

Letter, Edith M. Boffin to Mary Burchenal, February 15, 1915

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Darlington, Md., Feb 15, '15.

My dear Mrs. Burchenal,—

I thank you for your very kind letter of interest and sympathy, and for the information concerning Hope Farm. It has evidently made rapid growth, and ranks with the Mt. Regis Sanatorium at Salem, Va., in ~~prices~~ rates. I have been unable to secure information about any private sanatorium in Md., tho' we hear there is one near Hagerstown, and Dr. Boffin has written a friend there to inquire. However, it would be farther away, and probably nearer the altitude of Mr. Regis, 1,500 ft.

Eudowood Sanatorium at Towson, Md. Is on our way to Baltimore from Bel Air, <insertion: a R.R. Station> twelve miles from here. Rates there are from \$3.50 to \$10 per wk.,

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for those able to pay. It is known now as Hospital for Consumptives of Maryland. Our home-made bread baker, a widow, in Darlington, told my husband of it. At the beginning it was an endowed institution, patients paid \$5.00 per week, and carried their own blankets, she said.

At the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, known as State Sanatorium, Frederick Co., Md., the rates are \$3.50 per week to \$7.00. Dr. Cullen wrote that at \$7.00, the patient has a private room, but in the report of examining physician, the question is asked: [...] <sup>2</sup> all Patients apply for a free, \$3.50, \$7.00 or \$10.00 per week bed? Perhaps \$10.00 secures a better room or extra attention of nurse.

Frankly speaking, I think \$15.00 for private room at Hope Farm prohibitive to my going there. How many patients are there in a ward at \$12.00 per week? Do you think it possible for me to secure a private room for \$12.00 or bed in a ward for \$10.00? Dr. Boffin is very decided<sup>3</sup> that Dr. Muller<sup>4</sup> see me

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soon. I report change of symptoms monthly, but it is quite an effort to write in detail, and to recall important details.

Womanlike, I should decide upon the most reasonable and nearest place for treatment, and in the state institution these would be supervised<sup>5</sup> by the medical men in charge, of the

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patients' daily regime, while the food must be as nourishing as at a private sanatorium, tho' perhaps not as daintily served. My choice would be Mt. Regis rather than Hope Farm, question of rates laid aside, since the Delaware spring is often unseasonably early and altho' I did not suffer from heat last summer as I would have formerly, yet it increased the weakness<sup>6</sup> and caused higher temperatures. We had the traipsing breezes<sup>7</sup> from the Chesapeake, and having the shade of four tall maples, two over-hanging the slate roof, as well as locust, and a catalpa by the south kitchen window, all of over

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thirty years growth, makes me long for shade if I must be where it is flat, and I have always loved mountain scenery.

However, my husband thought we might be able to rest or build a small bungalow at Brandywine Springs <insertion: did my improvement warrant it,> when he had disposed of this place by sale or rental; my cousin, Chas. Faulk, <insertion: appointments<sup>8</sup> to> [...] <sup>9</sup> <insertion: for> every summer, his wife was threatened with phthisis<sup>10</sup> several years ago.

Please to excuse poor writing and more in expression. For whatever reduction in rates <insertion: you may be enable<sup>11</sup> to secure> I shall be most grateful. I am quite capable of waiting upon myself until 1 P.M., then I need only to lie down and I sit up after the fever leaves. After a succession there is scarcely any. I am out of doors ever clear day on a bench from 1 P.M. till starlight.

[...] <sup>12</sup> in your happiness and good health,  
I remain, Sincerely yours, Edith M. Boffin. <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pages 1 and 4 take up one side of the sheet, and Pages 2 and 3 take up the other. The page numbers here represent the vertical fold on each side.

<sup>2</sup> Indistinct. May be "do."

<sup>3</sup> Best guess at word.

<sup>4</sup> Best guess at name.

<sup>5</sup> Partly indistinct. May be "supervised."

<sup>6</sup> Best guess at word.

<sup>7</sup> Best guess at both words.

<sup>8</sup> Best guess at indistinct word.

<sup>9</sup> Two indistinct words, perhaps "you out"?

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<sup>10</sup> An older term for tuberculosis.

<sup>11</sup> Best guess at word—might be “unable,” but that does not make sense in this context.

<sup>12</sup> Indistinct. Appears to be “refacing,” which makes no sense in context.

<sup>13</sup> This final line written at a 90-degree angle in the left-hand margin.