Friday Aug 10 1917

STATION, CLAYGATE.

RYTHE COTTAGE,
HARE LANE,
ESHER.

Dear Dr Pierce

Many thanks for your wire, I was attending my aunts funeral at Chelmsford today or would have answered before — I have put the matter in Mr Bowen's hands & have arranged with him

to have my mother brought up & buried at Esher — on Tuesday —

Very many thanks for the care she has had at your hands all these years.

We do not want anything, false teeth or clothing ~~sent~~, please dispose of anything there may be.

Yours truly

Frances Wright —

TEL. VICTORIA 5873.

4, Warwick Street, Pimlico.

FROM
A. & H. WRIGHT.

London, S.W. 20 NOV 1917

To Dr Pierce

I think there is a balance of a few pounds to come to us for the time between my Mothers death to the end of the quarter, I am writing as I thought it might have been overlooked —

Please note change of address — we have left Ryther Cottage —

Yours truly
Hampton Wright —

8th September, 1917.

Dear Mr. Wright,

Your very kind letter came when I was away on holiday, and though a good deal out of date I should like to write and thank you for it.

Mrs. Wright was a favourite patient here beloved by everyone, and it was quite easy for us to see the sweetness of her disposition, although her memory was so clouded. The feature which perhaps struck us most was her ready wit and sense of humour; there are many sayings of hers which have been noted and which stick in the memory. During one of the air raids when there were a good many explosions going on, she woke up and said to the night nurse, "My dear, do you always make so much noise when you go to bed?" On another occasion when I came to see her she said at the end of the interview that it was very kind of me to pay her a visit, and she thanked me cordially for it, but she did not know that it had done her any good.

The distressing feature of the case was the fact that towards the end of her illness as she became so bedridden there was difficulty with the nursing, as it was impossible to prevent bed sores. This, however, was a matter of the last few weeks, and they were quite painless.

I will convey to the nurses your kind remarks of appreciation of their care and attention.

Yours very truly.

~~866~~
916

Hillcrest
Neath Park Avenue
Cardiff
Aug 26 1917

Dear Dr Price

I feel that I should like to take this opportunity of writing to you to express the feeling of warm indebtedness to you that my wife & I feel for all the care & kindness bestowed by yourself & the members of your staff upon my dear mother during the last years of her life.

The fact that I was unable to have her nearer to me was always a source of keen regret but it was none the less a great comfort to feel that she was being so well looked

after & tenderly cared for at your hands. I wish you could have known her in her prime. To me she will always remain the most perfect type of self-sacrifice & warm hearted devotion & wisdom. Physically she was always frail but her indomitable will enabled her to accomplish much more than most others who had far more strength & she was the centre of a large circle of relatives & friends who always turned to her for counsel & guidance.

I know that she had at the Retreat a copy of Wetherings British Botany. Do you know whether it is still there because if it is I should greatly value it & like to have it, for she had it for the greater part of her life & from it she taught me in years past the

rudiments of a science which is to me still a continual joy.

When in London the other day my brother & I agreed that if there are one or two nurses who were more particularly concerned in looking after Mother during the past year or two we should like to make some little acknowledgement to them. Perhaps you will be good enough to let me know about this.

Again thanking you & with kind regards in which my wife joins me

Very sincerely yours

Max Wright

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

828

CULROSS & SPROSTON, LTD.,
Printers, Leeds London

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than ½d. being reckoned as ½d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office Stamp.

11 AU 12

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

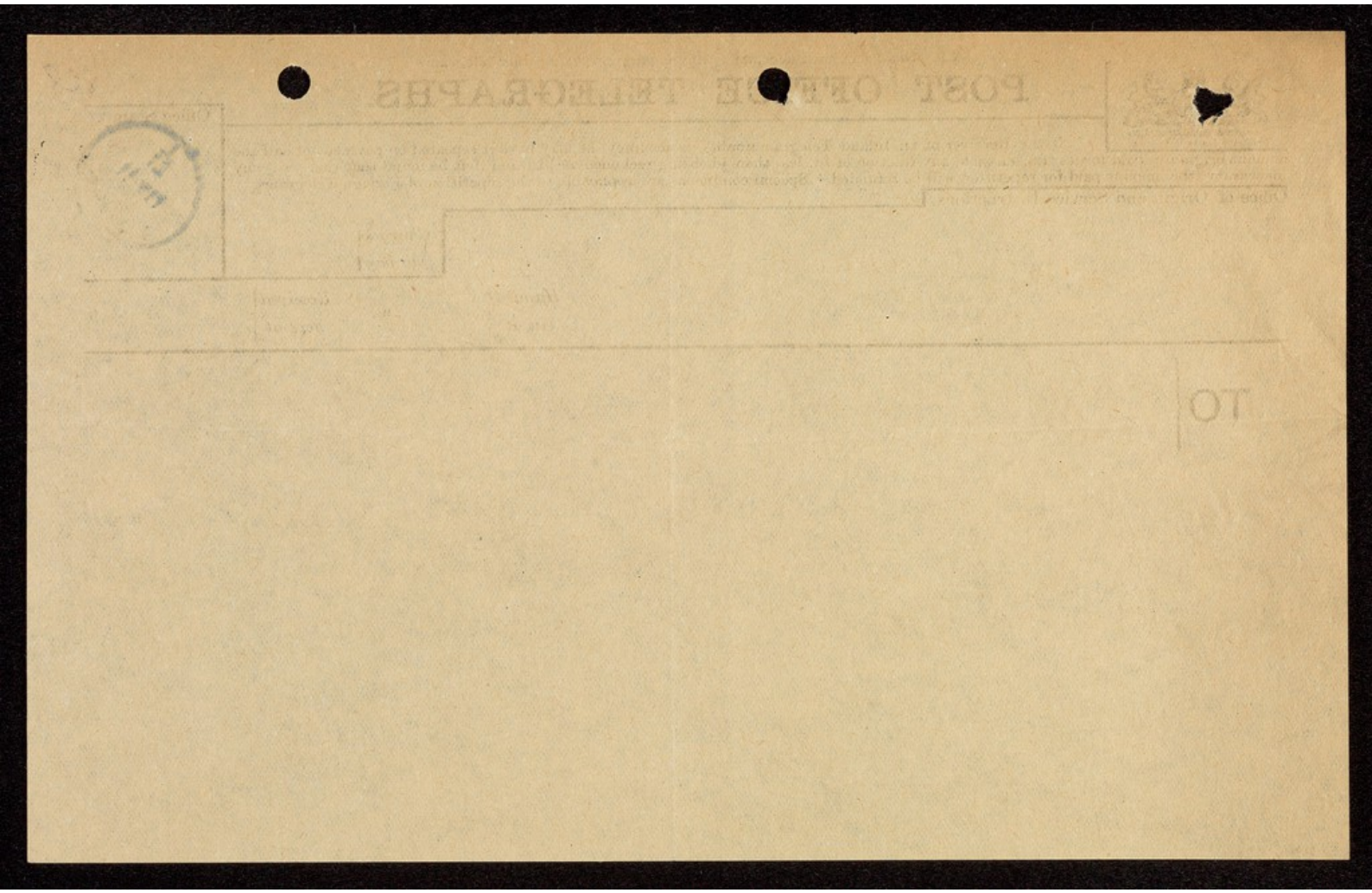
Esher

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } 7-7 P.M., Received here at } 10.7 P.M.

TO { Dr Pierce Friends Retreat York

Am making all arrangements for burial of Maria Wright Walker Bourne Esher



11th July, 1917.

Dear Sir,

After nearly ten years confinement to bed I am sorry to say that Mrs. Wright has developed a bed sore, this in spite of unremitting care day and night on the part of the nurses. The difficulties of nursing are great, she has become contracted so that it is practically only possible for her to rest on one hip or the other, and there is complete incontinence which means changing the sheets every few minutes day and night; and she is of course extremely frail and her general nutrition is bad.
This does not give her any trouble and the sore in question appears to be only a superficial matter, but I thought you should know about it, the more so as it seems hardly likely that it will thoroughly heal over.

Mrs. Wright barely speaks now, and is asleep almost the whole time, now and then however she seems to rouse and talks a little.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

17th February, 1916.

Dear Mr. Wright,

Just a line to say that at the present time Mrs. Wright seems very comfortable and her pulse is firm. Last night her temperature rose to 102 for no apparent reason. There is really nothing fresh to say, except that we expect she will pass away in one of these attacks of extreme feebleness, but so far as we can judge there is no immediate cause for anxiety.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

661.

STATION,
CLAYGATE.

RYTHE COTTAGE,
HARE LANE,
ESHER.

Dear Dr Brown

I am very much obliged to you for sending me word that my Mother was not so well. I trust you will let me know if she gets any worse—

Yours truly J H Wright

7/10/14 16

Mr. Wright

Dear Friend

Your letter was submitted to the Committee on Tuesday, the questions raised were carefully reconsidered.

I am requested to explain that the Committee thinks the sum proposed ~~does~~ is ~~not be~~ more than is justified considering the ~~that represents~~ the ~~value~~ amount of the care & attention that Mrs. Wright receives. She is very frail & needs most careful nursing ~~day & night.~~

You are under a misapprehension in thinking that a nurse sleeps in her room. On the contrary her feeble condition ~~the nurse, at night must be~~ demands the almost constant attention ~~of a night nurse~~ throughout the night as well as by day. It was because ~~the nursing was arduous that the charge was~~ or such special care was needed that the charge for admission ~~was proposed & carried~~ was required.

I hardly think you realize the cost of individual care such as is given in this case. Trained nurses do not work ~~such~~ very long hours & when continual care is needed, ~~others~~ additional nurses have to be found to ~~to relieve~~ for relief duty, ~~for meals~~ during meals & leave of absence. ~~Besides the actual no~~ Besides the ~~as~~ nursing, there are establishment charges & the cost of medical attendance. Hence the fees ~~asked~~ proposed are certainly not greater than would be charged ~~for~~ in similar institutions under similar circumstances.

With regard to the patients ~~under~~ named similar quarters in the West Villa one is a Friend, ~~and~~ ~~three~~ two ~~two~~ others are closely connected with Friends & the fees paid ~~as~~ are ~~as high or even high~~ relatively the same.

~~As~~ It is quite true that members of the Soc. of F. ~~in~~ ~~it is custom to reduce fees to members of the Soc. of Friends~~ are admitted at reduced rates but this assistance is only given ~~done~~ when patients ~~or~~ their friends are in reduced circumstances & are unable to pay the ~~full~~ cost.

We have at the Retreat some 40 Friends ~~who pa~~ 'recommended' by their M. M. who pay only 12/- weekly & seeing that we ~~have~~ practically no income from endowment it would be impossible to undertake this charitable work on behalf of the Soc. of Friends if Friends & others ~~did not~~ able to pay ~~the full &~~ ~~did not pay fully the cost the full cost did not do so.~~ # full fees, were not charged, equivalent to the market value of the accomn given. (X) (#)

I hope with this further explanation you will see the matter in a different light but if ~~the fees proposed~~ on further ~~consideration~~ thought you still feel that it is necessary to raise the ~~matter~~ question again ~~perhaps you will let me know. I shall like to hear from you again~~ I shall be glad to ~~submit a~~ re-open the subject with the Committee.

I remain Yours ~~truly~~ sincerely

(#) (In times ~~past~~ improvements & could only be made by borrowing money & though the loan is slowly being repaid the Retreat is not free from debt.)

~~At the date of the last Command~~

(#) The West Villa in which Dr. Wright lives provide accommodation fully as good as any in the kingdom.

~~The West Villa~~

~~This true that gradually this debt is being discharged but the financial position of the~~

(X) I may add that every effort is made to keep the Retreat full abreast of the times, ~~that we have~~ there are no rates to fall back upon to meet capital expenditure. ~~& the Institution is still considerably in bad debt,~~ ~~A great deal of the bad debt The debt was incurred in building the which debt was incurred in carrying out improvements~~

July 20, 1911

Dear Friend,

Your letter was submitted to the Committee on Tuesday and the questions raised were carefully reconsidered. I am requested to explain that the Committee think the sum proposed is no more than is justified, considering the large amount of care and attention Mrs. Wright receives. She is very frail, and needs most careful nursing. You are under a misapprehension in thinking that a nurse sleeps in her room. On the contrary, her feeble condition demands almost constant attention throughout the night as well as by day. It was because so much special care was needed that the change from a dormitory was required.

I hardly think you realise the cost of individual care such as is given in this case. Nowadays nurses do not work very long hours, and when continual care is needed additional nurses have to be found for relief duty during meals and leave of absence. Besides the nursing, there are establishment charges and the cost of medical attendance. Hence, the fees proposed are reasonable and are certainly not greater than would be charged in similar institutions under similar circumstances.

With regard to the patients having similar quarters in the West Villa, one is a Friend, two others are closely connected with Friends, and the fees paid are relatively the same.

It is quite true that members of the Society of Friends are admitted at reduced rates, but this assistance is only given when their friends are in reduced circumstances and are unable to pay the cost. We have at the Retreat some 40 Friends "recommended" by their Monthly Meeting, who pay only 12/- weekly, and seeing that we have practically no income from endowment it would be impossible to undertake this charitable work on behalf of the Society if Friends and others able to pay were not charged full fees, equivalent to the market value of the accommodation given.

I may add that every effort is made to keep the Retreat fully abreast of the times, and there are no rates to fall back upon to meet capital expenditure. In times past improvements could only be made by borrowing money, and though the loan is slowly being repaid the Retreat is not free from debt. The West Villa, in which Mrs. Wright lives, provides accommodation fully as good as any in the kingdom.

I hope, with this further explanation, you will see the matter in a different light, but if on further thought you still feel that it is necessary to raise the question again, I shall be glad to re-open the subject with the Committee.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

Max A. Wright Esq.

17 Fairoak Road
Cardiff
July 16 1911

Dr Bedford Pierce
Dear Friend

My brother Harrington Wright & I have been consulting together regarding the increased fees now charged by your committee for our mother Mrs Alfred Wright. I am writing this to let you know that I am in thorough agreement with my brother in considering that the enormously increased charge – double what it was previously – is much more than we could reasonably have expected.

You mention that the fees equal those paid in a somewhat similar case by a lady who is not a

Friend. I had always understood that members of our Religious society possessed advantages which others did not.

Surely the alternative of having a room to herself & of having a nurse to sleep in the same room does not represent an additional cost of more than £150 per annum!

Like my brother, I quite fail to see how this can be & feel that it is more than it is reasonable to expect us to pay.

May I ask you to be good enough to reconsider the matter.

Very sincerely yours

Max Awbrey

July 6,1911

Dear Friend,

With reference to your letter some little while back,on the subject of the increased terms for Mrs. Wright, I should explain that the Committee were quite aware that the proposed increase amounted to double the previous rate.

For a long time , Mrs. Wright has needed very close attention, and the terms have not been sufficient to meet the expenses incurred in nursing. Now, however, that Mrs. Wright has a private room, and a special night nurse, the Committee felt that the time had come for a revision; and the fees charged are the same which another elderly lady, closely connected with Friends, who has a similar room, and the same amount of attention, pays. We hope these additional charges will not be burdensome to you.

I am sorry to say that Mrs. Wright continues to be very frail and feeble. Some days she is able to be up just a little, but the greater part of the time she is confined to bed.

Yours very truly,

May 14.11 210

STATION,
CLAYGATE.

RYTHE COTTAGE,
HARE LANE,
ESHER.

Dear Dr Reece

I am much obliged for your letter. I think it a very suitable arrangement that your proposal to pay what fees the Com. think necessary; but I Evans is just double what we are paying now. With best regards, Yours sincerely

Harrington Wright

May 3, 1911

Dear Mr. Wright,

I am writing to explain that I think the time has now come to make some different arrangement respecting the nursing of Mrs. Wright. She is becoming increasingly feeble and requires much more supervision than she did. Hitherto she has generally been nursed in adormitory with others, but I think it will be more comfortable and satisfactory for her to have a private room and a special nurse during the night. We have tried this for the last few days and it is certainly working better. In the day time she is mostly in bed, and this room, with a south aspect, is very pleasant for her.

I should like to know whether there is any objection to an increased fee under these new arrangements. I think the Committee would expect to be paid about six guineas a week. At least this is the fee charged for an elderly lady under exactly similar circumstances.

Mrs. Wright is more confused in mind, and you will understand that she is also feeble in body, but there is no immediate cause for anxiety.

Yours very truly,

Dear Mr. Wright,

I am writing to explain that I think the time has now come to make some different arrangement respecting the nursing of Mrs. Wright.

1
N.T.

Ruth Cottage
Hare Lane
Esher

XI/7/10

Dear Dr Price;

With my last 3 mos. acct for my Mother, there was not any acct of her health — may I trouble you to send me one now & kindly make it as full as you can

My brother or I would come & see her oftener than we do, but it seems to upset her & make her more difficult to do with. —

Yours sincerely

Harrington Wright —

 (942

Dear Dr Rose -

Will you please
read the enclosed that
my Mother have it or
tell her abt. Father's death.
I should very much like
to know how much
she will understand it.

Yours truly
J. H. Wright

858

Rythe Cottage
Hare Lane
Esher

Oct. 25 08

Dear Dr Price

Thank you for letting me know of my Mother. I trust as I have not heard the last two days that the attack has passed off. She had a somewhat similar attack abt. 2 yrs.

ago – if she at all wishes I will of course come down again at once –

Yours truly

Huntington Wright =

798

TELEPHONE 539
CROYDON.

Brigstock House,
Thornton Heath.

16. 10. 08

Dear Sir,

I hear that there is a chance of Mrs A Wright returning to her own home. If the matter has not been settled, might I suggest that her home coming, would not tend to maintain the improvement she has made in your institution. I was her medical attendant just prior to the time she was sent to York, & have since been in

attendance on her husband, who for years has been a chronic invalid, with a day + night nurse in constant attendance, he is demented + suffers from delusions.

If Mrs Wright returns, I am sure she will wish to manage her household, such a course I believe would affect her husband + hasten a relapse in her own mental condition.

I have had asylum experience + know that cases are let out on trial, + I can only say I believe that the home surroundings for Mrs Wright would be detrimental.

Yrs faithfully

P W James

753

Ryelhe Cottage
Hurst Lane
Esher

Oct 2. 06

Dear Dr Pierce

I am much obliged for your letter. I have been intending to come & see Mother for some time & I hope to come next Tuesday week & stay in York a night when I know I

shall be able to have
a talk with you as to
what we had better do —
my Father's mind is much
weaker than when Mother
saw him which much
complicates matters —

Yours truly
J Harrington Wright =

Tuesday 13th inst

(400

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

June 15 08

Dear Dr Rice;

I have had 2 or 3 letters lately from my mother Marion Wright saying she thought it was all time that she returned home. I shall be glad to have a report from you as to her state of health as she ought not to go home

unless she is quite well & not requiring a nurse as it is only a small house & my father whose intellect is failing & is paralysed has whom two nurses —

My brother Max is coming to see her very shortly —

Yours sincerely

Harrington Wright —

Sept.29, 1908

Dear Mr. Wright,

Mrs. Wright is continually appealing to go back to her home, and there is no doubt she is very much better. Her memory is not altogether reliable, but still it is wonderfully better than it was. She is very frail, and requires a good deal of personal attention, and I think it is no unlikely that away from Institution care she might become more difficult to manage. On the whole however she gives us very little trouble and I should not be surprised if a nurse could not manage her very nicely now that she is used to being under control by nurses.

When the Commissioners in Lunacy were here some little while back they expresed the hope that Mrs. Wright could go away on trial. At that time there was some talk of her going to Cardiff, but Mrs. Wright distinctly objects to going there, saying that her place is with her husband. I am aware that he is in an exceedingly feeble condition and himself under the care of nurses. Would it not be possible, however, to arrange for Mrs. Wright to return home with a special nurse to look after her.

It is impossible for me to do more that make a

suggestion of this kind, as I am so ignorant of the circumstances. You will, however, understand that now the old lady is better able to understand her circumstances one would be glad for her to be nearer her own people whom she longs to se.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

Dear Sir Reece –

My Mother has been writing to me for some money, if you think well will you please advance her 20/. & charge it in the week. – Please note that on & after the 24th inst. my address will be
Blythe Cottage, Hoo Lane Margate

Yours truly H Wright

1/1/08

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

Dear Dr Weaver –

I have today had a letter from my Mother (Maria Wright) asking me to send her abt 20/- to buy odds & ends with – I thought I had better ask you if you thought well, to let her have it. Perhaps you would

put it down in our acct.
She wrote me a very nice
sensible letter at Xmas
but to day, was quite
different talking abt.
her brother & parents who
have all been dead for
yrs —

Yours sincerely
Harrington Wright —

Morningside
17 Fairoak Road
Cardiff
Dec 7 1907

Dear Dr Pearce

I do not suppose you will remember me but I recall at least one occasion when I was at Bootham 20 years ago & played in a football match against you — I believe it was the Forces team.

Mr Wright (996)

My object in writing now is in regard to my mother, Mrs Alfred Wright.

Thus far I have refrained, since she has been in the Retreat, from writing to her fearing — after consultation with my brother — that it might

unsettle her.

May I trouble you for your opinion as to how far it is wise. Again & again I have felt as though I should like to do so but thought perhaps it was better not.

At her age it is I suppose hopeless to expect her ever to recover sufficiently to come out, but is she really better than when she came?

Very sincerely yours

Mary Wright.

conditions as to cost naturally differ greatly.

Until the losses alluded to, he has been in fairly good circumstances, but now is barely able to keep a small home running, so this break down in his health becomes a very serious tax on his resources.

I hope I have given you all necessary information for you to form an opinion on the case, and shall be glad to have an early reply from you.

Yours faithfully.
Butler Denny

Dr. Pierce
The Retreat. York.

781

3rd October. 1907.

Dear Sir.

Mr Harrington Wright of this Village has given me your name. I understand his mother is now, or has been staying with you.

I want to lay my brother's case before you, and then to ask if you would receive him, and upon what terms?

Owing to some very serious monetary losses, he has for the past few months been getting into a very depressed condition, and three weeks ago, it was

decided that a specialist must be consulted, who pronounced him to be suffering from severe melancholia, and further that the arteries showed a good deal of wear & tear. He ordered his removal to a nursing home, and thought it advisable ~~for~~ him to have two nurses (day & night) in case of an impulse of suicidal mania setting in, although he has shown no signs of such. He has now been there 3 weeks in bed, and yesterday I found him greatly improved, quite rational - in fact he has always

been so - and he had been up for 2½ hours the day before, was to get up yesterday, and today to go for a short walk.

Now this is costing more that he is able to pay, and his Doctor agrees that the knowledge of this fact will tend to retard his complete restoration to normal condition, ~~and~~ so his wife is anxious to effect a change as soon as possible.

The Home he is now in is not suitable for such cases, necessitating as it does the payment of <u>special</u> nurses, but where one nurse can watch many cases, the

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

Sept: 10th 1907

Dear Mr Pierce

We have received their letter from Mr Wright – we shall be obliged if you will not allow any more to be sent – of course we are glad at-

Any time I receive a
report from Jn. —
Yours faithfully
L. M. Wright

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

September 17

Dear Mr Walker -

Many thanks for your letter - Will you kindly inform the committee that we think 4 Guineas a week is too much for us to pay. my Father has to have his nurse & a companion

helps as he has been paralysed for some years & is therefore at considerable expense; of course if necessary he will pay the 4 Guineas a week but it will have to be purely out of his capital —

Yours truly

Harrington Wright —

(885

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

Dear Mr Walter,

I am much obliged for your letter & enclosures. Four Guineas a week is more than we expected to pay & we shall be glad if you would mention this to the committee. We have had no report as to her condition. Does Mrs Wright require special attendance

t a room to herself?

I am enclosing a

cheque for this quarter.

Yours sincerely

Harrington Wright

Aug 23-07

Sept 25 07

Oak Knoll,
Esher,
Surrey.

Dear Sir,

I am very much obliged for your letter — the reduction of from 4 to 3 Guineas is quite satisfactory. Thank you.

Yours very truly

Harrington Wright

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 Maria Wright of Moorlands Rd Moorlands Harrogate as a patient in the said Hospital, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE AND AGREE with Richard Thompson of Dringate, 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 22 day of Aug 1907

Name Harrington Wright

Residence Oak Knoll Esher

Occupation Iron Dealer

SIGNED by the said Harrington Wright

in the presence of

Witness's Signature } Mary Jane Kirp spinster

Address, and } ~~Mary Jane Kirp~~

Profession. } Bardwell Cottage Esher

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.