

THE FANNY WARD PAPERS

The Oskar Diethelm Library
DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medical College
525 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10065

Arranged and described by:
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Provenance

The Fanny Ward Papers were purchased from the Old Hickory Bookshop in Brinklow, Maryland in 1967 with funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blatt.

Names of individuals may not be used in publications.

The collection is comprised of .8 cubic ft. housed in two .4 cubic ft. boxes.

Biography

Frances Margaret Ward, known to her family, doctors and attendants as Fanny Ward, was dismissed from a girl's school in England in the 19th century at age 15 due to mental illness. She blamed this situation on the death of her father, which had left her an orphan. The letters in this collection take Fanny up to age 29, at which time it appears that there was a slight possibility that she would be paroled if her exemplary behavior continued.

Scope and Content

The Fanny Ward Papers date from 1878 to 1895, with the bulk of the letters dating from 1879 to 1893. The collection consists of well over 100 letters discussing the mental illness of this young woman and showing the development and range of her illness over a period of fourteen years. The letters were written by her brother Alexander Ward (who was primarily responsible for her care), her aunt, Dr. John W. Fry (who housed and cared for her), and her nurse Harriet Farnell. Some are written by Fanny herself. In addition to the letters, the collection includes medical reports, commitment papers, and official letters from the Lord Chancellor's Visitors Office. The

letters and documents show that many had hopes for Fanny's recovery. There are graphic descriptions of Fanny's relapses, which necessitated confinement and restraint. Letters tell of Fanny writing lucid but extravagant letters to Queen Victoria or to philanthropists asking for donations to found a hospital in Madras, India. There is a reference to a Dr. Maudesley [sic] as having seen Fanny at the onset of her illness, probably referring to Dr. Henry Maudsley (1835-1918), the son-in-law of John Conolly and the well-known founder of the Maudsley Hospital in London. The letters provide a very personal chronicle of the pathology of a mentally ill person. The collection also includes bills and receipts for medical services rendered and financial records pertaining to the Ward family's account.

A small amount of material relates to Fanny's brother, Charles James Ward, who also suffered from mental illness and died in 1883.

Inventory

Box # 1

Folder 1	Bills for Fanny Ward's expenses for 1877-1878	1878
2	Letter from Fanny Ward's sister, Madeline Letters from her brother, Alexander, re: Fanny Ward's care, board, illness and billing Letters from C. N. Hodge	1879-1883
3	Letters written by Harriet Farnell, Fanny's nurse, to Madeline and Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's violent attacks, diet, etc. and Miss Farnell's care	1881-1882
4	Letters of financial accounts and letter written by Harriet Farnell	1882
5	Monthly financial accounts for Fanny Ward's nursing care	1882
6	Letters from Harriet Farnell to Fanny Ward's sister	1882
7	Letters written by Fanny Ward mentioning insanity	1882
8	Letters from Fanny Ward	1883
9	Bills for Fanny Ward's nursing services and clothing	1881-1884

10	Letters from John W. Fry (Fanny Ward's doctor) to Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Receipts	1884
11	Letters from John W. Fry to Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Letter written by Fanny Ward Receipt	1885
12	Letters from John W. Fry to Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness	1-3/1886
13	Letters from John W. Fry to Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Letters from Fanny ward complaining of treatment	8-10/1886
14	Receipts for care of Fanny Ward	1885-1886
15	Bills and receipts for care of Fanny Ward	1886
16	Receipts to pay for the care of Fanny Ward	1887-1888
17	Correspondence between John W. Fry and Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Receipts	1887
18	Extract from order re: custody of Fanny Ward committed to her brother and sister, Alexander and Janet Ward, respectively	1887
19	Correspondence between Alexander Ward and John W. Fry and others re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Receipt	1888
20	Correspondence between Alexander Ward and lawyers from the Lord Chancellor's Visitors Office Court order re: Fanny Ward's stock dividends	1888-1893
21	Letters from John W. Fry to Alexander Ward and letters with others re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Receipts	1889

22	Thirteen telegrams re: Fanny Ward's condition	1886-1892
Box # 2		
Folder 1	Correspondence between John W. Fry and Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness Correspondence with others	1890
2	Correspondence between John W. Fry and Alexander Ward re: Fanny Ward's care and illness	1891
3	Correspondence of Alexander Ward, James Adam and John W. Fry re: condition of Fanny Ward	1891-1892
4	Correspondence between John W. Fry and Alexander Ward and others re: Fanny Ward's care and illness	1892
5	Letters written by Eveline S. Collier to Fanny Ward's sister about Fanny Ward's condition Letter written by Fanny Ward in reply	1893
6	Correspondence of Fanny Ward, Alexander Ward, and Eveline S. Collier	1893
7	Letters from Eveline S. Collier to Fanny Ward's sister re: Fanny Ward's condition Letter from Fanny Ward	1893
8	Statement and letter re: amount to be spent on maintenance of Fanny Ward	1893
9	Letters from Fanny Ward re: India Hospital plans	n.d.
10	Letters from Fanny Ward	n.d.
11	Letters from Janet Ward, Fanny Ward's sister	n.d.
12	Letters by Harriet Farnell re: condition of Fanny Ward	n.d.

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| 13 | Undated letters from C. W. Hodge, Eveline S. Collier and Fanny Ward's sister | n.d. |
| 14 | Lord Chancellor's Visitors Office
Letters from lawyers to Alexander Ward re: estate, care of Fanny Ward, stocks, bonds and dividends | 1885-1893 |
| 15 | Letter re: investment of 250 pounds in Amsterdam Marine Insurance Co. | 1895 |
| 16 | Letters re: illness of Fanny Ward's brother, Charles James Ward and other papers relating to him
Receipts | 1882-1883 |