

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

These are a variety of handwritten and typed letters, lectures, autographs, news clippings, biographical information, images and sketches, court documents, and other documents related to the history of psychiatry. These documents are housed in four boxes and the folders within are arranged alphabetically by surname or title, and they are included in the larger collection of historic psychiatry material in the Menninger Archives. Authors come from such fields as medicine, religion, prison and other reform and advocacy movements, politics, the military, etc. The documents themselves sometimes provide significant information, and sometimes they were collected because their authors were significant historical figures. Some of the individuals found in Box 1 include James Mark Baldwin, Ludwig Binswanger, Eugen Bleuler, Jean-Martin Charcot, Elizabeth Fry, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Carl Jung. Some of the individuals found in Box 2 include Alfred Adler, Robert Frost, and Washinton Irving. This box also includes a 68-page handwritten notebook by Dr. W.W. Reed entitled "Reminiscences About the Treatment of the Insane." Some of the individuals found in Box 3 include Amariah Brigham and Frederick van Eeden. This box also includes a correspondence file (1883-1888) on Ellen Kehoe, a patient at the Worcester Lunatic Hospital in Massachusetts, and a series of drawings from the 1920s and 1930s by a Belgian patient suffering from paranoia named Andreas at the Kankakee State Hospital in Illinois. The drawings were donated by Dr. J.B. Gier, formerly of the Topeka Veteran's Administration Hospital, who knew the patient and encouraged his work. Box 4 includes a miscellaneous folder regarding insane asylums and contains legal documents, postcard images, and receipts for services. Languages include English, German, French and Italian, and transcriptions or translations follow some of the documents.

Date: 1751 - 1961

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Miscellaneous, Box 1-4

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223248

Item Identifier: 223248

www.kansasmemory.org/item/223248

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

insane, under the favorable conditions⁴⁸ afforded by such institutions. Appropriations, by the legislature, for the construction, furnishing and early administration, which on any other hypothesis, would have been denounced as extravagant were freely sanctioned, by the people, believing such special provision to be both humane and economical, as through their agency, the insane were not only to be relieved of their maladies, but, as a consequence would become self-supporting.

The legislature, in providing for our first hospital, left no doubt on this subject, They say: "No person feeble-minded from birth shall be admitted and no person shall be retained in the hospital after by a fair trial, it shall have become reasonably certain that such person is incurably insane, If such person is retained to the exclusion of others whose cases are of a more hopeful character."

I think it fairly inferible, from this section of their organic law, that the possibility and consequent economy of curing the acute insane, little influenced by any intention of making permanent provision for the chronic, was the principal legislative stimulus in providing these very expensive institutions,

and had it been adhered to the original hospital, with a capacity of five hundred patients, would have furnished ample room to give every proper applicant a "fair trial" with a few rooms to let, at the present time,

But through the admission of persons whose disease was of such a character or of such long standing as to preclude all intelligent hope of benefit from treatment, of hereditary and other defectives, whose legal insanity was a mere matter of public policy or private convenience and undisputed idiots, the hospital, in a few years, was so crowded with this extraneous element as practically to unfit it for the purposes of its origin - The moral and therapeutic treatment of hopeful cases, - the prevention of insanity instead of its cure.

I suppose it happens sometimes that we build better than we know, but as a rule, if a thing does not answer the purpose of its creation, it will answer no purpose well, and these hospitals are likely to prove no exception to the rule, the practical results have been such, as greatly to weaken public faith in their

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

curative powers, if not in the ⁵⁰curability of insanity under any circumstance and to almost demonstrate their utter unfitness for custodial purposes, to which they have gradually been converted and for which they are so largely used.

"We have been misled into this extravagant hospital building by the dictum of the association of American medical superintendents of Insane Asylums. Allow me to submit a few excerpts from their proceedings and from their individual hospital reports, as follows: "Every State should make ample provision, not only for the proper custody, but also for the most enlightened treatment of all its insane." "The only chance for the chronic insane to obtain what is best, is to keep them in institutions where proper provision is made for recent and supposed curable cases." "When the chronic are once resigned to receptacles specially provided for them, they will soon be found sinking mentally and physically and sooner or later, cruelty, neglect and suffering is sure to follow." "When patients cannot be cured, they should still be considered under treatment as long as life lasts." "Increased numbers under one management is

attended with a proportionate decrease in the per capita cost of maintenance." "When promptly, properly and persistently treated about eighty per cent will recover." "They cannot receive proper treatment, except in state hospitals specially provided for the purpose."

These formal expressions of opinion, which no one had the temerity to question, the reputed bad condition of the insane in poorhouses and the crowded condition of existing hospitals, was their plea for unlimited hospital enlargement, although backed to the common herd with the air of authority, secured only such partial legislative compliance as to necessitate a constantly increased, and under the supervision of the State Board of Charities, improved county provision for the hospital overflow and other chronic cases, amounting to the astonishing number, in the county of Jefferson, where I reside, of thirty-one, under county care.

The reason for this inadequate provision by the state, is palpable, The hospitals have not demonstrated any of the propositions upon which enlargement is asked, and the expense of state care for is appalling, and the fact that

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

Some of the insane are as well ⁵²cared for in the county receptacles as they would be under the proposed extravagant provision, by the state. The average legislator, largely chosen from the ranks, familiar with the practice of economy at home, are slow to recognize the necessity of making extravagant appropriations for any purpose especially one of doubtful utility.

As a member of the assembly in 1862, 66 and 67, I urged hospital building, by the State, as curative institutions, size supposed to be suitable for that purpose, to the end, that every case of insanity, in the state, should have a fair trial for recovery, but the idea of retaining the incurable after such "fair trial" for a life of companionship with the sick, in enforced idleness or employment savoring of the convicts, is vicious extravagance, inimical to the insane and wasteful of public funds.

For the last four years, as a member of the state Board of Charities and Reform, I have made active and aggressive opposition to any further enlargement of existing hospitals. I denounced the proposition "of considering under treatment

as long as life lasts." the defective ⁵³product of ancestral excesses, the demented remains of long habits of dissipation, self abuse or other vice, or even the subjects of deterioration or mental decay from other causes, as devoid of common sense - alike prejudicial to the insane and those who foot the bills.

In the discussion of this subject, as senator, in 1875. The question under consideration being the Enlargement of the Mendota hospital, I said: "It cannot be the honest opinion of any man, acquainted at all with the subject, that the chronic insane should be massed together in a kind of out-house to this hospital and on a farm which now has an insane population twice as large as can be placed under proper restorative conditions, unless he intends to furnish them increased facility to infect each other, intensify their misery, foster their ^{dementia} and hasten their death."

The enlargement of this hospital, for their use, at this time, would indefinitely postpone, if not entirely defeat what I regard the natural and consequently proper

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

provision for this class of insane.⁵⁴ A home conformable to that of an ordinary family, as near as their mental and physical condition will permit, where the hygiene of physical exercise in the out of doors air, plain nutritious diet, the absence of unnecessary restraint and occupation suited to their capacity and inclination, will tend to render their lives tolerable, and where the economy of country life will lessen the expense of their support.

Such homes could be established and conducted, by the counties in connection with the support of the poor, and with proper state supervision, their condition would be infinitely preferable to those of this hospital, if enlarged, at less than one half the expense.

The alternatives at that time, were enlargement of the Winnebago hospital or founding a new one in Milwaukee County. It required no great ^{skill} of the imagination to foresee that the enlargement of this hospital to care for a definite number of chronic insane meant an indefinite enlargement of both: when needed for that purpose and a permanent

preclusion of the county asylum system.⁵⁵ While founding a county hospital for Milwaukee, could scarcely be more than a temporary delay, The result, as you know, was the defeat of hospital enlargement and a county hospital for Milwaukee.

The alternatives now are enlargement of existing hospitals or the county asylum system which is represented by the bill you have under consideration, authorizing counties to make permanent provision for the chronic insane.

I am aware that many people scoff at the idea of properly caring for the chronic insane, in connection with the poor, that is, on the same farm and under the same Superintendent, but we have found, that like every other human institution, the poorhouse is what men and women make of it, or public sentiment requires, if we study the needs of the chronic insane and the poor, they are all poor and about alike responsible for their present condition and their wants identical. The benefit of work, diet and play - kind treatment, cleanliness and regular habits, If these things are prescribed

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

and insisted upon, by the supervision, and faithfully dispensed, by the superintendent, there will be no trouble in such association, on the contrary they would often be mutually beneficial.

The committee reported favorable and the Bill passed both branches of the legislature, but failed to become a law because of an omission to order the "ayes and noes," on its final passage.

I was appointed, at this time, by our State Board of Charities to write the report for the National Conference of Charities and Correction, and reviewed our work in relation to the insane, as follows: "On the recommendation of the board of charities, the Wisconsin Legislature, at its last session, materially modified the law prescribing the procedure for committing persons to the insane hospitals, so as to provide that at any stage of the examination the person alleged to be insane, or any relative or friend acting in his behalf, shall have the right to demand that the question

of sanity shall be tried by a jury, and the trial shall be in the presence of the person supposed to be insane, who has the right to be assisted by counsel. The opinion of our Board was that the question of sanity, should be tried by a jury, in some cases, and that Bill vested the right to demand such trial with the proper parties."

"One of the legal requirements of our board is to annually inspect the poor-houses of the state, for the purpose, among other specified duties, of ascertaining the number of insane inmates, and whether such provision is made for their care as humanity demands, with power to make recommendations only."

"This requirement, which has been faithfully for the ninth time performed, has I am gratified to say, resulted in great practical benefit to the insane."

"It is superfluous to say to this conference of experts, that we found, on our first tours of inspection that humanity had a just claim for better arrangements, but being

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

believers in the popular dogma⁵⁸ of State hospitals for all the insane, and at first, not doubting its speedy accomplishment, our recommendations for improved poor-house accommodations were all of a temporary character, while we annually urged upon the legislature the necessity of increasing the hospital accommodations as rapidly as possible."

"Within the next six years succeeding the organization of our board, the State doubled its hospital capacity without materially diminishing the number of insane under poor-house care."

"During this time there was, under the partial supervision, exercised by our board, a marked improvement in the condition of the insane under county care, especially in counties having asylum buildings partially separate from the poor-house proper."

"These concomitant conditions, led me to believe, that the legislature could not be induced to furnish state hospitals for all the chronic insane and that under efficient

supervision, it would not even be desirable, that their condition, both physically and mentally, ^{would be} better as inmates of an asylum in connection with a county poor-house, where the farm, garden, house and barn, would furnish that most effective restorative, light employment to all who could be induced to engage in it."

"It seemed to me that among so small a number, in one place, that by a little tact, on the part of the superintendent, he could offer extra inducements by accommodating each one with employment suited to their inclination or capacity, a thing, I knew to be impracticable in one of our state hospitals, where the greater part of the labor is necessarily performed with machinery or employes, and the balance, if performed at all, by the patients, is done under a surveillance which renders it so distasteful as to counteract its ordinary good effects, and that the average per capita cost of maintenance in the state hospital, is twice as much as it would be in the county asylum."

"Entertaining these views, it occurred to me, that in order to make our county asylum care of the chronic insane

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

the equal, in all respects, and far better in some, than the same class of patients are receiving in our state hospitals. it would only be necessary, by legislative enactment, to guarantee permanency to such care under existing supervision, and make compensation between the state and county correlative."

"Viewing this subject from the stand-point of general practitioner of medicine, Medical Superintendent of a poor-house with asylum for the insane attachment, member of the State Board of Charities and member of the State Senate, my position was unique, I was in a position, as no other person, to promote such a measure, which if successful, would result in homelike institutions scattered all over the state, leaving the inmates within easy reach of their relatives and friends.

"Prompted by opportunity, sympathy, justice for the chronic insane and official duty, I drew a Bill in accordance with these views and submitted for the consideration the other members of the board, which was subsequently agreed to by the entire board and presented to the

legislature, where, in order to defeat hospital enlargement, it was deemed necessary to modify it, to suit Milwaukee County alone, in which form it passed, and is now a part of our statutes, under it that county erected buildings which will accommodate 250 insane, embracing every supposed good feature of the best modern hospital structures, which is now occupied by the county insane."

This is the only asylum that has been, or in our opinion will be erected under the provisions of this law, as many of the larger counties have separate asylums in connection with their poor-houses which they deem sufficient, and regard a compliance with its provisions, involving an entirely independent establishment as unnecessary and expensive, and therefore cannot be induced to engage in such an enterprise.

"Acting on this opinion, our State board again brought forward the original proposition contained in the county asylum measure, to allow the Board to designate such counties as, in its opinion had suitable accommodations

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

for the proper care of the chronic insane, and file a list of them in the office of the secretary of state. The counties so designated may undertake the care of the chronic insane with compensation from the state, such counties as shall make proper provision to be added to the list, and any county failing to properly and humanely care for the insane under its charge, to be stricken from it and the insane transferred to some other County asylum, where they can receive proper care, in the discretion of the state Board of Charities."

"This Bill passed the legislature, but failed to become a law because of an omission to order the 'ayes and noes' on its final passage"

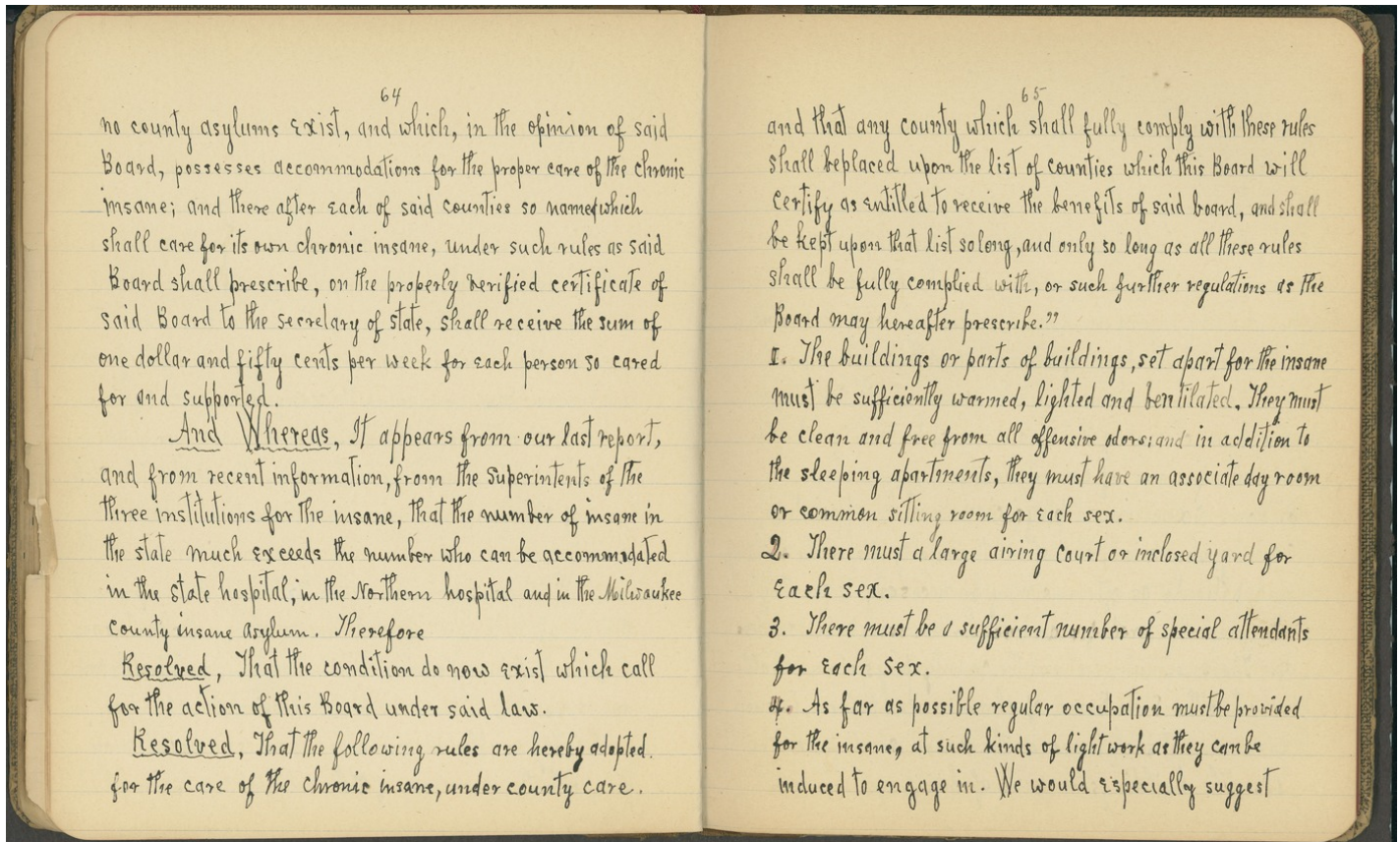
"We shall present this measure again, and in doing so, we are not unmindful that the poor-house is not in high repute as a place for the insane, but we have demonstrated its susceptibility to improvement in Wisconsin, and know that its disrepute has been the result of inefficient supervision."

The original was again presented⁶³ to the legislature, at its next session, as promised, The session of 1881. The usual opposition were present in force to compass its defeat, they rehearsed the usual hospital argument against its passage, but many of the members of the legislature had commenced believe in our representations of its advantages over the hospital for the chronic cases, and it passed without serious opposition and was signed by the Governor and became Law, under which the county asylums were organized and have since been conducted. (Chapter 233 laws of 1881.)

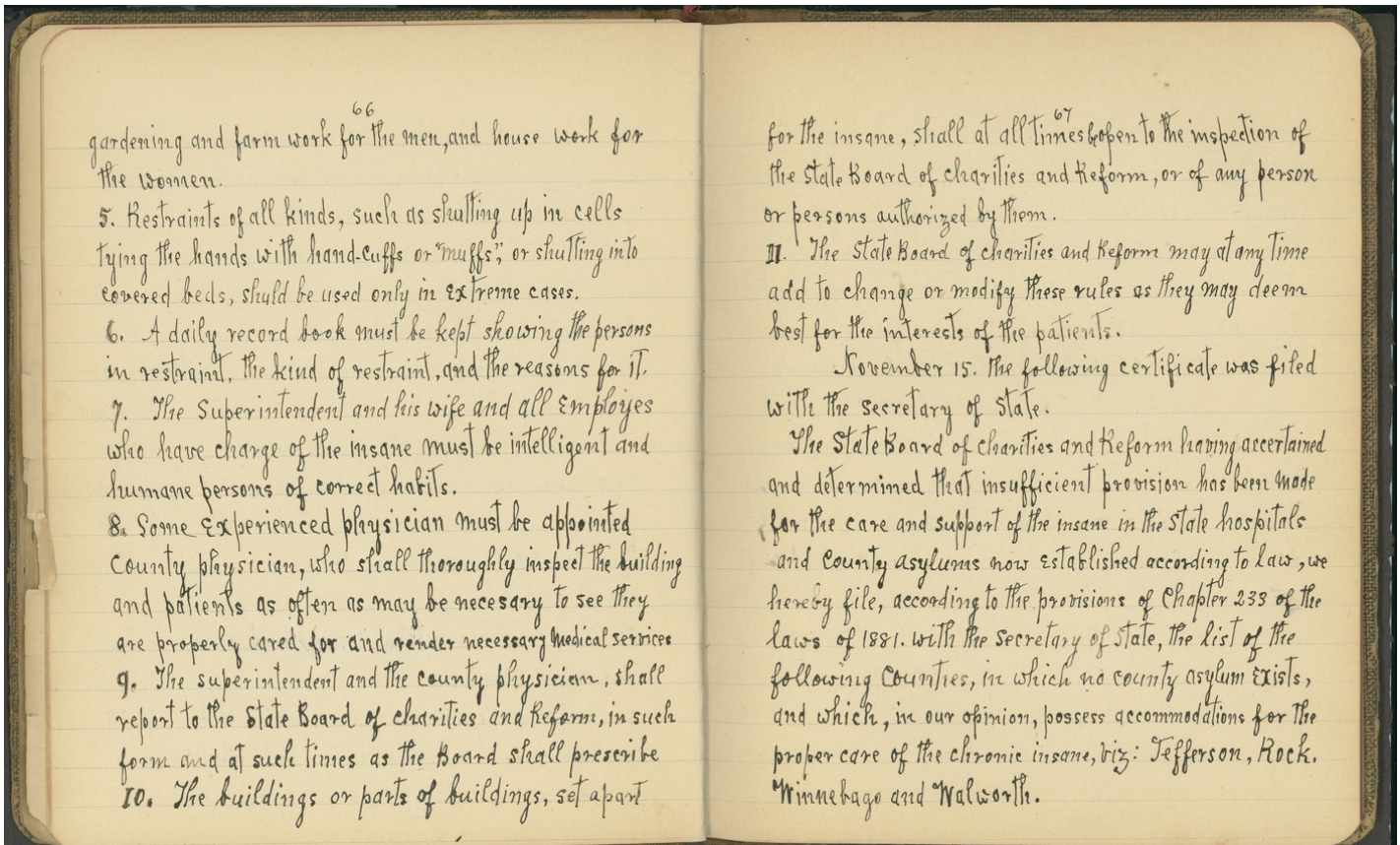
Soon after the passage of this Bill, May 23, 1881. The state Board of Charities and Reform, met and adopted the following resolution.

Whereas, By chapter 233 of the laws of 1881, it is provided that whenever it shall appear to the state Board of charities and Reform that insufficient provision has been made for the care and support of the insane in the state hospitals and county asylums previously established according to law, said Board may file, with the secretary of state, a list of counties in which

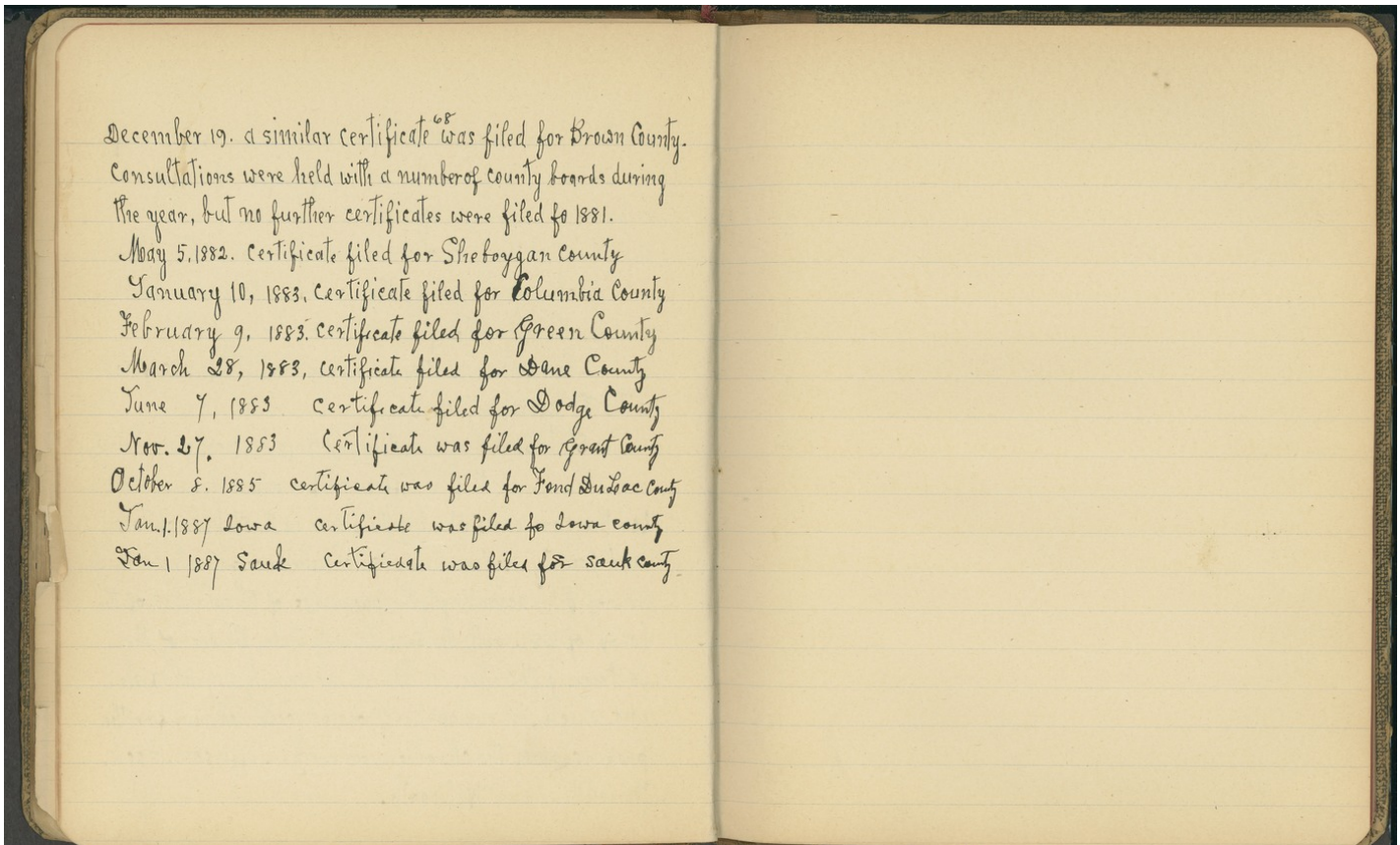
Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



December 19. a similar certificate⁶⁸ was filed for Brown County.
Consultations were held with a number of county boards during
the year, but no further certificates were filed for 1881.

May 5, 1882. Certificate filed for Sheboygan County

January 10, 1883. Certificate filed for Columbia County

February 9, 1883. Certificate filed for Green County

March 28, 1883. Certificate filed for Dane County

June 7, 1883. Certificate filed for Dodge County

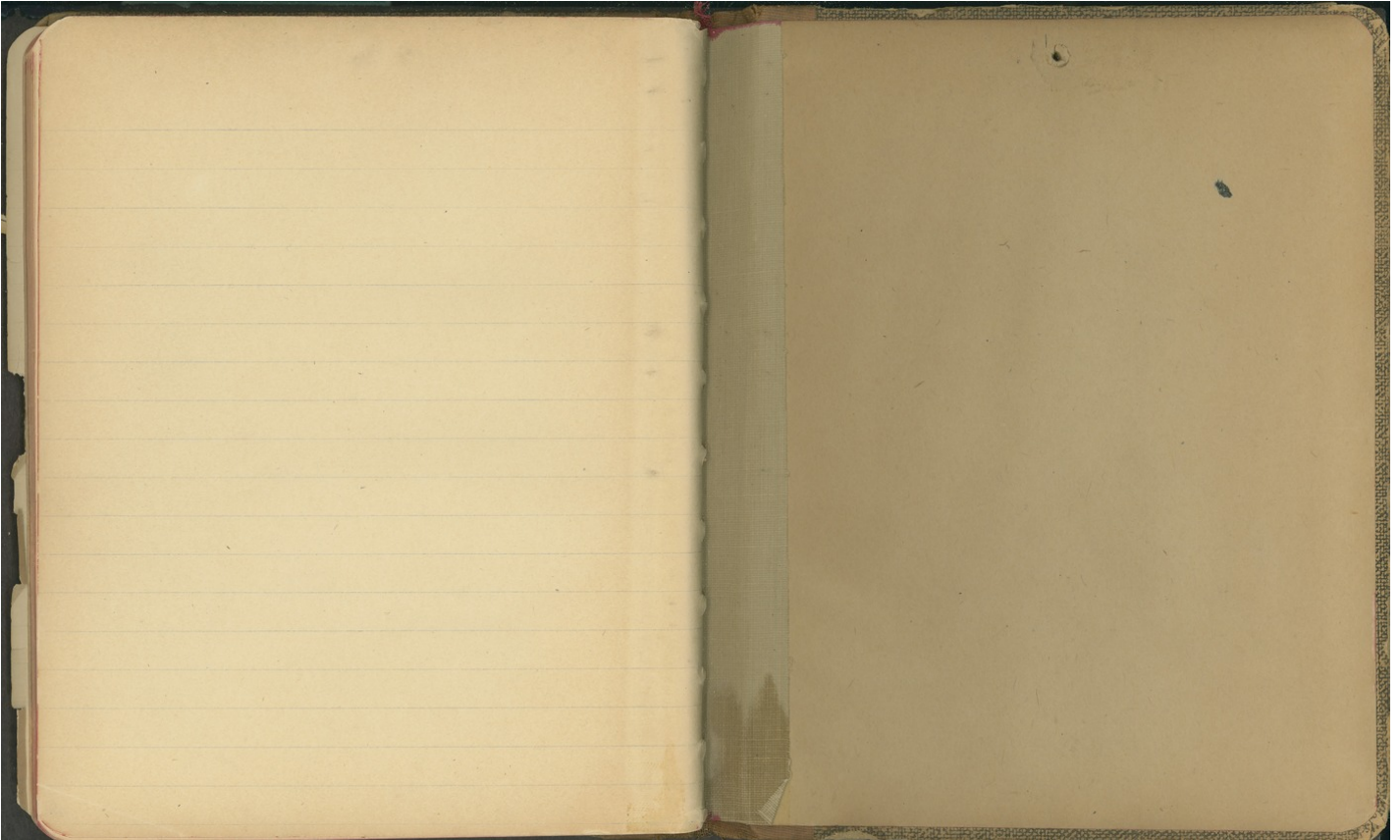
Nov. 27, 1883. Certificate was filed for Grant County

October 8, 1885. Certificate was filed for Fond Du Lac County

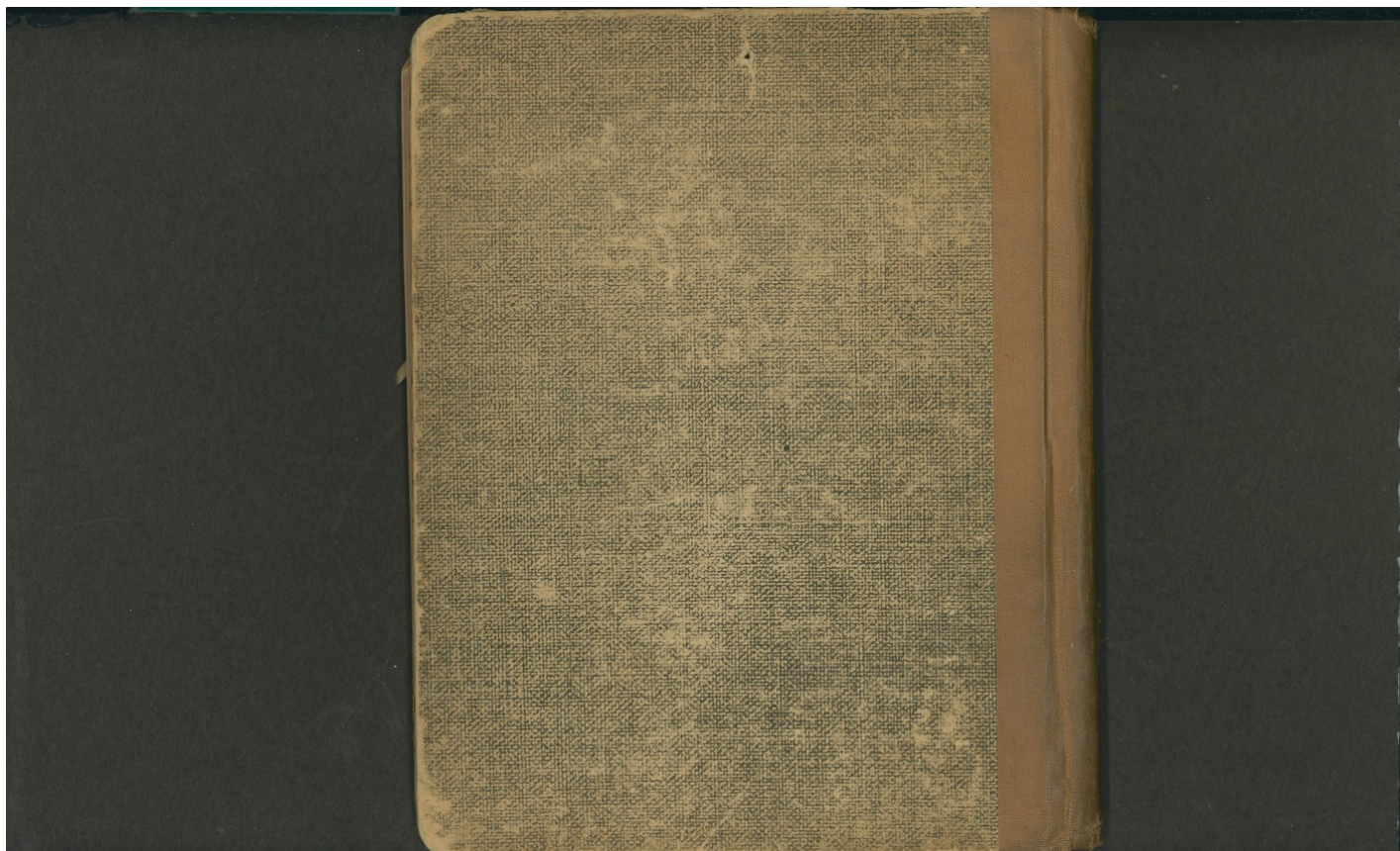
Jan. 1887 Iowa. Certificate was filed for Iowa County

Jan. 1887 Sank. Certificate was filed for Sank County

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



Minneapolis

August 30th 1827

Dear Gyle

Your friend W Bower called upon me three days ago and found much to entertain him in my gallery until the obscurity of evening terminated his enjoyment. He asked if I had any thing to send you, to which I replied, I would trouble him with a friendly letter only: Therefore I must keep my word. He introduced himself by saying you commissioned him to tell George or me that a frame had been paid for by mistake. I am so ignorant of the affair that I am unable to make the slightest American guess at the meaning; guessing, that I never heard of a frame of yours, under our controul. I am saying while there is any thing to do, in the small way.

The nasty and filthy process of cleaning pictures with old varnish & oil lustrous above a century upon their surfaces, I am compelled to take to for want of better fare. I have such an abominable and difficult picture in hand, to make perfect, as I never yet encountered. Once it must have been very engaging

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

It was a Parmeziano, and is to resume its name when I have renovated it. I am about to try the Country folks who rarely go to London - I hope to pick up a couple of months employment - My first trip will be to Derby. All I fear is, that as usual time is never valued by these good creatures, & I shall be punished by the loss of it - however, to cure my fears I will have a landscape in hand, on which I can latter away when at a stand still with Phizzes (or Phizzes).

I have now got into the half of this paper and it is a due season to thank you as Pater to George for your unbounded kindnesses to him. He has written four or five letters since he left home: but being sent by private conveyances, they always arrived too late to reply to - so that he has not received one line from ourselves. Since he finally sailed we have had no sort of intelligence. Rumour has married you several times & once at a time, is enough, pray is that the case now? I long for the Country, and shall be ill if I do not get away from London and its connexions - I think of unfortunate circumstances

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

as long as I am here. The blue Devils, which by the bye are not quite in fashion, often hover about me. I wish to be energetic in my profession but am too constantly checked - I require the incentive to the mind which success produces - I feel intellectual powers too languid to be useful. It is like a strong but unstrung bow. - No effort can procure me that pationage I wish - Sometimes I feel deeply vexed, at others, quite indifferent.

I went for the first time in my life this day, to see Bedlam. I was escorted by two Managing Directors & the house Doctor - I am happy to confess that I never saw so fine a building, with such strict decorum, such polished cleanliness, such excellent regulations, such food and such a kitchen in my life. If you have not seen it, let it be the first ground lion you attack when in Town - It does the highest credit & honor to the Country - Two books are kept, one for the insertion of visitors names - the other for the observations those visitors are inclined to make - Should any thing occur which any of us deem advisable to adopt or to alter, it is freely admitted: brought before the next Committee & never deserted until thoroughly investigated - I was solicited to speak my mind - Thus they obtain the public opinion. Margaret Nicolson is there & I saw & spoke to her - also to Hatfield -

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

There was one enormous woman, of herculean strength when she chose to exert it - she was kept alone and locked within double iron railing - we went in to see her - I shall not easily forget her appearance - There were not above 8 out of the whole mass of male and female patients that required any precautions or confinement - we went to the ward of a man who was intemperate in language & violent in gesture - we opened and entered the solitary cell to speak to him - he had been there but 3 days - he has allowed no bed in the day time beyond a dresser as is usual in Barracks for soldiers under arms to rest upon - The straw beds were all upon iron bedsteads & cleanly done up, in shape like other beds - These are for the unclean and unruly - I had a droll conversation with one of the women - she fixed upon me in a moment & the first question was very apposite. Was I fond of color & coloring? yes I said. Are you a dyer - not quite so I said after putting droll questions about new discoveries, she said she was immensely rich & hoped I would let her know my discoveries as great quantities of silk were wanted for that place - she said half the money in the funds was her's - great & numerous estates. St. Pauls, the monument, the India house & Somerset house were all her's - The King belonged to her - and on that she would have said more than was proper to listen to, if our move out had not checked her - she intended to stay another year where she was to settle all the house, and then she would look after her vast property. Brothers & relations had all taken shares of her wealth which they had no right to. The old meagre women in the waiting ground, as soon as they saw the ladies enter, came up to them & lifted up their few ragged clothes to expose themselves.

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

We got in just as one of the female attendants had clasped one of these unfortunates tight, to prevent her shewing that she was not Venus or Galatea. Their seriousness was quite amusing - one had a bundle of feathers which when interrogated by the Matron who was of four party, as to what it was, she said her Children told her sure - she had 3 husbands and not one came or was allowed to see her or else she should have more. She danced about in a very comical manner & talked incessantly - One man is from the time he goes into the play ground until he is reconducted in again, constantly scratching something in the most hasty manner on the ground as if writing like a fury - This he instantly rubs out with his feet & recommences, & again rubs out, & then at it again he stops sometimes to undo ~~a~~ part of his dress, & that is a great bother to replace - his blue handkerchief which he took off he could not fold up again or put on while we were there.

They have a very excellent and harmless way of fastening their hands to their sides - by having handcuffs attached right & left of a belt of iron that girds the body - so that they appear to have their hands in their breeches pockets - There were boys among the lunatics, which astonished me - sometimes ^{only} 9 years old are brought there. - The men were far more quiet and discreet than the women - The keepers both men and women were young and fine

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

Looking people, humane in look and the reverse of what
 Despected. Their dress is uniform & distinguishes
 them at a distance from the lunatics. If I do
 not leave off you will take me for one - of this I
 am certain, that these poor wretches never were so clean
 so well housed, so comfortable or so attended in the whole
 course of their lives: and never had such excellent food so
 admirably dressed - To day, loins of veal of the best quality
 were cut up into cutlets for their dinner, with vegetables
 and potatoes. - I had a piece of bread and butter & cheese
 so good, the King could have no better.

We have not yet heard of our dear Daughter.
 It is too soon - Our weather has been very gloomy for
 a long time - the darkest afternoons I ever remember.

Norton is in Paris - half of all the world is
 going there - J'aimerois bien d'y aller; j'user et
 caquetter pour un mois - et puis, me retourner
 There are plenty of pleasant things to do, if planning
 them constitutes the only difficulty - Mais je ne
 puis pas chanter, j'ai de l'argent, j'ai de l'argent: ah!
 que c'est ravissant. Now it is time to go to bed.

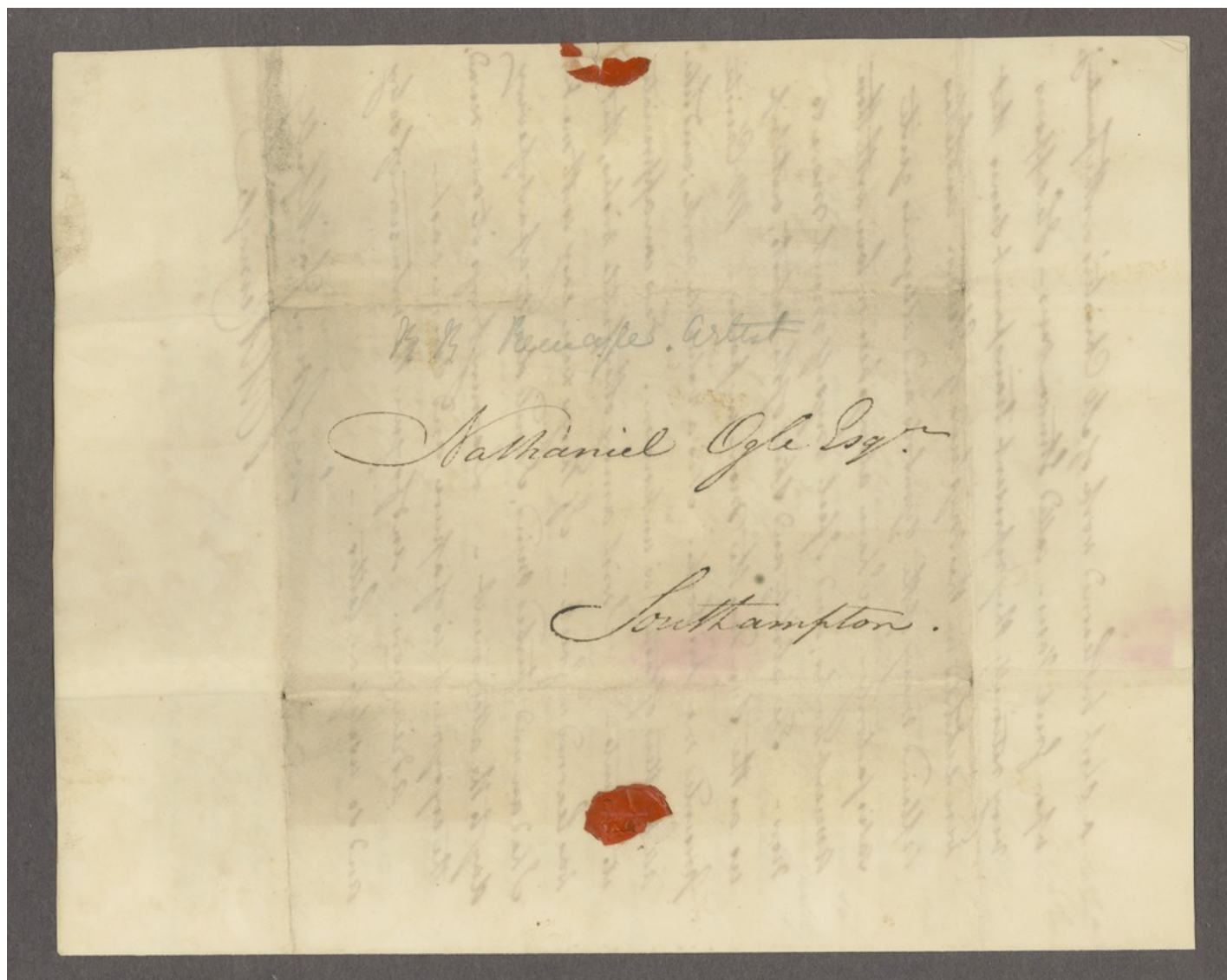
so good bye as folks say. But not so soon I have two
 or three more words to say - I have nearly read through

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

a short but learned work of M Christie on the painting upon Greek Vases - called *Ituscan* vases - He supposes very rationally they represent transparent scenes that were exhibited in the Mysteries of Eleusis. and he has explained many of the symbols and allegories quite satisfactorily - I have always been in love with those ancient works, and I feel myself much more so now - The ability and skill of the Artists, outstrip us as the Sun does the Moon in power - M Christie presented me his book. It is a valuable work; and like all matters of taste is unknown. Few can appreciate its contents - I wish among other futile wishes, that I was learned in Greek - If things were easy with me & I had an undisturbed mind, I would devote a part of every day to the attainment - Learning brings its own reward, the enjoyment is of a pure and serene cast -
adieu, now. and forgive the intrusion of so long and so useless a letter. -

Ever yours faithfully
W. R. Keeney

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents





Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

Chicago Ill.
28th Oct. '67

My dear Quincy,

I took yr book with
me in my lecture tra-
dings, & have read it
with constant interest &
sympathy. Let me con-
sider the melancholy
which I felt that kind
a character with had
fitness for 'public life,
was not continued
in the national ser-
vice, where his ex-



Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

ample & working could
have been the work
for reaching. His with-
drawal from Congress was
a loss to the country.
If look makes me feel
it more than ever.

How well he did
all that he attempted!
Had the talents he dis-
played in the mayor-
ally been exercised of
Washington as national
questions, he would have

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

produced a profound im-
pression.

I have always thought
his speeches in Con-
gress were the best series
by any person until
Webster's. I had hoped
that you would make
a vol. of these, &
another of his acci-
dental addresses. Had
you done this, you would
have had more room
for his correspondence &
his diary. If this is

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

not one new friend that
they will pass out of
sight.

You must have a pleasant
task in preparing
these memoirs. Is not ^{my} hope
of fulfillment? I do not
recall an American his-
tory which equals it in
letter or literary skill.

Cannot something be done
to quicken the country
on the statue? That statue
work ought to be brought
away from Rome. Excite at
some domum. Its home is
among us.

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

His father was the first
 to detect & lay bare
 the slave-power in
 our gov't. His
 intuition were splendid.
 Considering the time when
 he said this, he was
 our John the Baptist.
 The address in Boston
 is remarkable. I think
 this was the reason he
 was here taken up for
 political persecution. The
 leaders in men, were not
 courageous enough, even if

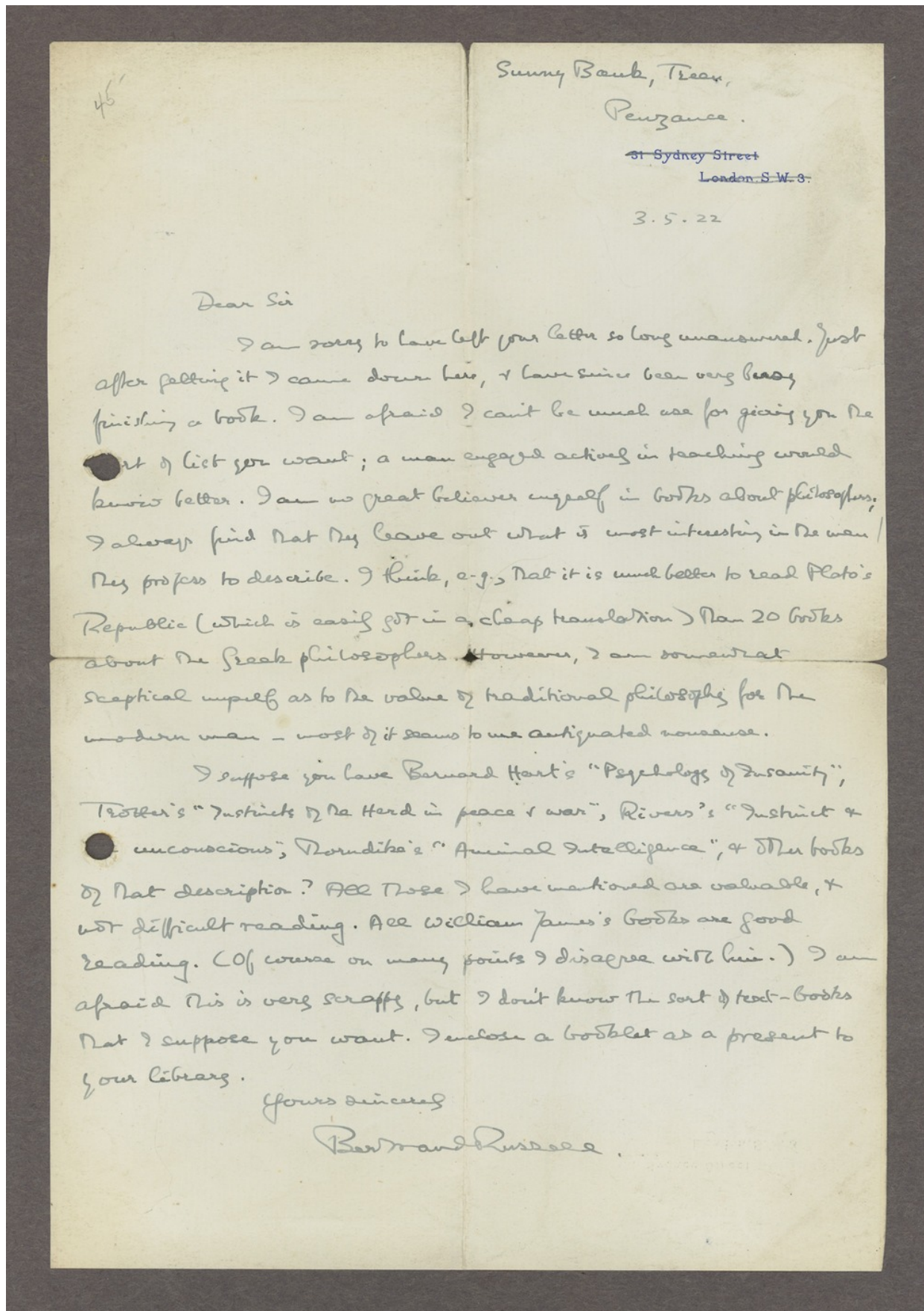
Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

they were not indifferent
to the influence which
he had exposed. All
honor to our hero.

The details of his European
and life make me
see more clearly than
ever why he sympathized
so positively with me
in the trials of which
I was part.

I add a few notes in
pencil. Ever sincerely yours
Charles Sumner

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents



Sunny Bank, Trear,

Penzance.

St Sydney Street
London S.W. 8.

3.5.22

Dear Sir

I am sorry to have left your letter so long unanswered. Just after getting it I came down here, & have since been very busy finishing a book. I am afraid I can't be much use for giving you the sort of list you want; a man engaged actively in teaching would know better. I am no great believer myself in books about philosophy. I always find that they leave out what is most interesting in the man they profess to describe. I think, e.g., that it is much better to read Plato's Republic (which is easily got in a cheap translation) than 20 books about the Greek philosophers. However, I am somewhat sceptical myself as to the value of traditional philosophy for the modern man - most of it seems to me antiquated nonsense.

I suppose you have Bernard Hart's "Psychology of Insanity", Trotter's "Instincts of the Herd in peace & war", Rivers's "Instinct & unconscious", Thorndike's "Animal Intelligence", & other books of that description? All those I have mentioned are valuable, & not difficult reading. All William James's books are good reading. (Of course on many points I disagree with him.) I am afraid this is very scrappy, but I don't know the sort of text-books that I suppose you want. I enclose a booklet as a present to your library.

Yours sincerely

Bertrand Russell

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

President J. Edgar Park. Wheaton College
Boston Massachusetts

Lambarene'. French Equa-
torial Africa. 8.3.44

Monseigneur Park. Vous avez eu la bonté de faire agréer d'être
Membre du Comité des Directeurs des Hôpitaux qui en U.S.A s'occu-
pe de mon cas. Je vous (hélas trop tard) vous remercie du ser-
vice que vous rendez par là à mon œuvre et à moi. Bien des fois
je pense à notre rencontre en Angleterre. Que d'événements de par là!
Depuis de longues années je n'ai plus bougé de mon hôpital. La
présence continuelle est nécessaire pour la bonne marche du
service. Nous sommes trois médecins et quatre infirmières. Le mal
hôpital peut continuer à fonctionner malgré la guerre, c'est en
grande partie grâce à l'aide des amis d'U.S.A. Pendant 5 mois en
1943 j'ai fait de service seul, aide de la Doctoresse, l'autre Docteur
étant en congé. En ce moment c'est la Doctoresse qui est en congé
pour quelques mois. Je suis après coup, et je ne suis pas trop
fatigué, je travaille un troisième volume de mon plan hospitalier.
Il existe déjà en entier en anglais. Mais il s'agit de lui donner
sa forme définitive, et d'attendre qu'il ne devienne trop long. C'est
là la difficulté. - Ma femme est venue à Lambarene en août 1943. C'était une entreprise très difficile. J'espère que vous
allez bien. Ma femme et moi nous vous envoyons ainsi qu'à votre
famille nos bonnes pensées. Votre dévoué Robert Schweitzer

Historic Psychiatry original miscellaneous documents

Lambarene
French Equatorial Africa
March 8, 1944

President Edgar Park
Wheaton College
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Park:

You have had the goodness to agree to be a member of the [Board of Directors], a group in the U.S.A. which concerns itself with my work. I am now (alas, tardily) thanking you for the service which you render thereby to my work and to me. I often think of our meeting in England. How much has happened since then! For many years, I have not budged from my hospital. My continual presence is necessary for the smooth operation of the service. We are three doctors and four nurses. If my hospital can continue to function in spite of the war, it is in great part due to the help of friends from the U.S.A. For five months in 1943 I operated the service alone, aided by the woman doctor, the other doctor being on leave. Now it is the woman doctor who is on leave for several months. In the evening after supper if I am not too tired, I work on the third volume of my philosophy. I already [completed] a draft, but it is a question of giving it a definitive form, and assuring that it will not be too long. That is what is difficult. -- My wife came from Europe to Lambarene in August of 1941. It was a very difficult venture. I hope that you are well. My wife and I send you, as well as your family, our good wishes.

Yours truly,

Albert Schweitzer

Translated by J. Nagy, 9/83
[bracketed words assumed by translator, the original being unintelligible to her]