

Admission number: 511 (private) **Date of admission: 9th July 1890**

Name: ABW **Age:** 25
Address: Carnarvon
Occupation: Daughter of late Chief Gunner in HM's Navy **Marital Status:** Single
Religion: Church of England
Disease: Mania
Supposed cause: Love Disappointment

Medical Certificate(s):

i. Delusions, incoherence of speech and manner. She stated and believes that she has given birth to three children. She also states that there is something in her head which tells her to throw herself through the window. ii. Her father, AW, states that she went out in her nightdress once at 3 o'clock in the morning and was found in the street adjoining. (July 3rd 1890 - JW of Castle Square, Carnarvon).

i. Incoherence of speech. Delusions. Stating that she wanted to cut her throat and tried to burn herself with the candle. ii. The servant maid stated that she tried to burn herself with the candle, one night holding her face over it, and wanted to fling herself out through the window. (July 3rd 1890 - EHW of Turf Square, Carnarvon).

Case Notes:

1890 July 11 - Patient is a very slimly built girl of medium height. Dark complexion, eyes and hair. Since admission her condition has varied, being at one time quiet and another excited and fighting the nurses like a little Fury. This morning could not make a physical examination as she was in great fear of the same. She is in a state of semi dementia and full of delusions but they all have a direct connection with the most important one, viz that she is engaged to her Music Teacher, and that their marriage etc has been ordained in Heaven and that, although he has never proposed to her, she knows it thro' a particular hymn which she hears in church etc. She is apparently very timorous and cannot as a rule be got to reply unless spoken sharply to.

1890 July 16 - Has since allowed an examination. She is very thin but there is at present no marked organic disease noticeable.

1890 Aug 21 - Very obstinate and determined. Will strike at once. Lazy and indolent and does not hold any intercourse with her fellow patients. Dreamy in manner and conversation and the same delusions are present.

1890 Nov 11 - Had an interview with her father lately and abused the old man roundly and accused the nurses of all sorts of fancied slights and insults. A selfish and self-willed girl passionate in the extreme.

1891 Apr 16 - Her father has today come for her and transferred her to the Portsmouth Asylum and none here regrets the step he is taking. Discharged "Relieved" April 16th 1891.

A letter containing some pressed flower petals and dated July 1890, reads as follows:

*"My Dear Johnny L,
It seems very funny to write to you. I seem almost afraid somehow. However are you all getting on at church? Do you look over to my part of the country? I see the chancel ever so much. I don't know how you would feel or what you would do if you were here. Do you remember "Abide with me" when you came in at the end of the sermon and the text was "He sighed". Something is the matter. I seem to be in your hands. Pa don't seem to be in a hurry to take me from here for what reason I don't know. It must seem strange to you. I feel inclined to cry very much. I do cry. Will you get this I wonder. The senior doctor has been here to overhaul my doings. He said something was all right. What he meant goodness knows. I see nothing quite right. If I were only home again - its rather sad when you come to think of it, being in an asylum without knowing the reason for what I am here. "Thou fool", investigate the matter, the root is truth. Christ before Pilate. "What is Truth?"
TRUTH is the UNION OF TWO BODIES. ABW would very much like a word."*