

## Clifford W. Beers papers

### Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

Beers' papers, largely, consist of handwritten and typed incoming and outgoing letters, as well as some correspondence about Beers. Correspondents include some family members, such as his wife Clara's parents and Clifford's brother George, but mostly include friends and acquaintances, such as Erua Geuil Perriu, Marie O.Ley, Paul "Mac" McQuaid, Elizabeth Warner, Louise Gaffney, Dr. and Mrs. Toulouse, Mary Louise Bok, William and Alice James, and others. The subjects of the letters mostly concern Beers' efforts toward bettering the lives of patients with mental illnesses and the publication of his book, *A Mind that Found Itself*. The materials also include Beers' courtship letters to Miss Jepson (parts of which were removed by Clara before she donated them to the Menninger Foundation, as she deemed them too personal) and letters he wrote to her after they were married. Some letters are in French.

Creator: Beers, Clifford Whittingham, 1876-1943

Date: 1903-1955

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

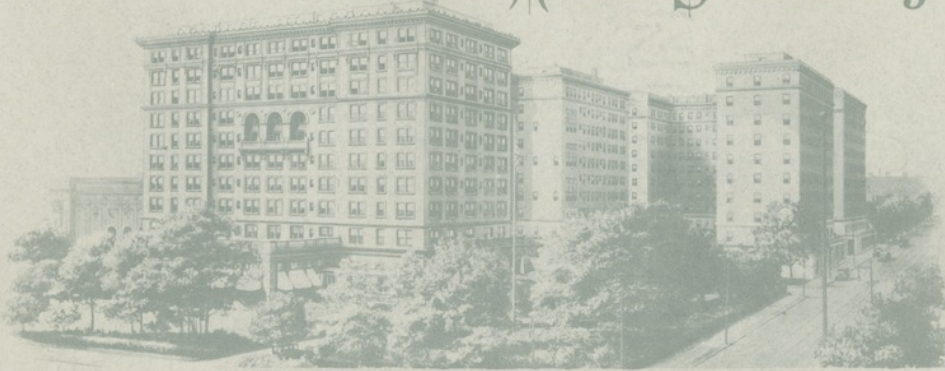
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## Hotel Schenley



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Private Office  
S. L. Benedito, Manager

Pittsburgh, Pa.

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David Lubin" in sight, on the mount,  
when Dr. Barnack called. Belasco  
couldn't have done better! Dr. Barnack  
says my interest in David Lubin's  
work and my plan for an International  
Institute will make a hit in the  
family. The wisdom of David Lubin  
lives in New York. Dr. Barnack will give  
me an introduction to her.  
Dr. B. - says Leon Falk Jr. is very  
intelligent and that I ought to be  
able to win his support in favor  
of new work. The plan is to have  
President Angell send for him sometime. That  
will flatter him and make him receptive.  
Mrs. Leon Falk, the step-mother, is  
very socially minded - interested already in  
the Child Guidance Clinic here. I believe she  
has already read my book.

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Mrs. Leon Falk and Mrs. Bauer  
are daughters of the late Dr. Levy,  
one of the leaders among the Jews  
of the nation. They have a cultural  
background which enables them to  
appreciate such work as Mrs.  
Rosenwald could  
influence Mr. Maurice Falk. Dr. B-  
says they are intimate friends and  
that in his opinion Mr. Falk tries  
to pattern his life on Mr. Rosenwald's.  
Dr. B- says that if I could get Mr.  
Rosenwald to invite Mr. and Mrs. Falk  
to visit them for a day or two, that  
it will be far better than anything  
I could do. I may have to have  
Rosenwald the first week of June. Dr. B-  
is and then say plans accordingly.  
He is the trunk card - if it can be played.

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Another avenue of influence would  
be a letter from Hon. Adolph A. Re.  
I believe I can get one later. Dr.  
Baruch has a summer home near  
the lake on Lake George, at  
Bolton's Landing, the most beautiful  
part of the lake. Dr. Baruch (including  
Gussard, Mrs. Baruch) would like  
to have us stop to see them sometime.  
Instead of having to go to Pittsburgh to  
during the summer, I can  
do more business in a few days  
time at Lake George, because the  
Baruchs expect Mr. & Mrs. Maurice  
Fultz to visit them. Perhaps we  
could have a Baruch, O'Kea,  
Fultz, Beers Conference! So much  
may hang on this that I am sure

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you can begin to accustom yourself to the idea. A better idea than spending time on the Trustees of the Faltz Foundation in Pittsburgh this summer. If I can win the interest of Mr. Faltz and his nephew George, you can back the Trustees with the lot.

I am encouraged to learn from Dr. D. B. that the Trustees can't very well take any action that will be irrevocable, because Mr. Faltz hasn't yet turned the \$10,000,000 over to them. Payment of the bulk of it depends upon conditions in his will. But I must get my fences in repair as soon as possible to insure the giving of part or all of the money for work in our field.

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Because of this inside information  
I may not stress the International  
Institute plan. It may be better  
to get money for the Foundation  
and National Committee. I don't want  
to wait an uncertain number of  
years for a bequest in a will, for  
financing the International Institute,  
when I might sell the idea now  
to some wealthy Yale man willing  
to turn over the money at once.  
It would seem that I ought to  
get the \$10,000 for publishing the  
Proceedings, but no one in the  
Falk family. Mrs. Falk has not  
built that Chapel, as she ought  
to have money on hand! Perhaps Mrs.  
Leon Falk might give it.  
Anyway, things look good - and

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all this goes to show how  
necessary it is to talk with  
people at close range.  
I'm not going to pass all of  
this information to all of my  
narrators. So keep it under your  
hat.

Tonight I have to see the Dollies  
But I may not be able to get a  
ticket. I hear they are scarce.  
(It's hard to get a chance to  
see and see an edifying show.)  
Will you telephone V. H. T. Co.  
Mr. Dullie and ask him to deposit  
a \$100 express money check in my  
account at the Corn Ex. Bk, taking the  
money out of the American Foundation.  
I better have that added margin. This  
trip isn't cheap. My room is \$8.00 a

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day, because I need a good room  
for interview. I may have seen Falk  
G.V. in here before I leave.  
Tell V.M.T. or Bullis I report progress,  
without saying what it is.  
A trolley is rumbling by. Aren't you  
glad you aren't here? But they  
don't bother me when my sympathies  
for your merit involved.  
With love to my little girl,  
Ever your own  
K.



6 P.M.  
Nov. 17, '31

Dearest,

I'm staying at the Hotel  
Pennyman - Room 1448.  
Going to the theatre tonight.  
yes - to see Rosalie!

Nothing new at office  
today - except a very  
close friend of Dr. Home  
Genl. Persim, who, in a  
letter received today, was  
asked by them to convey  
to us their very best  
regards. Home & Rosa just  
is the lady in question.  
She and her husband sail  
home on Monday next on  
Ponte Rossi. They have been  
her six months - he on  
business. I've had me  
didn't meet them sooner.



you would enjoy knowing  
some of the lively minded and one  
of the chic best French  
women I ever met - she  
about 40, I guess. She  
says the D-Virus  
hope they see us in Paris  
before long - we must  
go there next spring. I'm  
sure my psychiatric  
associates in the Committee  
will vote the money!

Thullis is with me 100%.  
I can see he is getting tired  
of dealing with the psychiatrists.  
He will be a friend ~~only~~ at  
court if I ever have the  
present any evidence to  
present any evidence to  
an inner group. However and  
my best love to you.  
Love and kisses as ever  
Your own K.



*CV*

November 18, 1931.

Dear Miss Darwin:

If I were not leaving the city tomorrow, to be away until Monday next, I should give myself the pleasure of going to the Britannic on Friday to see you off and say in person "Bon Voyage".

As a souvenir of our visits together while you were in this country, I am sending to you a copy of Benjamin Franklin's autobiography and also a Life of Franklin by Bernard Fay which has recently been published and is said to be one of the best accounts of Franklin's life ever written. You will enjoy reading about Franklin, one of the greatest Americans who ever lived, and a firm friend of Great Britain during the years preceding the Revolutionary War. I believe you will perhaps find it more interesting if you will read his <sup>auto</sup> biography before reading the story of his life.

For full measure, and because I said some things in my book which Franklin failed to say while he was alive, I am sending you an inscribed copy of my book in the back part of which you will find an up-to-date account of the growth of the mental hygiene movement in this country and abroad.

<sup>last</sup> Your visit with us at our home in Englewood on Saturday, revived pleasant memories of our visit in your home with your mother and father in 1923 when we visited England on my first international mental hygiene pilgrimage. Please give to your mother my best wishes and those of my wife and tell her that we hope my work will take me abroad before long, in which event we shall hope to spend time enough in England to go to Cambridge again.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Clifford W. Beers*

Miss Ruth Darwin,  
C/O SS BRITTANIC,  
New York City.



HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW YORK

Nov. 18/31  
7. P.M.

Secret!

Kings seems very calm  
at the office these days.  
Baillie is almost complaining  
of the quiet. He has notified  
all who we touch with  
everyone has been since  
and trace - about it.  
Hector returns Friday. He  
now has nothing but worry  
about, but probably won't  
know it till all has  
swimmered down.

During the first week in  
December we expect to  
have a meeting of the new  
Board - new Executive  
Administration Committee - with  
new members present if  
must be harmonious.



(70)  
Box # 2

2

On Monday I have you  
will feel like coming into  
town to see home Rockfort  
off at 5 P. M. we can  
then have dinner at the  
Holley and go home,  
perhaps after a movie.  
I'm sending the boys  
Jennie, with a sickle  
Thursday, a letter of  
introduction by Jay, and  
his auto trip that  
does the honors. Enclosed  
is a copy of my  
steamer letter to Miss  
Jennie.

This has been an  
unusual and important  
day. It may mark the  
beginning of the second



book which (rather known) may have  
merited enough to be made the  
choice of one of the Book Clubs  
and buy me (for) in a nice  
amount of money at once.

I shall take my time writing it.  
(I'm eating in the Gail at  
Perry. Hotel and Ruddy Valley  
is crowding - and doing it  
well - as many Yats make  
would - if he were a  
Crown!).

As you know, I have long intended  
to get a stenotypist (the kind  
of shorthand that is written on a  
machine) and see if I could  
take my new and next story.  
Today I took my hand off talking  
from points, as I would in a  
speech. I dictated in a private  
parlor placed at my disposal  
by one of the clerks here. I dictated  
for 4 hours, or, rather, just  
talked to Mr. Home, the operator  
of the machine: from 9.45 to 11.00  
A.M.; from 11.30 to 1.30 (they lunch)  
and from 2.30 to 3.30. - total  
four hours. Mr. Home estimates

HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW YORK

I spoke between 20,000  
 and 25,000 words  
 every 2 to 3 hours  
 trying to fill in  
 the outline 20 columns  
 in a newspaper. Don't  
 let this worry you. It  
 did not tire me where  
 the kind of talking I have  
 been doing for the office  
 lately has been exhausting.  
 I have the feeling that  
 parts of my dictation  
 have merit. Mr. Home  
 was interested and  
 amused. I have at  
 least found a way  
 to get my material  
 on paper in my easy  
 way, for future revision.

(70)  
Box #2

Only part of my story  
of today related to  
the events of the  
past month.

On Monday next I will  
have my "copy". Then  
we can see if my  
new battery has a  
legitimate right to  
the throne.

I enjoyed Mrs. Skinnis  
performance but  
was disappointed as  
to her present degree  
of beauty. She is  
no longer the girl of  
type. Fortunately not!  
Tonight I'm going  
to a dance to rest up.



6  
Tomorrow I start for a few  
hours to see Aunt  
Angell.  
Love and kisses across  
the miles — As ever  
your own  
C. W. Beers  
IX.



THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE  
INCORPORATED  
450 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

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CLIFFORD W. BEERS  
TREASURER  
FREDERIC W. ALLEN

December 14, 1931.

Dear "Mac":

At your convenience, I wish you would send me the longhand letter, written on Graduate Club stationery in 1910, which I saw yesterday at your home -- the letter inside a copy of the first edition of my book. It contains a point which is of some interest to me, proving, as it does, that I apparently did not have even \$5 to send you at the moment when I transmitted the rest of the money from the Omega crowd for you and your wife to use in purchasing that set of silver. After I have read the letter, I can return it to you.

I enjoyed my long talk with you on the way down but when you take another drive with me, it will be up to you to watch the gas gauge.

With best wishes,

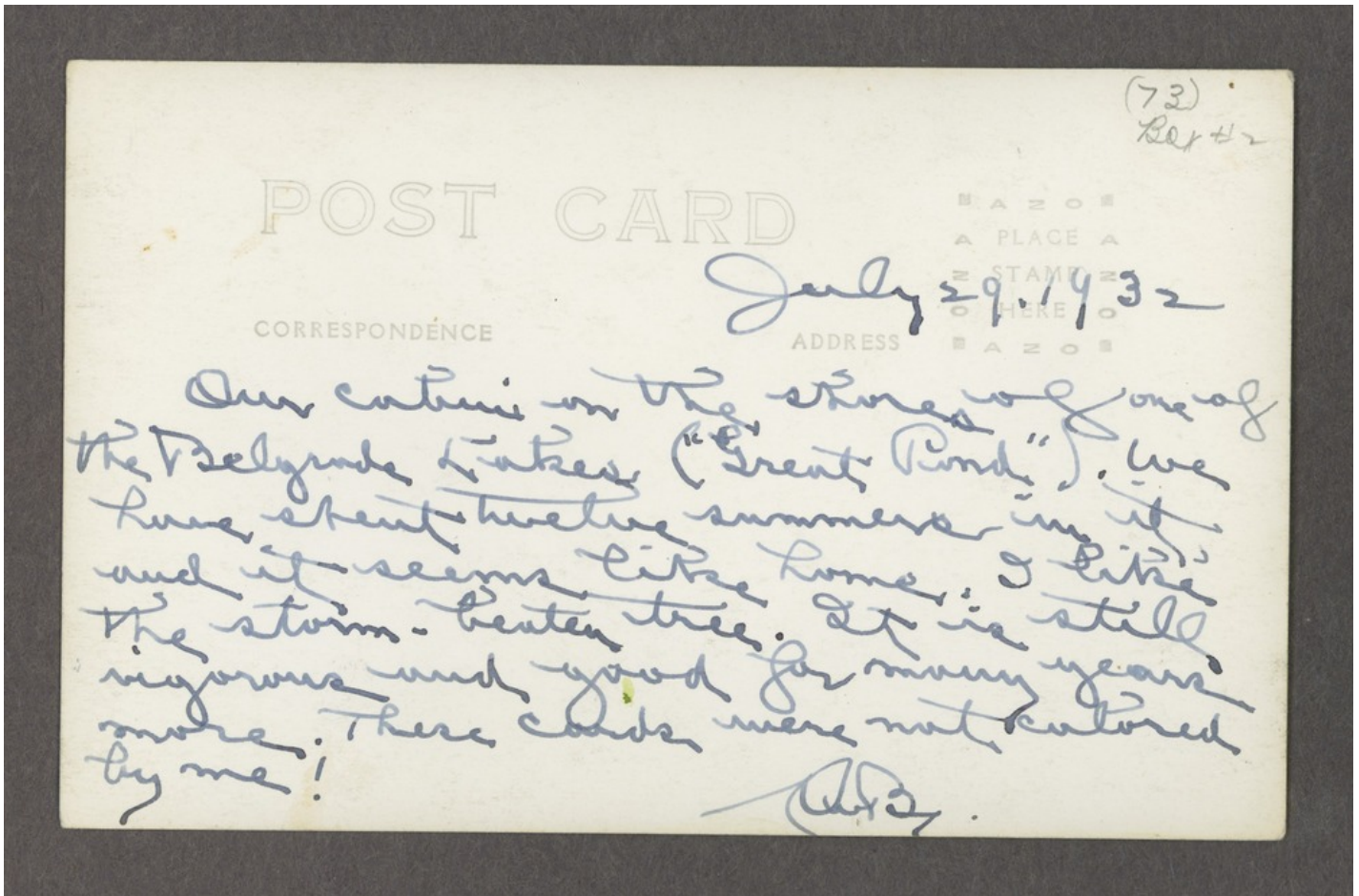
Sincerely yours,

Paul A. McQuaid,  
Metropolitan Street Railway Co.,  
25 Park Row,  
New York City



"Un esprit qui se rebouche" {written out by Mr. Volery  
further suggested in Paris  
in June, 1932  
This is the title suggested by Monsieur Paul Volery  
for the French translation of "A mind that found itself."  
Clifford W. Beers







*89, Boulevard Malesherbes*

LE PROFESSEUR & M<sup>ME</sup> HENRI CLAUDE

*Remercient Mr. and M<sup>rs</sup>  
Clifford Beers de leurs aimables  
souhaits, et leur envoient  
leurs meilleurs vœux*



(74)  
Box #2  
pour la nouvelle année  
avec leurs bons souvenirs  
Le 27 Décembre 1952



THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
WELCH MEDICAL LIBRARY  
1900 EAST MONUMENT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD.

February 17, 1933.

Dear Mr. McQuaid,

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Mental Hygiene Movement, with which I have had the privilege of being identified in an active way since its very inception. It is felt by a number of us, who have been closely associated with its founder, Clifford Beers, that the occasion should not be allowed to pass without some fitting tribute being paid to him, not only as founder but as author of "A Mind That Found Itself", the publication of which in 1908 opened the way for one of the most important movements of the day, now world-wide in extent.

The small committee, of which I have been asked to act as spokesman, has decided that one way to honor Mr. Beers will be to present him with a collection of opinions on the importance of the movement he started and the value of his unique services to humanity. It is our purpose to gather letters not only from those who have been closely associated with Mr. Beers, but from others who know of his work and have perhaps read his remarkable autobiography.

The accompanying folder, in which one of the quoted opinions is mine, shows in a general way what Mr. Beers has accomplished during the past twenty-five years. It is our hope that you will contribute an opinion and mail it at your earliest convenience to me at the above address in Baltimore. In this way, we can preserve some element of surprise in the souvenir we wish to present to him. Please write to me, telling me how you feel about what he has done, since appreciation that comes to one through another person is, as we know, all the more gratifying.

Thanking you personally and in behalf of those who are acting with me in this matter, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

*William H. Welch. (seals)*

Honorary President of the  
National Committee and of The American  
Foundation for Mental Hygiene



## Clifford W. Beers papers

March 10, 1933.

Dr. William H. Welch.  
1900 East Monument Street,  
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Dr. Welch:-

Cliff Beers and myself grew up together and during the years of youth and early manhood were in association that was close and constant. We were members of a Boys' Society, founded in 1888, made up of many choice spirits, who still meet, some fifteen strong, in merry annual reunion. You will see, then, why it is that I prefer, in viewing his career, to focus lengthwise rather than crosswise at its peak.

There has been no essential change in him during the forty odd years. Perhaps that is the greatest compliment. His loyalty to family, friend and cause was as generous and sturdy then as now, his courage as stout and uncompromising, his wit as flashing and his humor as droll. On all our happy jaunts and confabs he was quite the life of the party. He <sup>always</sup> had the knack of flavoring sound sense with piquancy ~~that~~ <sup>which</sup> makes the delightful companion. We all felt that, wherever his lines might fall, his would be a life of distinction.

It remained for the tragedy of many clouded years, the miracle of his deliverance, to move him to renounce a business career and devote himself exclusively to human betterment as the High Priest of a new order.

He was never an outstanding student, being like the rest of us, content to get comfortably by. However, he usually had some extra curriculum activity which served as an outlet for his great energy, and whether managing a High School Prom or the Yale Record, whether the enterprise was social or commercial, he always brought to it an intelligence and zest and drive that made things click. Once together we pushed rustic doorbells for a few days, but with results that damped even his spirit, and which gave no hint of the fine technique which, I'm assured, he later developed in this line.



Dr. Welch - 2

It may seem strange that none of us who were his playmates had any suggestion of the mental torture which climaxed when he returned to New Haven for his Triennial celebration. He cloaked his fears so well that we learned with something like chagrin that our companion had been hitched to a spectre for years.

The period of his re-orientation was delightful, not only because it gave us hope of his restoration, but for the literary fulminations, bundles of yellow wrapping paper some twenty or thirty pages thick, mailed from Hartford or Middletown. They were vivid descriptions of life in the institutions, kindly, humorous comments on his "classmates," and some very salty characterizations of doctors and men in charge. We also got some pretty reproductions of the Gibson girl - the arch-type of the period.

And then we witnessed his recovery, - a brave spirit returning to its own, - and we watched his progress, at first with concern, and then with wonder and admiration, as he, defying grim circumstance and iron convention, plodded upward from a padded cell.

I must leave to others the appraisal of his work, the good that his dreams hold for mankind. All that I know is that Cliff Beers is on the job and will make his dreams come true.

Do you wonder, then, that we, his friends of boyhood, hail his high renown, take pride in the consecration of his life, and acclaim him with gusto as our very own?

Faithfully yours,

*Paul R. McDougal*



Paris. 4. 1. 1933.

Chère Madame Beers

C'est avec plaisir que  
j'ai appris que vous aviez  
passé d'agréables vacances  
dans le Maine, repos charm.  
peut-être bien nécessaire après  
votre tournoiement d'Europe!  
Nous avons séjourné <sup>cet été</sup> un  
mois en Suisse: bords du  
lac Léman, Genève, Lausanne  
etc - pays ravissant. Comme  
vous le savez. Les habitants  
y déplorent vivement l'absence  
des nombreux Américains qui  
s'y installaient tous les ans  
avant la crise.

Je tâche de rester un  
peu "in touch" avec l'Amérique,  
correspondant avec quelques



personnes et lisant tous les  
jours le "New York Herald"  
et la "Chicago Tribune". Que  
me repasse Mme Rocoffort?

Aujourd'hui, je viens  
vous demander un service.  
Si toutefois vous pouvez  
me le rendre à cette dis-  
tance. Une de mes très  
bonnes amies a écrit un  
roman qu'elle m'a fait  
lire et que je trouve inté-  
ressant. Elle voudrait pro-  
poser ce roman à un jour-  
nal ou à un éditeur de  
Paris. Or, par ces temps  
de crise, les éditeurs ne  
peuvent publier qu'un très  
petit nombre des manusc-  
rits qui leur sont soumis,

et il paraît que, quand  
rien n'attire l'attention  
sur l'auteur qui propose  
une première œuvre, on  
la lui renvoie souvent  
sans même la lire. Mon  
ami, qui n'a aucune  
relation dans les milieux  
littéraires, s'est adressé  
à moi pour savoir si je  
ne pouvais pas lui avoir  
une recommandation par  
quelque homme de lettres  
influent, susceptible, le  
cas échéant, d'écrire ou  
de dire un mot en sa  
faveur. Personnellement,  
nous n'en connaissons pas  
en réfléchissant à la question.  
Je n'ai surpris tout à  
coup à Pierre Mille, pour

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Page 2

qui l'en pourrait peut être  
avoir une introduction  
par vos amis M. et M<sup>me</sup>  
Bradley, qui lui sont, m'  
avez-vous dit, apparentés?  
Il doit connaître beau-  
coup d'éditeurs et collaborateurs  
à de nombreux journaux.  
Munie d'une introduction  
ou recommandée par M.  
Bradley à Pierre Hille, mon  
ami pourrait alors écrire  
à ce dernier, lui exposer  
la chose, ou lui demander  
de la recevoir, lui propo-  
ser au besoin de lui sou-  
mettre son manuscrit.  
Si donc vous croyez  
~~possible~~ d'écrire à ce sujet  
à M. Bradley, je vous



serais très reconnaissante  
de le faire. Mais si vous y  
voyez quelque inconvénient,  
surtout n'hésitez pas à  
me le dire. Mon amie s'  
appelle Mme Françoise Baldy  
et son roman a comme titre  
"Adrienne fue pourra". Elle  
est actuellement en pro-  
vince. Mais doit venir pro-  
chainement à Paris. On  
pourrait donc lui envoyer  
cette introduction à mon  
adresse.

Je m'excuse encore d'  
abuser ainsi de votre obli-  
geance et vous remercie  
d'avance, ainsi que M. et  
Mme Bradley, si ils veulent  
bien faire quelque chose pour  
Mme Baldy.