

The following short letter is a fair example. It was written to me in March, 1904. She now uses her proper name.

Dear Dr. Wilson,

I am writing to say that I shall be able to keep appointment for next Monday, if you will write me full particulars.

Thanking you very much for all your kindness,

Believe me yours sincerely,

[MARY BARNES]

(1) This is a report *in extenso* of a case already published in an abbreviated form in the October, 1903, number of the JOURNAL.

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### Occasional Notes.

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#### *The Annual Meeting.*

The annual meeting has come and gone. It has left an excellent record of work done. We could wish that the attendance had been larger. While it was representative of all parts of the country, many were absent, and we cannot regard it as entirely satisfactory that it should be left to some sixty or seventy members out of six hundred to conduct the important business of the Association, and to take part in the interesting scientific discussions which were arranged. The meeting of the British Medical Association at Oxford was specially attractive, and that no doubt had an effect in limiting the attendance at 11, Chandos Street.

We regret this all the more because the high level of attainment in the President's address and in the communications made by various members assuredly deserved a more numerous audience. Dr. Percy Smith has marked his year of presidency by a valuable critical study which is both timely and profitable.

We have no doubt that the proceedings of the annual meeting will be carefully read on account of their inherent merit, and that the business affairs of the Association will have due attention. We also trust that the discussions to be held relative to the Report of the Statistical Committee will be well attended, so that every shade of opinion may be represented. It is very important that their proposals should have adequate

you know old you did not  
do that. the ~~as~~ dear come  
and mary am ~~say~~ say  
you do understand and do ~~do~~

FIG. 1.

This is part of a letter she wrote in the B 2 or childish stage, on the 18th of March, 1896. It is like the handwriting of a child of four, the letters being rounded and large. She wrote each word backwards. Thus she wrote an "n" for an "r," before "r," before "dear," so crossed it out and began again. Also before the word "say" she wrote a bad "ay" so wrote the word over again. Referring to the printed copy of this letter one sees "gt" written before the word "night," on account of the mis-spelling she re-wrote the word.

Dear Mr Wilson

I dare say you will be

surprised to hear that I am in  
Waldon and am enjoying myself  
exceedingly.

FIG. 2.

This was written on August 12th, 1897, by "Old Nick," B 3. In this state she was like a girl romp of 9 or 10. The handwriting resembles that of B 6. B 3 and B 6 were like first cousins. B 6 was more sensible and intelligent than B 3, not so mischievous and more homely. They were, however, two quite separate lives.

Bate and Daniellson, Ltd.

Februgesy the fourteenth  
18 ninty seven  
Sunday

The dear voice I am writting  
~~ya~~ a letter <sup>tell</sup> to you lots

This letter was written by B 9, a blind imbecile. It is an illiterate production as regards spelling. The writing is good, but of quite a different type to B 3 or B 6. We thought at intervals that she had a very little sight at this time, but she could write or draw equally well if a book was held in front of her eyes.

FIG. 3.

Dear Dr. Wilson

I am writing you  
a letter to tell you how I am  
enjoying myself in Maldon.  
It is such a glorious place I  
have never been to such a lovely  
place before.

This letter was written by B 6, and signed "Good Crittur," on the 2nd of June, 1898. She resembled an intelligent child of 14 or 15. The handwriting is good, but that of a child; it is not unlike that of B 3.

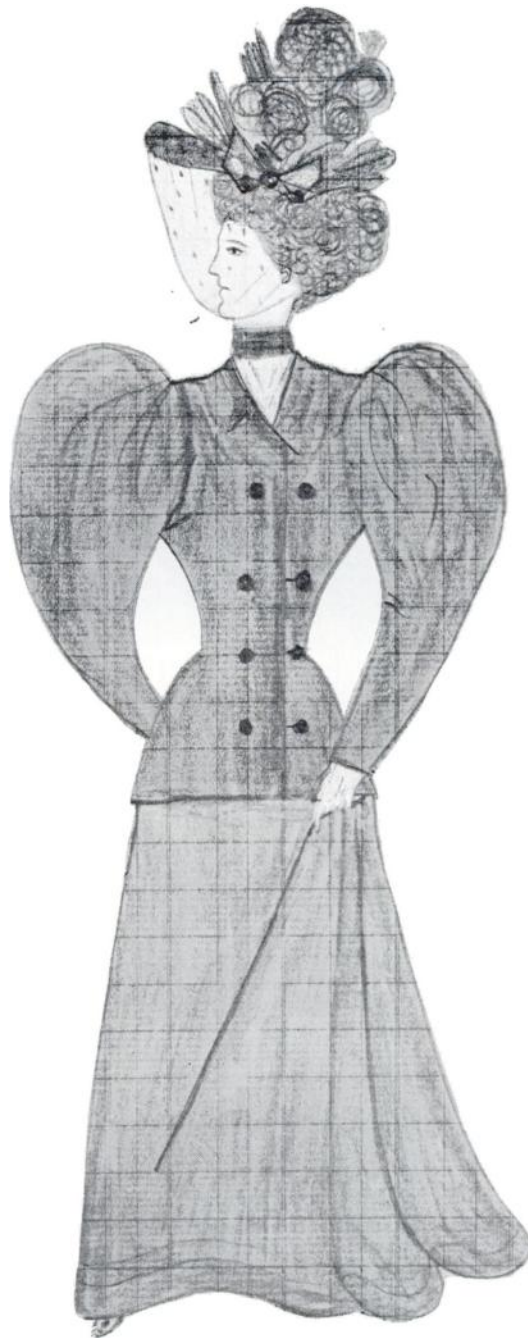
FIG. 4.

Bale and Danielsson, Ltd

my dear tom  
I have just got up  
I hope you are  
not worried.  
~~all~~ ~~be~~ ~~glad~~  
glad when you come  
home so you can  
~~give~~ ~~me~~ give me some  
~~browns~~

The date of this letter was October 12th, 1896, when "Mary Barnes" was in the B 10 stage. B 10 was a degenerate state, and the handwriting is characteristic of such. The spelling is bad, and the crooked lines and ill-formed and scratched out letters and words show a very low state of intelligence and education. Each word was written backwards: this can be demonstrated by observing the "re" before "give." She wrote an "r" instead of a "v," also the "m" before "browns" was written in mistake for the "n," and is therefore crossed out. But here also she writes "brown" for "brownies," the name she gave to pennies, so she adds an "s" after it. Note that the "s" is disconnected. "tom" was the nickname she applied to her father. Sometimes she miscalculated distances, as where she runs the word "brown" into the "m."

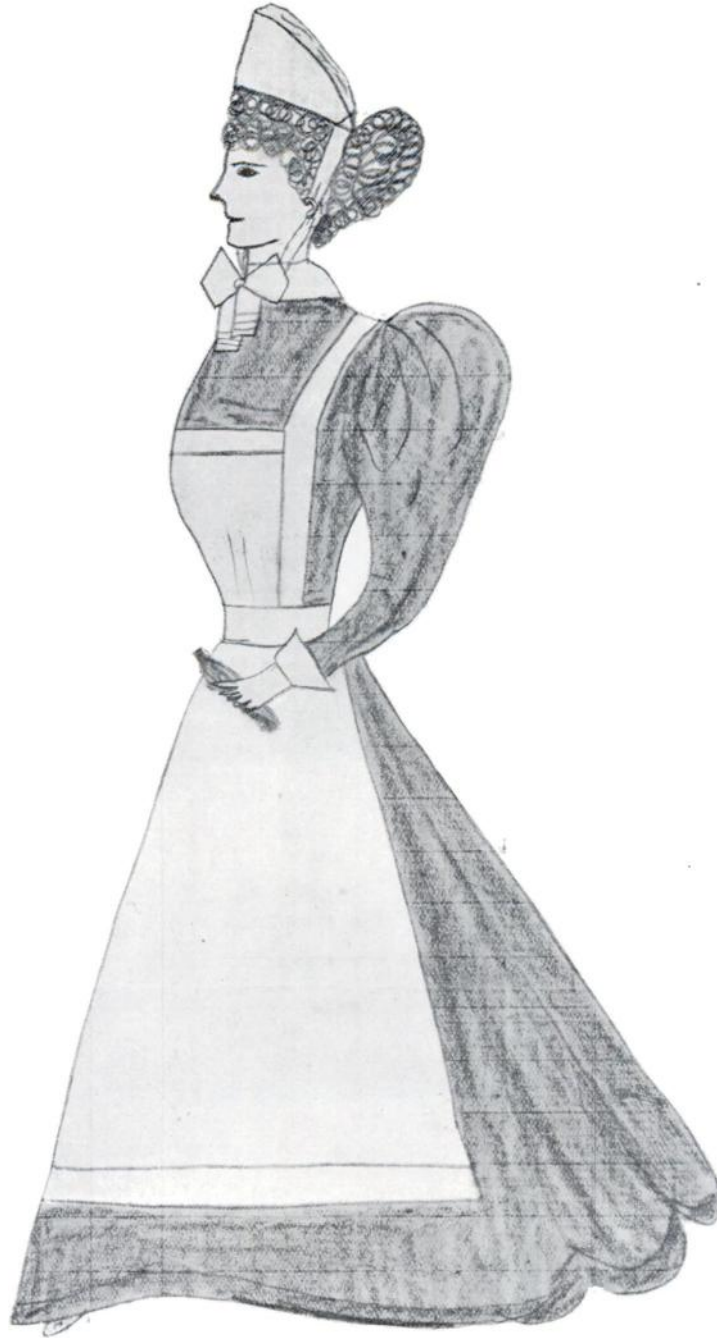
FIG. 5.



This was drawn on the 20th of March, 1897, by B 9, when she was blind. It made no difference to quality or speed if a book was placed in front of her eyes. This is one of her most artistic productions.

FIG. 6.

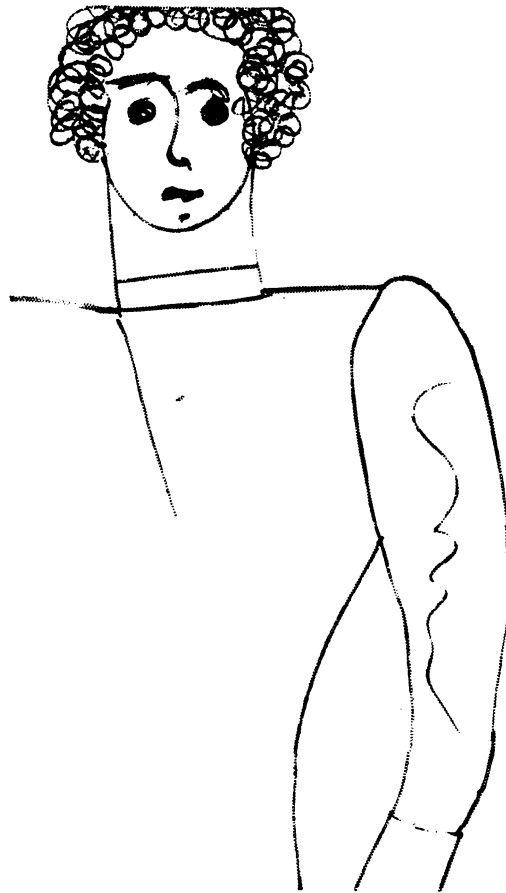
*Bale and Danielsson, Ltd.*



This was drawn on the 22nd of April, 1897, by B 9, during her second attack of blindness. She was quite blind, but, in addition, a book was frequently placed between her eyes and the paper. Though the paper was moved, she always found the place again quite easily by touch. So acute was her touch during the blind stage, that if a pencil mark was made across her drawing she would discover it at once and rub it out. This was drawn for the nurse, and so she drew a nurse in costume. Nurse asked her to draw a bottle in her hand. B 9 was very stupid, and understood very little. She did not know what a bottle was, so a bottle was placed in her hand, and, feeling it with her left hand, she drew it in with her right.

FIG. 7

*Bale and Danielsson, Ltd.*



This was drawn by "Old Nick," B 3, on the 11th and 12th of April, 1897, after B 9 had made those exquisite drawings. "Old Nick" took two days over it and was much amused at herself for having drawn so comical a picture.

"Mary Barnes" was never able to draw.

FIG. 8.

deliberation, for their labours have been protracted and arduous, and the results must stand for the guidance of psychiatry for many years to come.

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*The Management of the London County Council Asylums and the Horton Asylum Scandal.*

The history of asylum management in England yields no example of so scathing a condemnation as that passed by the jury and judge in what has attained such widespread notoriety as the Horton Asylum scandal.

Four employés of this asylum were indicted at Guildford, on July 19th last, for conspiring to steal the property of the asylum, the jury<sup>(1)</sup> finding them guilty and expressing the opinion that the Horton Asylum "had been grossly mis-managed," and "that the conduct of those responsible for the administration ought to be seriously inquired into." The judge in passing sentence is reported to have said that the gross mismanagement of the asylum enabled him to take "a lenient view of the conduct of the prisoners." "There was no proper control or supervision in the asylum."

The judge is further reported to have remarked that the statement of a witness, that there were twenty-six persons included in the malversations, "was possibly true," and added that "it might be that the whole management of the asylum was criminal from top to bottom."

The evidence of mismanagement elicited at the trial must have been most convincing for so careful a judge as Justice Darling to express so damaging an opinion of the state of the asylum, and of this having been brought about by the system of control of the London County Council. The judge's allusion to leniency in sentence certainly points to his regarding the management, however innocent in intent, as more or less causative of the crime.

The plea of one prisoner probably had considerable weight with the judge. This man stated that "they never liked to have a lot of over-stock, and that it was usual to get rid of the over-stock"; that "he had seen barrels of limejuice and vinegar poured into the drains," and "a ton of granular sugar