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Document: *Letter from Lilian Welsh to Blanton Welsh*

Transcription:

Columbia, Pa.,
Monday July 10, 1929

My dear Brother,

I got your letter this morning and paid the three bills as directed. We have had a strenuous twenty-four hours, but things have quieted down now. The strenuous time was due to the number of times we had to change the bed clothes. Thomas is perfectly helpless and in an attempt to get a movement of the bowels we had a difficult time. I think on the whole to-day [sic] I can say she shows slight improvement. She retains all the food we give her but we give her only liquids. I got a pint of whisky which Will Bucher says is all right and T -- gets a small quantity every day. The neighbors are very kind. Mrs. Moyer has sent us broth three times, Mrs. [Heiuewacs] once. Mrs. [Hauean] sent over some custard and I realize the difference one finds in the neighbors of a small town. I am stopped on every corner it seems by inquiries about the patient. Now if I am asked what is the matter with Thomas I must answer I do not know. Dr. [Alleman] whose bill for \$20 came to-day found nothing and Dr. Reeser is willing to say now that he finds nothing definite. I think Thomas had grippe to start with and that her teeth which were all but one abscessed at the roots had been gradually poisoning her. She certainly seems to have a toxic heart – nothing showing but an increased pulse rate continually. Her temp goes up a little every day. So far as I can see there is nothing to do but keep her comfortable and to try to feed her up. So far she takes very little food – all liquid, of course, and I am hoping that the feeding will show result in an increase of strength. I do not know what I should do without these two women. They work night and day. Neither of them is afraid of work. Mrs. Brenneman seemed impossible at first, but she has been tamed somewhat and really has good spirit although her conversation makes me feel like taking a drink of Thomas's whisky. Thomas is really pathetic – very patient. She remembers better to-day but always when her mind is not clear thinks she is on a journey. She is very humorous at these times. She looks very much like our mother, possibly the lack of teeth accounts for part of the resemblance. The household expenses are not so great as I expected. I pay for my own dinners and \$1 a day for the two attendants is cheaper than one could feed them at home. I am hoping for some definite improvement at the end of the week. In the meantime there is nothing to do but meet each day as it comes. My love to the families in Montclair. ___ L.W.

[Transcribed by REC, November 2020.]

Scope and Content Note:

Letter from Lilian Welsh to her brother, Blanton regarding Thomas Anna's illness and the related household expenses.



LancasterHistory