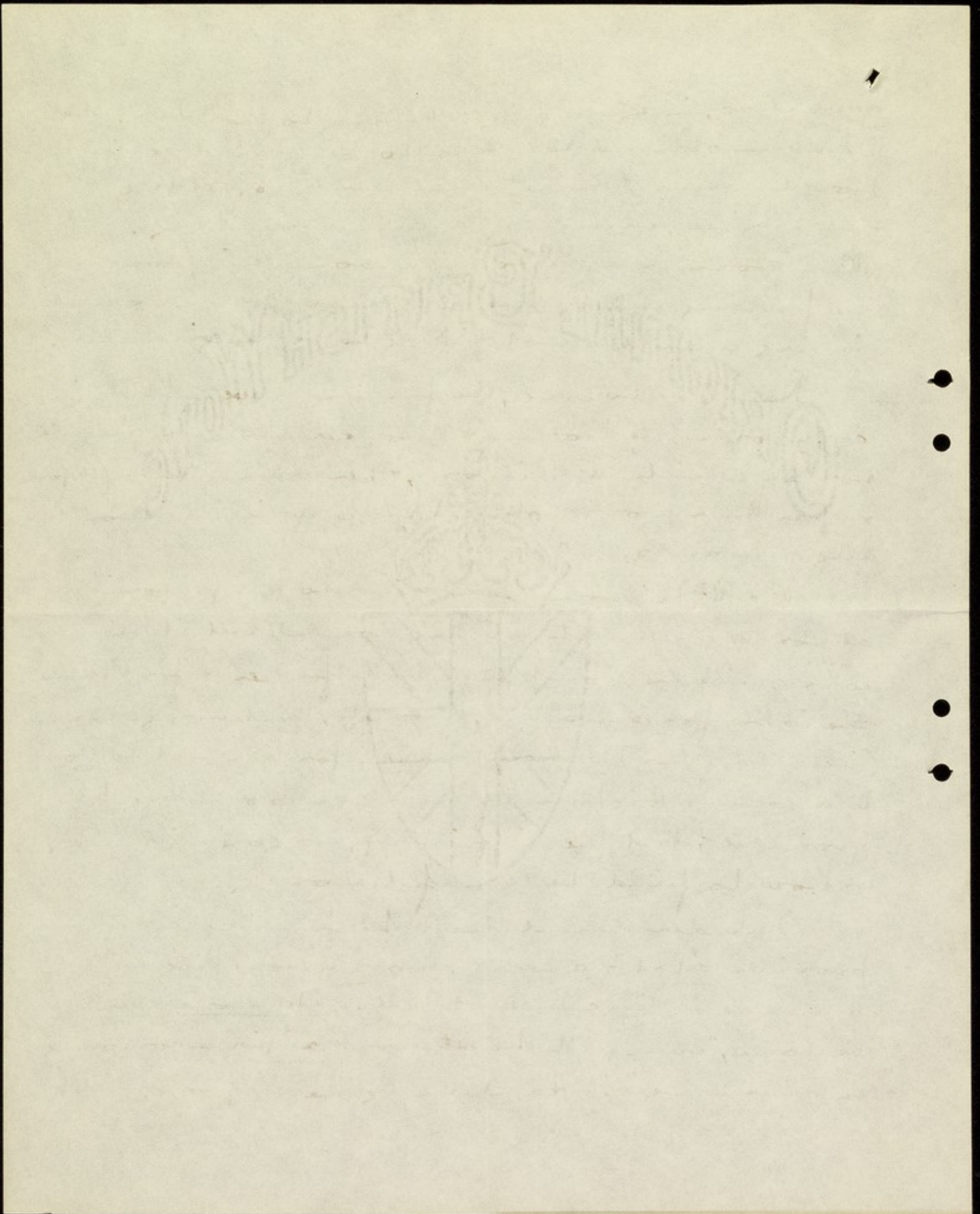
governess, in Germany. Owing to the War, she has been obliged to return to England & is now learning secretarial work &, at the same time, earning a small salary.

Mr. Milson is able to give something towards the family needs but I believe the amount is very small & not likely to be increased.

Needless to say, the family have left their comfortable home & moved into a small house which Mr. Milson, & his daughters (before & after their work hours) keep going without any servants.

Mr. & Mrs. Milson have tried to keep Monica at home as much as they could but it seems to be quite the worst plan both for her & for them. She is so far sensible, though, that everyone (including her Doctor) is keen for her not to go to a County Asylum if this can possibly be avoided; but the difficulty, as you will see, is how to find the needed money.

I understand that the family can provide £1-1- a week, though how they will manage it I cannot tell. No more can be done, "even with the ~~utmost~~ rigid economy in other ways." As I see by the Report, that



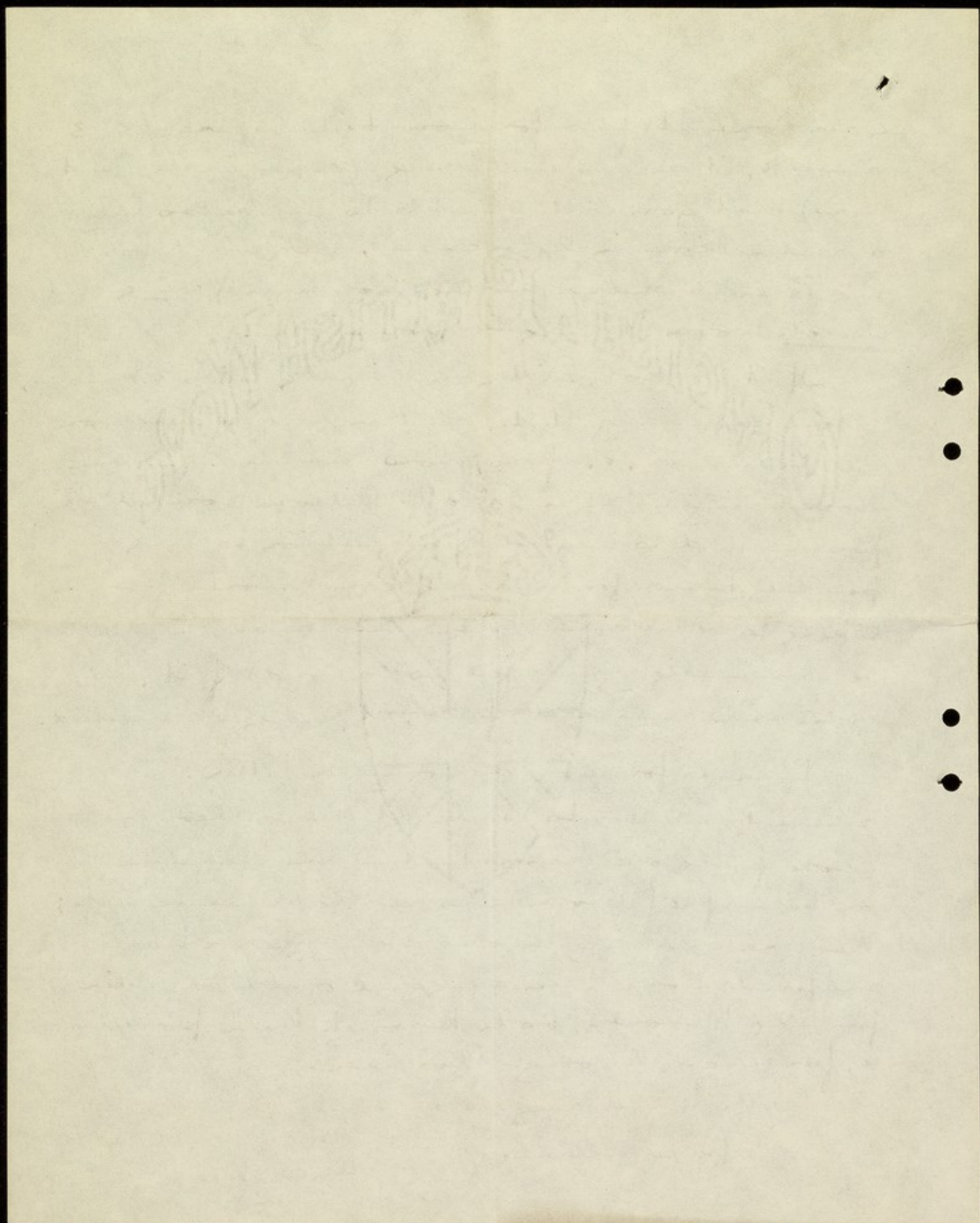
your lowest fees for non-friends are £3-3 a week, it seems unlikely (especially just now) that you will be able to make so large a reduction in this case, but we (for my Parents share in my "concern") were much hope it may be possible.

If it is not, will you kindly let me know, before refusing M. M., whether any reduction can be made, & if so, how much? I am wondering whether M^r. & M^{rs}. Milson could be persuaded to make application to any public fund for help. If you know of such likely to be available in this case, I shall be especially grateful to be told of it, as, even with reduced fees, it may be needed.

Please forgive so long a letter. It seemed useless to write at all unless I wrote fully & I know that I am pleading on behalf of those who really deserve help; they are making heroic struggles & have suffered more than anyone outside their family knows, both through their poverty & far more, through Monica.

With kind regards

Yrs. sincerely Mary Hodgkin



much prefer "The Reheat"
if ⁱⁿ ~~any~~ was possible, I
shall be grateful if you
are kind enough to ask
the Chairman of the Com-
mittee about it, before
I finally tell them that
it cannot be managed.

Many thanks for the
names suggested of
other Homes. I will pass
them on, if needed.

Yrs. sincerely
Mary Hodgkin

P.S. Please do not trouble to
reply to this until you have
seen the Chairman. Is there
any chance that Miss M. might be
let in because of having been edu-
cated at a Friends' School? I sh^d.
be so very glad if I could find some
way of getting her under your care.

PRIVATE

TEL. No. 2386.

ELM RIDGE,
DARLINGTON.

22.X.1915

Dear B. Pierce,

I am grateful to
you for your full reply
to my letter about Miss
Wilson.

I did not go into
medical particulars of
her case, as I under-
stood that B. Cilford,
of Reading, had already
written to you. But I
believe there is no hope

of her recovery; she is suffering from dementia praecox & two or three Doctors have said that she is only likely to grow worse.

That is the great difficulty of the case. Without any of the family knowing where the help has come from (& it is particularly wished that they should not) a few friends have been passing for Miss M. down in Cornwall. But

such, individual, subscriptions cannot be counted on for an indefinite length of time, or, I gather from your letter, that I could make application ~~of~~ that ground. The amount collected would only double what Mr. & Mrs. Wilson could pay, making £2.2. a week.

I am very sorry but it does not seem promising, does it? At the same time, as the D. & the family would so

20th October, 1915.

Dear Miss Hodgkin,

I can hardly reply definitely to your letter without consulting some of the Committee, but generally speaking it is impossible for us to receive persons unconnected with Friends at reduced terms. The average cost of maintenance at the Retreat is now over 50/- per week and it is rising owing to the hard times, and I hardly think the Committee would feel justified in accepting a patient at greatly reduced rates unless there was some distinct claim upon the Society. Hitherto there has been no clear understanding as to what this claim consists of, but it has usually been understood that the patients were either related to Friends or were connected with the religious work of the Society, or sometimes that the money for maintenance was paid by Friends. I almost think that none of these conditions apply in the present case. Another factor is whether the patient is likely to recover by a short residence. I fear from your letter that this is hardly to be expected, and it would not seem prudent to start here if after a few weeks or months a transfer would become necessary.

With regard to assistance from public funds, I am very much afraid that there is nothing available. There are a few institutions that take patients at low rates. If the

case is an acute one and recovery is to be expected, the Bethlem Royal Institution, London, will receive a patient free for a year. Similarly St. Luke's Hospital, Old Street, London, receives free cases. The Warneford, Oxford, takes in a certain number of patients at reduced fees, and it is possible that coming from that part of the country they might accept the case at 30/- a week or thereabouts. At present the public asylums are all very full on account of so many of them being turned into Military Hospitals. Usually there is quite good accommodation for private patients at certain asylums; notably Harrison, Dorchester, and Berry Wood, Northampton. I hope to be seeing the Chairman of the Committee next week and could then submit the matter if you wish it.

I remain, Sir, very truly,

Yours very truly,

✓
TELEPHONE 261.

At Home

9.30-10.30 A.M.

2 TO 3 P.M.

205, KINGS ROAD,

READING.

6a 11. 1915

Dear S-Bedford Pierce

Can you take in a young m.
 married lady with a mild degree of dementia
 praecox. Her parents are too poor to
 pay for her but a friend is willing to do so
 provided the expense is not too much for him.
 So if you can take her will you kindly let
 me know what the cost will be.

Yours very truly

J. Hilpert

200, KINGS ROAD,

BEACHES.

Dear Sir,

Dear Sir,

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

Yours very truly,

W. H. P.