

Lionel Atherton and the First British Osteopathic Hospital

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The so-called 'First British Osteopathic Hospital' was founded by a 47-year-old man named Lionel Atherton and was located in Effingham on the edge of Ranmore Common in the large country house Sun Haven, formerly known as Dunley Hill House. The facility opened in 1934 and seems to have been a substantial enterprise. Upon investigation we discovered that Mr Atherton had been a man with a variety of unconventional beliefs and a strong entrepreneurial spirit, both of which put him much in the public eye through both the Press and his extensive lecturing.

Atherton's origins

Lionel Atherton's registered name at birth had been entirely different. He was named then as Ernest Edwin William Green, born – according to his birth certificate [GRO Ref: Bedminster 5c 687, 1885 (Q2)] – at his parents' home 24, Brook Street in Bristol's parish of Bedminster on 29 April 1885. For the time being we shall refer to him by his birth name Ernest.

His forebears were rural West Country artisans from Somerset and Dorset. His grandfather Richard Green was baptised in Barwick, Somerset on 11 June 1826 to parents John and Ann, the register describing John as a carpenter. Barwick is a small village about two miles from Yeovil and close to the border with Dorset. John and Ann were probably the couple John Green and Ann (née) Compton who had married at Barwick on 14 September 1812. Their son Richard married in 1854 to a Dorset girl Harriet (née) Masters. The marriage took place on 26 June in Dorset at Bradford Abbas, a little over three miles from Yeovil, the register confirming that John was still occupied as a carpenter, as also was Richard whose place of residence was given as Yeovil. Harriet had been born in Bradford Abbas and baptised there on 27 June 1832, the register describing her father Samuel as a labourer.

Richard and Harriet produced five children of whom the second was Richard Edwin Green, who would become Lionel Atherton's father. Richard Edwin was born at Bradford Abbas in 1858 [GRO Ref: Sherborne 5a 378, 1858 (Q2)] and baptised there on 13 June of that year. His baptism entry, which misrenders his second forename as Edward, describes his father Richard as a carpenter. From an early age and throughout adulthood Richard Edwin was known simply as Edwin.

The 1861 Census finds Edwin living with his parents in Bradford Abbas together with his older sibling (the first-born) Samuel John. By 1871 Richard and Harriet had moved from Bradford Abbas to Yeovil where the 1871 Census finds them living in Sherborne Road. Richard was still occupied as a carpenter whilst Harriet was working as a dress maker. Edwin, although aged only 13, was occupied as a plumber and glazier.

By 1881 Edwin was living with a partner Sarah Ann (née Edwards); a marriage record has not been found for them but in the censuses they purported to be married. Sarah Ann had been born in 1857 to parents John Edwards (at that time a labourer) and his wife Petronella (née Pile) and baptised at St Philip & St Jacob, Bristol on 15 November 1857; the family's abode was recorded in the register as Redcross Street. Petronella's name had been spelt as such when, at age 8 months, she had been baptised in this same church on 3 January 1836; in later sources, however, she appears as 'Pataranella'. She and John had married in 1854 [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 190, 1854 (Q3)]. The 1871 Census finds them living at 9, Mill Street in Bedminster, John now occupied as a farmer; they had several children with them but Sarah Ann was not among them.

In early 1880 Petronella died aged just 44 [GRO Ref: Bedminster 5c 567, 1880 (Q1)], whilst later that year Edwin's father Richard died aged 55 [GRO Ref: Yeovil 5c 306, 1880 (Q4)]. It may be that Edwin and Sarah Ann had intended to marry at about this time but were distracted from doing so by having had to deal with these deaths of his father and her mother. However this may be, the 1881 Census finds them described as married and living at 3, Greenbank Terrace in Bedminster, Edwin again occupied as a plumber. At this same address was the separate household of Sarah Ann's widowed father John, still occupied as a farmer and looking after five other children. Meanwhile, Edwin's widowed mother Harriet was still living in Sherborne Road, Yeovil and had with her just her youngest son Albert William (a carpenter) and two boarders. Soon after this Census, on 16 July, John remarried at St Michael the Archangel on the Mount in Bristol to Mary Jane Spear, possibly a widow [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 49, 1881 (Q3)].

It was from the partnership (or marriage) of Edwin and Sarah Ann that Ernest Edwin William Green (later to become renamed as Lionel Atherton) was born.

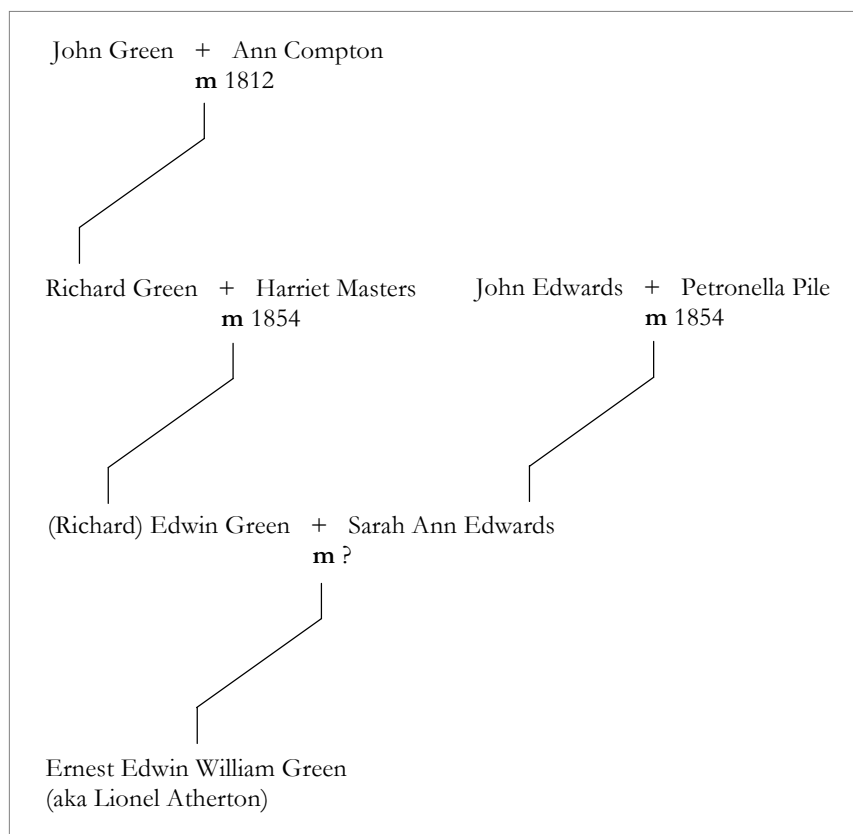


Figure 1 Descent of Ernest Edwin William Green (aka Lionel Atherton).

Ernest's early life and first marriage

The 1891 Census finds Ernest at age 6 living with his parents Edwin (working as a plumber) and Sarah Ann at 22, Dean Lane in Bedminster, on the south side of Bristol. The household also included one domestic servant. Dean Lane mostly presented terraces of substantial bay-fronted houses, some with basements and neatly-railed front gardens.



Figure 2 View of Dean Lane in Bedminster, Bristol in the 1910s or 1920s, © Geoff Sansome; No. 22 was somewhere in the far end of the street, as viewed from this position.

By 1901 Edwin had expanded his skills, having taken up house painting as well as plumbing. He had also become an employer. The Census of that year finds the family still in Dean Lane but now at No. 2. Ernest was working as a house painter, presumably for his father. Two other children were present, a daughter Pataranella aged 8 – clearly named after Sarah Ann's mother – and a son Albert William ('Bertie') aged 6 and probably named after Edwin's younger brother Albert William.

Just a year later, Ernest married. He was aged only about 17¹/₂. The wedding took place on 13 September 1902 at St Paul's in Bedminster. The bride was Clara Smith, daughter of a cabinet maker Samuel Smith. Ernest was described in the register as a decorator residing at 2, Russell Terrace and aged 19, whilst Clara was described as residing at 48, Herbert Street and also aged 19. She was indeed about 19, having been baptised in Bedminster on 12 October 1883. It appears that Ernest had inflated his recorded age in order to disguise his being rather younger than her. In the 1901 Census Clara had been living with her parents and siblings at 10, Stanby Street in Bedminster and working in a druggist's warehouse, whilst her father Samuel was employed in making chairs and couches.



Figure 3 No. 22, Dean Lane (modern view).

18401. Marriage solemnized at <i>St. Paul's Church</i> in the Parish of <i>Bedminster</i> in the County of <i>Bristol</i>								
Column.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
340	<i>September</i> <i>13</i> <i>1902</i>	<i>Ernest Edwin William Green</i> <i>Clara Smith</i>	<i>19</i> <i>19</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Decorator</i> —	<i>2 Russell Terrace</i> <i>48 Herbert Street</i>	<i>Edwin Richard Green</i> <i>Samuel Smith</i>	<i>Decorator</i> <i>Cabinet Maker</i>
Married in the <i>Apson's Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Established Church</i> by <i>Bertie George Dunster</i> or after <i>Banns</i> by <i>Charles Augustine Mayall</i> . This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Ernest Edwin William Green</i> and <i>Clara Smith</i> in the Presence of us, <i>Bertie George Dunster</i> and <i>Samuel Smith</i> .								

Figure 4 Marriage of Ernest and Clara at St Paul's, Bedminster on 13 September 1902.



Figure 5 Clara Smith.

Ernest and Clara produced two children, Ivy Rosina Green [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 31, 1903 (Q1)] and Esme Dorothy Green [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 15, 1906 (Q2)]. Ivy was baptised at St Paul's on 19 February 1903 and Esme (misspelled as 'Elsie') at the same church on 19 April 1906. Given the date of the wedding and the date of Ivy's birth, it appears that Ernest and Clara 'had to' get married.

On 7 August 1910 Clara died in Bedminster aged just 26. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 42, 1910 (Q3)] states that she died at 19, Allington Road, presumably her home address. The cause of death was certified as pulmonary tuberculosis and the informant, present at the death, was her mother Charlotte of 20, South Street. Charlotte must have been a little confused as to the correct name of Ernest whom she described for the Registrar as 'Ernest Edward John Green a House Decorator'.

We do not have firm evidence of Ernest's interests and occupations during this first decade of the 20th century. It is appropriate at this point in our narrative to bring attention to an important source which is concerned with events much later in his life, namely his becoming bankrupt in 1939. This source is a file consisting of about forty documents relating to that bankruptcy and held in The National Archives [Ref: BT 226/5071]. Synopses of most of these documents are presented in Appendix IV where they are numbered 1-38. When referring to them we shall use references of the form [Bankruptcy Synopsis x] where x denotes the synopsis number. The reason for mentioning the bankruptcy file now is that it contains statements made by Ernest about his early life.

According to Ernest [Bankruptcy Synopses 8, 10, 13] he had been first educated at the Merchant Venturers College in Bristol where he had passed examinations in chemistry and physics and then undertaken a 'post-graduate' course (of an unspecified nature and date range) in Clifton. After this, by his account, he had worked for about four years, with a view to a medical career, under a Dr Barclay at Bristol General Hospital and had then entered Bristol University Old Medical School, these spells having been in the period 1901-08. He claimed that he and his mother – herself an osteopathy enthusiast – had visited the United States where they had met a Dr England from the School of Osteopathy and Electric Healing. This person had come to England and, in about 1908, Ernest had 'changed over to' him and begun his osteopathic career. Also in 1908 he had, he said, started up a part-time practice in Bath as a medical botanist. He had abandoned the aim of a career in ordinary medicine. This account does not sit well with what we see on Clara's death certificate in 1910 when he was described as still occupied as a house decorator. How might he have been running a practice in Bath while she was living in Bedminster? It may be that the couple had already separated, which might explain why her mother, rather than he, had been the informant of her death. Alternatively, perhaps he had been mistaken when giving the year of his Bath start-up as 1908 – it may have been some years later than that. He said that up to 1910 he had been supported by gifts from his mother, but whether he was dependent upon those or had sufficient decorating income anyway is not made clear. In fact the bankruptcy files contain no mention of his having been a decorator, or of marrying Clara.



Figure 6 The Merchant Venturers College, post-1906; in 1906 the building had been severely damaged by fire and its roof had looked a little different from that above.

The 1911 Census finds Ernest and his two daughters in the household of his parents Edwin and Sarah Ann at 2, Dean Lane, together with his grandparents John (recorded as 'infirm') and Mary Jane Edwards. Ernest, like his father, was described as a decorator (making no mention of medicine, osteopathy etc), whilst his brother Albert William was now apprenticed to a gold-and-silver smith. Their sister Pataranella was an assistant in a draper's shop.

Three years later Ernest's mother Sarah Ann died aged 58 [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 110, 1914 (Q4)].

Ernest's name changes and second marriage

In the seventh year after Clara's death Ernest remarried. Moreover, he had by now modified his surname to Green-Atherton. He married as 'Ernest Edwin Green-Atherton' to Beatrice Ada (née) Ison in 1917 [GRO Ref: Bath 5c 906, 1917 (Q2)]. Beatrice had been born in 1893 [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 24, 1893 (Q2)] to parents Archibald Samuel Ison and Ada (née Pomphrey) who had married at St Barnabas, Bristol on 21 October 1889. Beatrice had evidently been fond of singing as a young woman; she was reported as having performed a song at a concert of the Bristol Church of England Association Football League in early 1914 [*Western Daily Press*, 17 February 1914]. Her father worked in a stationery business and by 1917 he was holding the position of foreman.

Earlier in 1917 Ernest's father Edwin had also remarried [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 37, 1917 (Q1)]. His bride was an unmarried teacher Winifred Gray aged 54 of 106, York Road whose late father James had been a cloth manufacturer. They married at St Paul's, Bedminster on 12 February 1917, Edwin being described in the register as a decorator, residing at 2, Dean Lane, whose late father Richard had been a builder.

We do not know why Ernest and Beatrice married in the Bath district – unless he was at this time running his medical botany practice there – still less why he had changed his surname. However, further name changes were soon to come, together with a strange succession of employments. Ernest stated [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8] that in 1917 he had 'added the practice of osteopathy' and had accumulated about £1,200 of capital. In late 1917 Beatrice gave Ernest a son whom they named Lionel George Green-Atherton [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 112, 1917 (Q4)]. When the boy was baptised at St Luke's, Bedminster on 7 July 1918, Ernest gave his own as name as 'Ernest Lionel Green-Atherton' and his address as 64, York Road. More oddly still, Ernest's occupation was recorded in the register as 'Radiographer'.

A second son was born in 1919 and named as Ernest Kenneth Green-Atherton [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 96, 1919 (Q2)]. His baptism, also at St Luke's, took place on 4 May 1919. The register again named the father as Ernest Lionel of 64, York Road but now gave his occupation as simply 'Manager'.

1918 July 7 th No. 789	Lionel George	Ernest Lionel Beatrice Ada	Green-Atherton	64 York Rd	Radiographer	W. R. Chubb Curate
1919 May 4 th No. 974	Ernest Kenneth	Ernest Lionel Beatrice Ada	Green-Atherton	64 York Rd	Manager	W. R. Chubb Curate

Figure 7 The baptisms of Ernest's sons at St Luke's, Bedminster in 1918 and 1919.

It is not known whether Ernest had undertaken any kind of military service during the Great War. In January 1916, when conscription was introduced under the Military Service Act 1916, Ernest would have been aged 30, single and so potentially eligible for call-up under the 1916 Conscription Act. However, having two children dependent on him meant that he did not satisfy the eligibility criterion set out in the Act's clause 1(b). We may reasonably infer then that he was not called up.

Ernest claimed [Bankruptcy Synopses 3, 4, 8] that in 1920 he had moved to Clifton and continued his practice there, purchasing through a loan of £1,700 from Lloyds Bank the leasehold of a house 39, Royal York Crescent. An overdraft with the bank, making their total advance to him about £2,000, enabled him to equip the property with consulting rooms. He had engaged a local man to run it as a hydro.



Figure 8 Royal York Crescent, Clifton where Ernest took a lease on No. 39 in the 1920s; seen here in 1959.

The 1921 Census finds Ernest, Beatrice and their two sons still living at 64, York Road in Bedminster. Ernest was described as a manager at the 'Iron Bros' cardboard box factory. The family's surname was entered as Green-Atherton. Also present was a nurse Blanche Freeman aged 24. Ernest's daughters Ivy and Esme were meanwhile visitors in the household of a French lady Mademoiselle Marcelle Duchin(e), a teacher, at 33, Crescent Gardens in Bath. Ernest's father Edwin was living at 2, Dean Lane with his second wife Winifred, she being described as a teacher of music and he as a plumber and decorator.

If Ernest's date of 1920 for his acquisition of the house in Royal York Crescent was correct then he seems not to have been using it to reside in, since in 1921 he was evidently living a mile and a half away at the house in York Road. We might conclude that he was paying rent to occupy the latter house while earning income from his business use of the former one. A more likely possibility, perhaps, is that he acquired 39, Royal York Crescent at a date later than the 1921 Census.

In 1924 a third child (being Ernest's fifth) was born to Beatrice and registered as Joy Marguerite Atherton [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 25, 1924 (Q2)]. By now Ernest had begun dispensing of the prefix Green- in his surname. Two years later he did so formally and published an announcement to this effect in *The London Gazette* [Issue 33147, p.2401, 2 April 1926] declaring that on 6 March he had by deed poll relinquished his forenames Edwin William and his surname Green, and that henceforth he was to be known as Ernest Lionel Atherton; this decision had been executed in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on 30 March.

In 1924 Ernest's daughter Ivy Rosina, giving her surname simply as Atherton, married an electrician Frank Godfrey Jones, the son of a Lt Col Frank Lewis Jones [GRO Ref: Bristol 6a 206, 1927 (Q2)]. They married at the parish church of Clifton on 17 April. The marriage register gives Frank's address as 37, Royal York Crescent (in Clifton) and hers as 39, Royal York Crescent; the occupation of her father, recorded as Ernest Lionel Atherton, was entered as 'Doctor'. It appears, then, that Ernest's family had certainly taken up residence in Royal York Crescent by 1924.

To have become a doctor just three years after employment as a manager in a cardboard box factory might seem an unusual career progression. We have seen that he claimed to have been already involved in both conventional and unconventional medicine for perhaps two decades or more, albeit apparently having pursued other occupations as well. It is not clear whether by the mid-1920s he had become qualified in some formal sense as a medical practitioner. We have been unable to find formal evidence of his acquiring such a qualification. But perhaps a word about the contemporary context might be appropriate.

For centuries there had of course been ‘quack doctors’ who were little more than downright confidence tricksters, but also practitioners of sincerely-believed but unorthodox practices. Both offered remedies to those who for whatever reason could not find help via the orthodox medical establishment. The pre-War career of Mark Lendon Bennett (see Appendix V) is an example. However in the post-War years, the scope for such self-styled medics to attract clients expanded massively, for the most sorrowful of reasons. Suddenly there were unprecedented numbers of people in acute emotional, physical, mental or spiritual distress. This included not only ex-combatants but also the bereaved and many members of the civilian population. People claiming they could provide relief must have been walking through an open door. It was not just the poor or credulous who put their hope in possible new ways to recovery. Before he turned to his Sherlock Holmes detective fiction, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – a seeker after the rational explanation if ever there was one – had been a practising doctor. He served overseas in a medical capacity during the Second Boer war, and lost several close family members in WWI. He had been interested in psychic phenomena for many years. During 1916 he became a devotee of spiritualism, and after the War ‘He became one of the leading voices of the spiritualist movement ... Much of his later life was devoted to a crusade to spread the word of spiritualism across the world, through public speaking, and works such as *The Land of Mists* (1926) and *The History of Spiritualism* (1926). He toured the globe speaking about what he saw as the ‘truth’ of séances, mediums, and visitations from the dead.’ [*The Conan Doyle Collection*, Portsmouth History Centre, City of Portsmouth].

Astrology or adultery (or both)

It was in the 1920s that evidence arose in the public domain of Ernest's tendency – which was to be manifested over several decades – to profess unorthodox beliefs, to pursue unusual ventures and to become embroiled in occasional scrapes. The earliest such example appears to be the Hume divorce case which came to the courts in June 1928. Our knowledge of its details relies wholly upon reports (of which there were many) in the newspapers, published both in England and abroad.

A man named Thomas Josiah Hume petitioned in 1928 for a divorce from his wife Dorothy Elsie (née Austen), whom he had married in Hong Kong in 1917. They had been living in Singapore where Thomas was currently employed as a manager by the retail merchant John Little & Co Ltd. In 1922 it had been decided that Dorothy should return to England, which she did, settling at 43, Teignmouth Road in the Brondesbury part of the borough of Brent in north-west London. There she was provided by Thomas with an annual income of about £1,000 despatched from his earnings in Singapore. In May 1924 Thomas made a visit to England where he remained until returning to Singapore in January 1925. During that period he somehow came to be on friendly terms with the Athertons, staying with them in their Clifton home, and he granted Ernest – then operating as a herbalist – permission to hold consultations with patients at the house in Teignmouth Road.



Figure 9 Dorothy Elsie when young.



Figure 10 Dorothy Elsie in later years.

While back in Singapore, Thomas learned that the London house was being used for meetings of a 'circle' whose members included Dorothy, Ernest and another man Marshall Ernest Brown who was employed as a teacher of Classics at a school in Kingston. He also learned that the members of the circle had an interest in astrology. In early 1927 he wrote to Ernest expressing his wish that Dorothy should cease her interest and activities in the occult because he believed that it was having a mischievous effect on her mind; he did not wish his house to be used for meetings of people interested in astrology. The meetings continued nonetheless. In early 1928 Thomas returned to England and within two weeks of arriving he accused Ernest, on the basis only of hearsay, of having committed adultery with Dorothy. Moreover he believed that Marshall had also done so. He therefore began proceedings for divorce.

The case was opened in London on Thursday 21 June 1928 at the Divorce Court, presided over by Sir Henry Edward Duke, 1st Baron Merrivale, before a special jury. The petition of Thomas was heard, citing as co-respondents Ernest and Marshall, both of whom denied the allegations, whereupon the hearing was adjourned until the following day. Resuming on Friday 22nd, Lord Merrivale expounded on the details alleged in the case. In the circle, Dorothy had supposedly assumed the role of Salome (the Biblical figure responsible for the execution of John the Baptist), Marshall the role of John the Baptist and Ernest the role of Karma, the second Messiah. It was claimed that Ernest came at night into her bedroom where she 'misconducted herself' with him, whilst in the afternoons Marshall went to her bedroom under the pretence of taking tea with her but remained with her for two or three hours at a time. A servant alleged that Dorothy had declared that she loved Ernest very much and wished that she were free. Lord Merrivale seems to have been unimpressed by the evidence brought by the accusers and went to some length to explain to the jury that interest in astrology was quite widespread (even if foolish) and that this had to be borne in mind when evaluating what had been said by the various parties about the circle's meetings. Marshall questioned all his accusers and demonstrated that not one of them could say they had ever witnessed anything improper between himself and Dorothy. Lord Merrivale pointed out that Ernest had been treating Dorothy in a professional capacity but that it had been suggested that his was a discreditable occupation, despite the fact that it was Thomas who had given permission for that treatment. In one of the newspaper reports of the case Ernest was described as a 'medical botanist and osteopath'. In another he was described as a 'herbalist with a substantial business, and was interested in astrology'.

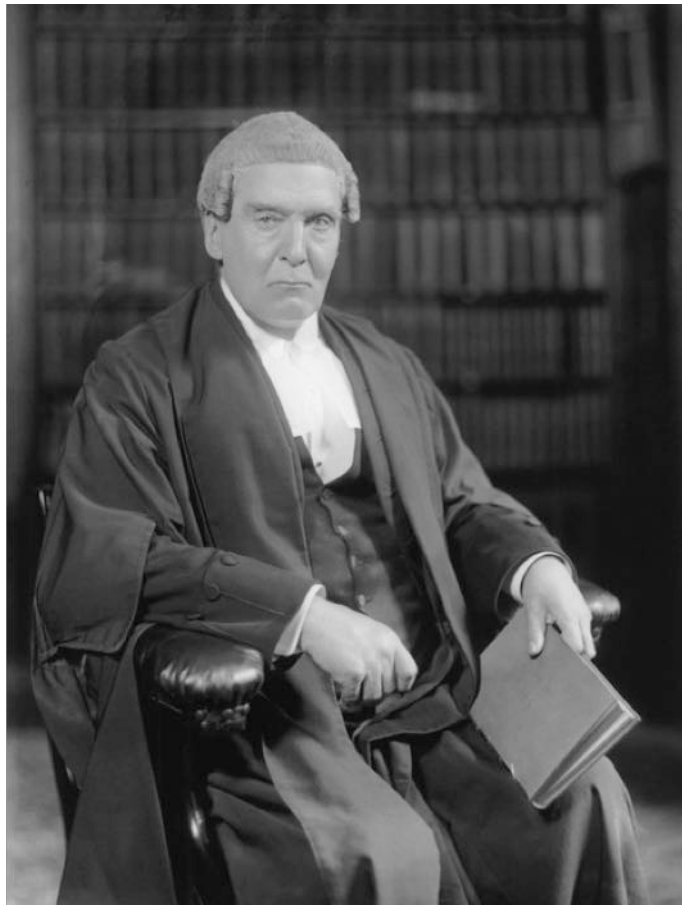


Figure 11 Lord Merrivale who presided over the Hume divorce case in 1928.

The jury retired and after an hour and a half they announced that they found no fault with Mr Brown, who was then dismissed from the suit with costs. They had been unable to reach agreement about Ernest. They were then required to retire again but once more could not agree, so had to be discharged.

Evidently Thomas did eventually succeed in obtaining his divorce (as Dorothy described herself as divorced in the 1939 National Register), but we have not been able to ascertain when or how this was achieved. He died at Littlehampton in 1946 aged 68 [GRO Ref: Worthing 5h 627, 1946 (Q4)].

Some of the newspaper accounts of the case are presented in Appendix I.

Ernest as osteopath

Ernest claimed [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8] that in 1928 he had moved to Clevedon, taking out a three-year lease on a house where he remained until 1932. He stated that the Clifton district in which Royal York Crescent stood had gone into decline resulting in a drop in house values, inducing Lloyds Bank to press him to reduce his overdraft (of about £300 originally); he apparently was unable to do this whereupon they threatened him with bankruptcy proceedings, but in the end they settled for an annual payment on account from him of £100. Whether he had also been defaulting on repayments on their £1,700 loan is unknown.

During the Thirties the range of Ernest's interests and activities expanded, in some unusual ways. As the decade got underway he changed his name yet again, now dispensing with his initial forename Ernest. Henceforth, for many years, he would be known simply as Lionel Atherton; in view of which we shall in this article now likewise dispense with Ernest and refer to him henceforth as Lionel. (However, later on we shall see that this was not the last of his name changes.)

According to Lionel's later recollections [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8] he had, while residing in Clevedon, begun in about 1930 to make visits to London for the purpose of giving lectures and building up a practice there. He had rented a flat in Kensington to use as a lecture room. There is evidence supporting these assertions in various public directories.

The earliest mentions we can find of him as Lionel Atherton are in the telephone directories of 1932. In the 1932 directory for London he is listed at address 'West Lodge' in Pembroke Gardens, W8 in West Kensington. In the 1932 directory for 'Bristol, Exeter & Plymouth Districts' he is listed at address 'Sun Haven' with a telephone number under the exchange for Clevedon, which lies to the west of Bristol. A search of the 1939 National Register reveals a property named 'Sunhaven' in Clevedon, in the very desirable Dial Hill Road overlooking the sea, but no connection is apparent between Lionel and the persons then living at that property. In both of these 1932 directory entries his name is followed by 'Osteopath, Botano Therapist'. He was listed identically in Clevedon in the corresponding 1933 directory.

During his lifetime Lionel laid claim to a variety of qualifications, affiliations and positions, but the one that recurs most often in references to him is the title of 'Doctor of Osteopathy' or 'D.O.' The question arises of whether he had indeed undertaken some course of training or process of validation and certification to justify his practising as an osteopath. As already mentioned, he put the date of about 1908 to the start of his induction by 'Dr England' into osteopathy (and to some concurrent activity in Bath to do with medical botany) and the date of 1917 to the point at which his practice in osteopathy got underway. These dates may not have been accurate and even if they were he could not have devoted himself full-time to those interests prior to 1921 because of his employment in the cardboard box factory. By the start of the 1930s, however, he had certainly brought these interests to the forefront of his life and was presenting himself as a professional osteopath.

The founder of osteopathy was the American physician and surgeon Andrew Taylor Still (1828-1917). During the Civil War he practised medicine within the military, having previously studied the subject and having served as apprentice to his father, also a physician. His experience in that period of the often ineffective or even harmful nature of conventional medicine, reinforced perhaps by his views concerning the deaths in 1864 of his wife and three children from meningitis, encouraged him to develop an alternative approach to disease that was centred very much upon the remedy of dysfunctional features of the musculoskeletal system. For several decades he conducted intense study of human anatomy in order to understand better the etiology of disease and the treatment of it in ways that did not depend so much upon the use of drugs or surgery. The term 'osteopathy' was coined by him and in 1892 he founded the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri, an institution still in operation today. In that year the school admitted 22 students for a two-year course which included thorough grounding in anatomy and physiology. Upon completion each student was awarded the title Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) The field expanded significantly in America during the next decade and a number of American-trained osteopaths were practising in Britain by the start of the 20th century. It may be that the afore-mentioned Dr England with whom Lionel had studied had been one of these D.O.s properly trained in America.

In response to growing interest here the British Osteopathic Society (BOS) was founded in 1903. Information is scarce as to what the BOS actually did in its earliest years, other than functioning as a professional forum. During the century's first decade, osteopathy in Britain was sparse, disorganised and lacking in formal structures for training, qualification and recognition. However, around 1910 a meeting was convened in Manchester of twelve osteopaths who proceeded to set up the British Osteopathic Association (BOA) which effectively subsumed the BOS. The BOA's mission was to set and maintain formal standards for the profession and to manage a public register of properly qualified osteopaths. The BOA functioned as an affiliate of the American Osteopathic Association and its membership was initially confined to American-trained Doctors of Osteopathy, an arguably divisive stance not looked upon favourably by all those then practising as non-D.O. 'osteopaths' in Britain. By 1914 the BOA was making preparations to become registered through the Board of Trade as a scientific body under the Companies Act, but this aim was thwarted by opposition from both the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association, and it remained so thwarted throughout almost the whole of the 20th century. In 1915 a prominent British osteopath named John Martin Littlejohn, who had returned to Britain from America where he had trained and worked for many years, established the British School of Osteopathy (BSO) in London. He also founded in 1917 the *Journal of Osteopathy*. The BSO was incorporated in 1917 with Littlejohn as its Principal and its first students graduated in 1925. In about 1924 the BOA established the Osteopathic Defence League whose intention was to effect changes in the law to grant osteopathy legal equality with conventional medicine. Their situation at that time had the nature of David versus Goliath – in 1925 the BOA had only about fifty members. However, the League drew sufficient support to have the matter debated in the Commons, but the initiative was blocked there by Neville Chamberlain, as Minister of Health, who demanded that the osteopaths should establish colleges of their own with curricula and standards on a par with those of other established professions, in particular those within orthodox medicine.



Figure 12 Andrew Taylor Still, the American founder of osteopathy.



Figure 13 John Martin Littlejohn, founder of the British School of Osteopathy.

Repeated attempts during the early 1930s by osteopaths and their representative bodies to gain formal recognition, including a succession of Bills to establish registration and regulation, all resulted in failure. It was not until 1936 that a General Council and Register of Osteopaths (GCRO) was at last incorporated as a company, following intense deliberations by a Select Committee during the previous year. The GCRO was made responsible for regulating professional standards and conduct and for protecting the public through provision of a register of properly trained osteopaths, making appropriate differentiation between

the qualifications among its members; these included the American D.O. and also graduation from the BSO; graduates of the BSO were recognized by the GCRO in 1938. The Council had its own premises run by salaried staff. Registration with the Council was, however, voluntary and for a further half-century there continued to be no legal impediment to anyone calling themselves an osteopath and practising as one. By 1991 there were about 1388 persons on the register [King's Fund Archive, *Report of a Working Party on Osteopathy* (Chairman: Rt Hon Sir Thomas Bingham), 1991]. The legal position would not change until statutory registration for osteopaths was introduced in the late 1990s.

Returning now to Lionel, we have seen that he was professing to be an osteopath in 1928 and to be a qualified D.O. in 1932. If that were the case then one might have expected that, in pursuit of professional esteem for his own practising purposes, he would have taken steps to become entered into the new GCRO register. We have been unable so far to locate the register in order to check this. It appears certain that he never graduated from the BSO which, in 2017, was awarded university status by the Privy Council and became the University College of Osteopathy (UCO) whose Chancellor is The Princess Royal. The UCO has confirmed to us that its historic records of BSO graduates contain no mention of Lionel (under any of his various names).

One description we have found of the basis of Lionel's claim to have been a qualified osteopath is that which he offered himself much later, in the course of a court case in 1947. He was reported then to be describing himself as 'a doctor of osteopathy registered by the British and American Physio-Medical Association' (BAPMA). He had described himself as an osteopath during the 1928 Hume case and his daughter Ivy's marriage certificate had described him as a doctor in 1927, but he had not described himself as such in the 1921 Census. It is possible, then, that he had trained, qualified or registered with the BAPMA in the mid-1920s, if that organisation was still in existence then. Or, his connection with the BAPMA could have begun before the 1920s while he was engaged in conventional employment – he could have been pursuing his osteopathic interests and studies in his spare time. Curiously, he made no explicit mention at all of the BAPMA when queried about his qualifications at the bankruptcy hearings in 1939. There, he said only that they were 'English degrees of a certain Association formed during the past number of years here in this country' and had been awarded through the passing of written examination papers [Bankruptcy Synopsis 10].

The BAPMA seems to have left very little trace of its existence. The earliest mention of it we have been able to find appears in a letter written in 1914 by Thomas Ramsden [*Wigan Observer and District Advertiser*, 22 August 1914]. Ramsden was a talented professional artist and became particularly well known for his 1925 painting *Early Morning – Wigan Pier*. He was also a medical herbalist and ran a shop selling herbal remedies in Wigan's old Market Arcade. Having served for many years as a Labour Councillor on Wigan Town Council, he was appointed as an Alderman and served as the Mayor of Wigan during 1938-39. In his letter of 1914 he was railing against vaccination, describing it as 'an unscientific & dangerous, and a useless operation'. Of more significance to us, beneath his name he wrote 'Hon. Sec., British and American Physio-Medical Association', and beneath this in turn the address 91, Bolton Road in Ashton-in-Makerfield; whether this was his home address or the BAPMA's address is unclear. Ramsden had been a student of the much-celebrated botanist and medical herbalist Richard Lawrence Hool.

Hool had been a member of the National Association of Medical Herbalists (NAMH), founded in 1864, and became one its Fellows. In 1915 he delivered a paper on 'Scarlet fever and its treatment' to a conference at the Pack Horse Hotel in Boston held under the auspices of the BAPMA [*The Bolton Evening News*, 7 April 1915].

Hool died in 1920 but two years later his seminal work *Common Plants and Their Uses in Medicine* was posthumously published by the Lancashire branch of the NAMH. One of his herbal remedies was quoted by Harold Ward in his work *Herbal Manual* [publ. L N Fowler & Co Ltd, London, 1936] and Ward described Hool there as (having been) a member of the BAPMA. We have found no contemporary newspaper reports after 1915 mentioning the BAPMA.



Figure 14 Thomas Ramsden, artist, herbalist and Mayor of Wigan.

One other pointer to the existence of the BAPMA is a metal badge of diameter 28mm that was sold in recent times by a Norfolk dealer named Peter's Nursing Collectables. Around its circumference it presents the full title of the Association and in the centre is the motto 'Veritas Vincit' ('Truth Prevails'). It was made in England by Thomas Fattorini Ltd.



Figure 15 Badge of The British & American Physio-Medical Association, front and reverse..

The term 'physio-medical' was employed particularly in America to denote what in Britain was termed 'herbalist'. As far back as the mid-19th century several American states – most notably Indiana, Ohio and Illinois – had their own Physio-Medical Associations. There was little organisational activity at a national level until these three leading schools staged a convention in Indianapolis in May 1883 with the aim of establishing a national association. This initiative led to the creation of the 'American Association of Physio-Medical Physicians and Surgeons'. This body may have become a precursor to the BAPMA, but we cannot yet prove this to be the case. Like BAPMA, the American Association has left little trace of its activities. In their book *America's Botanico-Medical Movements: Vox Populi* [publ. CRC Press, 2001] the authors Alex Berman and Michael A Flannery state that:

'There is a record of the American Association of Physio-Medical Physicians and Surgeons meeting for a three-day annual convention in Dallas, Texas, as late as May 1907. After this date, the fate of this organization, if it still existed, is completely obscured through lack of data.'

Strikingly, a little before this date there had arisen in Britain a similar organisation named the 'British Physio-Medical Association' (BPMA). It is very tempting to speculate that the BAPMA was forged from this BPMA and the remnants of the American Association, but this has not been proven. The BPMA was apparently created in the summer of 1906 by a curious character named Mark Lendon Bennett. The resemblance between Bennett's interests, beliefs and practical activities and those of Lionel is very uncanny indeed and one cannot help but wonder whether Lionel's entry into osteopathy, as well as other unconventional interests, arose in part from Bennett's influence. In case such an association should one day be found, an account of Bennett's life is given in Appendix V.

Bigamists, monkeys' testicles and women's glands

In April 1932 Lionel was on the lecture circuit. He had evidently come into contact with Flora Matilda Ames, whose name would have been known across the land in that period, for several reasons.

Born in India in 1864, Flora's maiden surname was Hayter – she was the daughter of Col Charles Hayter of the Madras Staff Corps. His father had been the prolific portrait artist and occasional Buckingham Palace resident George Hayter, appointed Principal Painter in Ordinary to Queen Victoria and knighted by her in 1841.

Flora married firstly in Aurunrabad, India in 1885 to Arthur Forbes Montanaro by whom she produced several children, three of whom (all girls) died in infancy. After leaving India and settling in Grimsby she and Arthur produced at least one further daughter, but soon afterwards divorced. Flora remarried in

London in 1897 to Charles Northesk Wilson and by him produced a son Douglas. At the time of the 1901 Census they were living in Lower Bebington, Merseyside, Flora describing herself as an author and journalist. This marriage was not a success and some years later Flora entered into a relationship with an already-married author Hugh Laurenson Ames; he had married Kate Palmer in Kensington in 1890. In about 1908 Flora sailed to America with Hugh who was ostensibly granted a divorce from Kate in Idaho, whereupon he and Flora proceeded on to California where they married. Upon returning to England they then went again through a marriage ceremony in London in January 1911.

Just over a year later, in March 1912, Hugh and Flora were both arrested in Kensington and charged with bigamy, on the grounds that Hugh's divorce in Idaho was considered to have been unlawful. Several hearings at magistrates' courts followed and the case eventually came to trial at the Old Bailey in late April. Hugh and Flora both eventually pleaded guilty to bigamy and were sentenced to six months imprisonment. The case was reported extensively in the Press. In 1913 Hugh was able to divorce Kate and he then married Flora lawfully, in Kensington, in early 1914.

Flora had indeed already authored a number of books, including *All Among the Barley* (1882), *Poppy! A Novel* (1883), *A Social Scandal* (1893) and a novel about the Boer war, *Satan's Courier* (1904). In December 1910, even before her divorce-bigamy case had arisen, newspapers were advertising her latest work *The Book of Divorce: Its use and Abuse*, which included a 'monster petition' to be signed by the purchaser. She became widely known as an advocate of 'the purity of divorce'. She engaged vigorously in campaigns for women's votes, penal and prison reform, and against white slave traffic. As the Great War got underway she played a prominent role in the league of 'White Rose' clubs set up to support soldiers' wives. She had personally instituted such clubs at Manchester and elsewhere and in May 1915 gave public lectures in Bristol, hoping to secure interest there as well. It may be that Lionel, then living in Bristol, first became acquainted with her there.

Little mention was made of Flora in the British Press during the next ten years. She may have spent some of this period in Paris at the Psycho-Physiological Institute established and directed there by the parapsychologist Paul Joire, because in later years she stated that this was where she had studied medical botany – having become first interested in that subject in India in 1885 – and been awarded the degree of DSc. However, Flora was not simply a herbalist – she also subscribed strongly to belief in 'spiritual healing', perhaps inspired in this by Joire, an enthusiastic investigator of hypnotism and the paranormal. In 1925 she gave a talk on this subject at London's Scala Theatre and was reported as having previously lectured on the subject for some years in both Britain and America [*The Daily News* (London), 19 October 1925]. Besides this work she was also lecturing widely. At about this time she set up a medical botany consultancy in Manchester's St Anne's Square and by 1932 she had treated three thousand patients there; she also had consultation facilities elsewhere, such as the Minerva Club in London's Hunter Street. Also in London, around early 1932, she established a practice at West Lodge in Pembroke Gardens, the same address as given for Lionel in the telephone directory. In the Electoral Register for that year, Flora was listed as occupying this property but as having her abode at 18, St John's Park in Blackheath. Her public advertisements of her West Lodge practice spoke of treatments for rheumatism, growths, gallstones, nervous diseases and – especially – 'rejuvenation' [e.g. *Kensington News and West London Times*, 26 February 1932].

Rejuvenation had become a hot topic in the early 20th century, especially in relation to the subject of maintaining (or resurrecting) sexual capability. Flora had taken a keen interest in the work of the Franco-Russian surgeon and medical scientist Serge Voronoff who in the Twenties and Thirties had gained a substantial reputation (and personal fortune) from developing the practice of injecting into the testicles of thousands of men extracts from the corresponding organs of monkeys, as an intended anti-ageing therapy, as well as (supposedly) boosting their virility. These aims were also shared by the Viennese biologist Eugen Steinach; his approach was not injecting men with extracts but conducting partial vasectomies. Voronoff and Steinach were both serious scientific investigators and although most of their ideas were later rebutted they were credited with having laid important foundations in endocrinology and, in particular, elucidation of the roles of oestrogen and testosterone.

Lionel and Flora came together on 18 April 1932 when, in Kensington Town Hall, they each presented a talk to a large women-only audience. The primary lecture on this occasion was to be Flora's, entitled 'Rejuvenation of Woman – The Glands and their Secretions'. Lionel, sporting his DO qualification and described as 'the well-known osteopathic surgeon', was in the Chair and firstly gave a talk himself on the subject of 'pre-natal determination' [*Kensington News and West London Times*, 22 April 1932]. This phrase could have had various meanings, such as the business of inferring a person's date of birth from the date of their conception, or of predicting the onset of a woman's pregnancy from her astrological birth sign.

Flora then delivered her lecture, expounding eruditely and critically on the works of Voronoff and Steinach but, in emphasizing her own approach,

‘held her audience with a vivid description of the methods of Botano Therapy, the rousing of the puberty glands, the whole regeneration of the body through the understanding of the law of secretions, the endocrines, and the system of cleansing’.

It was reported that before she began speaking, Lionel made his commendatory remarks and then ‘of course left the meeting’, perhaps so that the ladies could hear how their puberty glands might be aroused without the embarrassment of male company.

Ladies only. **Admission Free.**

Doctor FLORA AMES, D.Sc.,

TOWN HALL, KENSINGTON, Monday, April 18th, at 8,

REJUVENATION OF WOMAN—The Glands and their Secretions

Over 3000 patients have been treated in Manchester by the remarkable discoveries
in Medical Botany.

Chair: Lionel Atherton, D.O., etc. 2

Figure 16 The rejuvenation lecture: *Kensington News and West London Times*, 15 April 1932.

By 1933 the Electoral Register showed Flora and Hugh living in Pembroke Gardens, at No. 113 which may have been West Lodge; their abode was no longer in Blackheath. In that year Flora was reported as having inherited a million pounds from ‘the celebrated Rhys Edward Estates, which involve the whole of Broadway, New York’ [*Kensington News and West London Times*, 17 February 1933]. She continued lecturing on subjects such as rejuvenation and sexual psychology – besides less exciting matters such as constipation and catarrh – for the remainder of the Thirties and well into the Fifties, until her death in 1959. By then she had been made a Dame of the British Empire.

To Surrey and the stars, and a new institute

Notwithstanding Lionel's entries in the 1932 telephone directories, we do not know where he, Beatrice and their two teenage sons and young daughter were actually living at that time – those entries may have referred only to his places of business. Had Beatrice and the children been living with him in Clevedon, or had they stayed behind in Bristol? We do not know. In 1932 Lionel's daughter Esme, still in the Bedminster area, married to William J A White [GRO Ref: Long Ashton 5c 1415, 1932 (Q4)].

An interesting newspaper article published in late 1932 provides some corroboration of Lionel's connections with Clevedon [*Western Daily Press* (Bristol), 17 December 1932]. It recounts the proceedings of a public examination at the Bristol Bankruptcy Court on the day before of a certain debtor John Player Brawn who had been carrying on business as a ladder maker in Clevedon. Brawn said that he had first gone into business in 1920 as a fruit and market gardener, but in 1927 had become a dealer in second-hand cars, this business having been financed by his wife. This venture was a failure which he abandoned in August 1932. In 1929 he had also tried his hand as a land developer but failed in that too. After becoming a ladder maker in 1931 he had been sued for damages by a ladder-making company for copyright infringement. He now owed his wife, who had been propping up these business efforts, about £3,200 and she was not the only creditor. The most interesting aspect of his tale (for us) is the following part of the article:

‘The debtor was questioned at some length regarding a sum of £2,000 which was alleged had been given in the form of gifts to a Mr Atherton to help him in medical botany work, in which he had great faith. The Registrar: “It was your wife's money you were giving away to Atherton. You were being philanthropic with her money. That appears to be your story.” The Debtor: “My wife and I were trying to help Atherton to bring about a medical school, which he was trying to do. He was a man of great skill and had saved my wife's life.”... The Official Receiver stated that a composition of 15s in the £ had been made by the debtor, which the creditors were prepared to accept. The examination was closed.’

One other curious detail in the article was the fact that Brawn's car-dealing business had been named 'The Ammon Motor Company'. The name 'Ammon' has special significance in relation to Atherton as will be seen later in the discussion of his last years in Cockfosters and the circumstances of his death there.

Lionel's ambition to establish a medical school and/or nursing home had begun taking shape in about 1930. He described the steps towards this in his later bankruptcy hearings [Bankruptcy Synopses 8, 10, 13], explaining the role played by one of the patients he had treated at Clevedon, a 'trained and registered matron' named Mrs Berry. As his Clevedon premises were inadequate, Mrs Berry made him an interest-free loan of £2,000 to obtain larger premises near London. In one narrative he said the loan had been made in about 1930 and that its purpose had been to serve as a deposit on a house to equip as a nursing home. Dunley Hill House on Ranmore Common in Surrey had been identified by him in early 1934 as a suitable such house. Had he really been holding on to her money for 3 or 4 years until he could find a suitable property? It seems unlikely and it may be that the loan was made later than 1930.

Dunley Hill House, on the southern outskirts of Effingham parish, was a large and rather grand mansion built in the late 1880s for Admiral Frederick Augustus Maxse. After his death in 1900 the freehold had remained in the hands of the Maxse family until the early 1930s, with the house occupied by a succession of tenants. Earlier attempts to sell it had been unsuccessful (in 1930 it had been offered at the 'upset price' of £4,000) but in November 1932 it was again advertised, at a 'bargain price' [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 4 November 1932]. Lionel was to make this his home and a place of business for much of his remaining life, whilst also having business premises elsewhere.



Figure 17 Frederick Augustus Maxse in the Crimea, 1855.

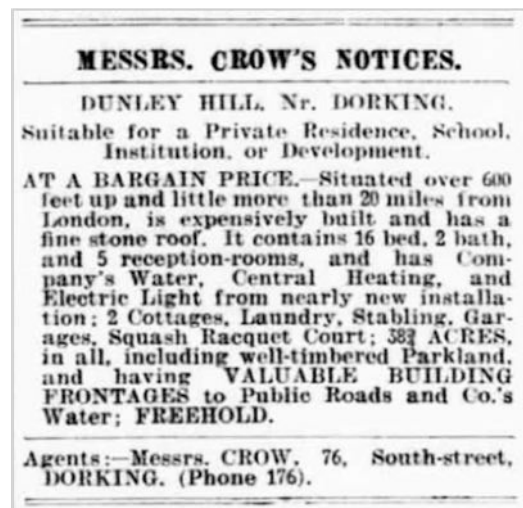


Figure 18 Dunley Hill for sale in November 1932.

Evidently [Bankruptcy Synopses 1, 8] Lionel took occupancy of the house on the basis of a sale agreement dated 23 April 1934 between him and two other persons, joint freeholders, the Right Honourable Godfrey Walter Baron Phillimore (2nd Baron Phillimore) and Arthur Fitzgerald Sandys Hill (6th Baron Sandys). We do not know whether Phillimore and Sandys Hill bought Dunley Hill for themselves as some sort of investment and then decided to sell it on, the next buyer happening to be Atherton, or, they bought it in the guise of patrons, with the intent from the outset of securing it for Lionel who did not have either the ready money or any collateral himself with which to make the purchase. Lord Phillimore descended from an ancient family who, centuries before, had come into possession of the most exclusive estate in London, known today as the Phillimore Estate in Kensington. We have not been able to establish a connection between him and Sandys Hill but they clearly had a joint interest in Dunley Hill. Lionel had apparently declined to purchase the freehold at this time, notwithstanding the £2,000 that Mrs Berry had lent him for

such a purpose. Asked why, at his later bankruptcy hearing, he said that he had preferred to use most of her money to further his research into a 'cancer paste' and that only about £700 had remained at the time of the sale agreement. He had presumably also spent all (or the best part of) the other £2,000 that he had been given by the (now bankrupt) Clevedon ladder maker Mr. Brawn. So, instead of buying the property outright he undertook by this sale agreement to complete the purchase within three years, that is, no later than 23 April 1937, for £3,600. Under this arrangement he would pay the vendors £150 p.a. until completion. If he not had completed by the due date then he could thereafter occupy the house and pay them 5% interest on the unpaid purchase money. According to Lionel, he began occupying Dunley Hill House in about May 1934. He was not listed in Effingham's Electoral Register until 1935. Subsequently, a document about his new facility at the house claimed, seemingly inaccurately, that it had been 'founded in 1932'.

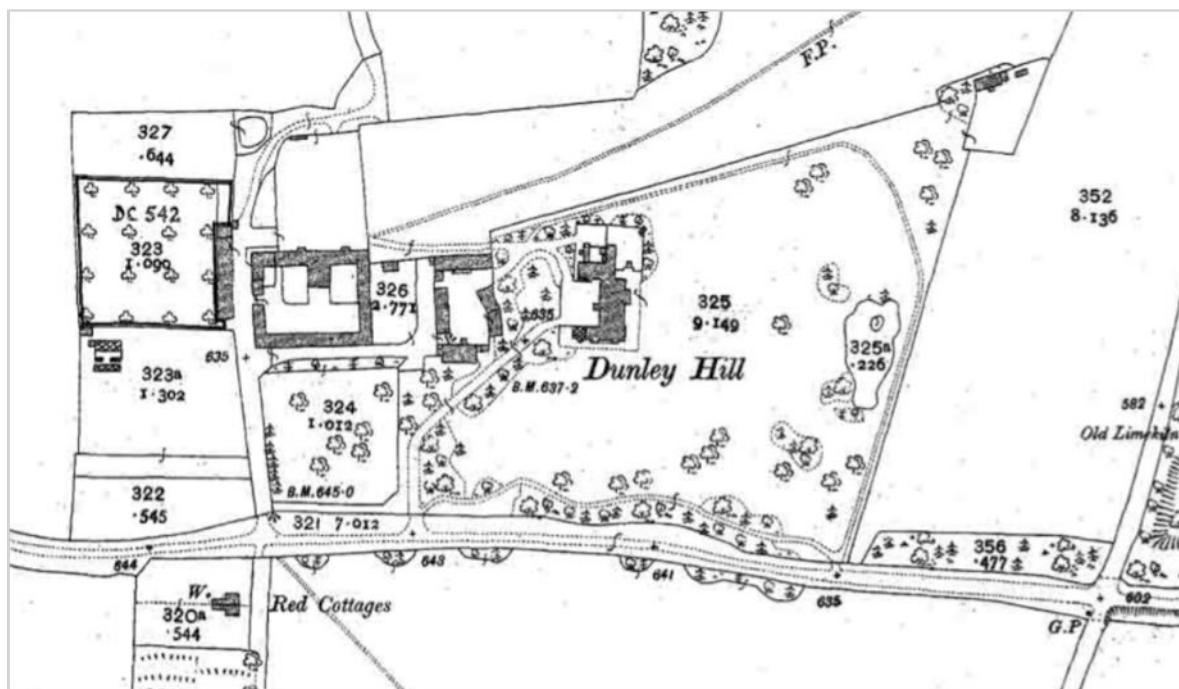


Figure 19 Dunley Hill on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map, the main house being at the centre.



Figure 20 Dunley Hill House, looking north-west – the main facade seen here is the eastern one; postcard photograph taken probably no later than 1910.



Figure 21 Lt Godfrey Walter Phillimore.

Given the extent to which this facility was already equipped, staffed and advertised by that date, it seems inconceivable that all this could have been put in place in the space of one month, or even of several months. Perhaps, then, preparations had begun well before the start date of the sale agreement, for instance in recruiting nurses, procuring and installing X-ray equipment and creating wards within the building, and perhaps he and his family had been occupying the house under some temporary pre-sale arrangement earlier in 1934. His timeline given above was in any case incorrect in suggesting he had taken the Welbeck Street premises some time after 1937 – he had provably been there as early as 1935.

Meanwhile, he was also continuing to give public lectures. His enthusiasm for astrology had not dimmed since the Hume case. It may even have foretold to him the wisdom of investing future time and resources in his new venture in Effingham. On 2 January 1933 he gave an evening lecture entitled 'Astrology in Medicine' at the New Thought Centre, Boston Hall in Reading [advertised in *The Reading Standard*, 31 December 1932]. The Centre had been set up with the intention of devoting its activities to 'truth'.

We do not know the content of Lionel's lecture but it no doubt touched on the usual astrological beliefs that the stars and planets influenced individuals' states of health as well as indicating the appropriate remedies. Astrology had been the foundation of ancient medicine (and likewise of ancient chemistry) but had been fiercely repudiated by the orthodox medical profession for more than two centuries [*Astrology in Medicine: the Fitzpatrick Lectures* by Charles Arthur Mercier MD, Royal College of Surgeons, publ. MacMillan & Co, London, 1914].

Lionel had apparently been conducting 'researches in the medical and botanical side of Astrology' [*The British Journal of Astrology*, Vol. 26, October 1932, p11]. We shall see presently that he would be much in the news a few years later, when he deployed his astrological skills in a quite different field.

Lionel was still being listed in the telephone directory for Clevedon during 1932-33. We can only speculate on his abodes and movements in this period. In 1933 his father Edwin Richard, still at the Dean Lane house in Bedminster, died at age 75 and this event may have preoccupied Lionel for some time. Administration of Edwin's effects – valued at just over £100 – was, however, granted to Lionel's married sister Pataranella.

Lionel's statements about his movements in the Thirties are confusing. In one instance [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8] he said that after having the flat in Kensington he then moved in 1934 to a different flat in Buckingham Gate and was there until 1937 but then moved again to a flat in Cavendish Square for six months, then to Welbeck Street for a short time and finally (by 1939) to a flat at Barrie House in Lancaster Gate. The likely interpretation here is that these were places in which he conducted his osteopathic or other therapeutic practices and in which he was able also to reside for periods when he was not in Effingham managing his facilities there. We do know for certain that his new institute at Dunley Hill was opened with some degree of public fanfare on 21 May 1934, just one month after he had entered the agreement with Phillimore and Sandys Hill.



Figure 22 No. 24, Welbeck Street (modern view).

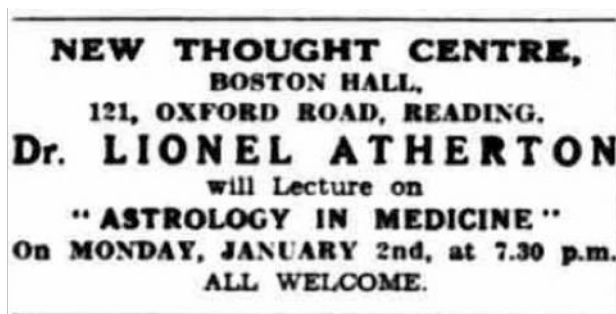


Figure 23 Lionel's lecture in Reading on 2 January 1933.

He was also busy in this period with a new organisation dealing with herbal medicine – or more precisely, with ‘botano therapy’. Herbalism had experienced a very chequered existence in Britain during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and this history is well described in a paper by P S Brown [*The Vicissitudes of Herbalism in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Britain*, in *Medical History*, Vol 29, 1985, pp71-92]. A Royal Commission in 1914 was told that there were about 2,500 herbalists in Britain. Perhaps only a third of them could be regarded as *bona fide* practitioners and only a minority of these claimed membership of any of the available associations. For example, in 1914 the membership of the NAMH was only about 200, as it had been in 1882; in 1937-38 it was just 189. Herbalism had had some dark corners too, one of which was its use by some to induce abortions in unregulated circumstances. Nearly all herbalists opposed vaccination, especially when legally compelled, and most were opposed to vivisection. Besides all this, there was a deep philosophical divide between the belief systems of the herbalists and those of the established medical profession. All these factors, and yet others, militated against the herbalists gaining the recognition they craved, especially in legislative and governmental circles. They also did themselves no favours by failing to form themselves into a single cohesive body. As Brown [*op cit*] wrote, ‘... through the 1930s and early 40s a bewildering number of federations and associations came into being, often only for brief periods’.

The NAMH, realising that training and certification were important badges of credibility, opened a College of Botanic Medicine in London in 1931, but this lasted only until 1940. However, in that same year a past president of the NAMH, unimpressed with its performance, urged its members to join instead another body, the Medical Botany Union whose president was the earlier-mentioned Flora Ames. Other proposals of his soon resulted in his expulsion from the membership of the NAMH. He then became a member of a newly-formed organisation named the Institute of Botano Therapy (IBTh) – which had evidently been recently set up by Lionel.

In 1933 a limited company named the Institute of Botano Therapy Ltd was registered, its ‘Council’ (presumably meaning its Board of Directors) consisting of Lionel (his address given as 34, Lancaster Gate, W2), C B Walker of Wakefield and two others [*Halifax Evening Courier*, 14 November 1933]. Walker, who would act as Secretary for the IBTh, had previously explained in the journal *Medical Herbalist* that he declined to join the NAMH because it would not repudiate (and therefore, in his view, condoned) ‘the evil practices which surround the craft’. The role of the new company would be ‘to found and control the College of Botano Therapy and the Association of Dispensers of Botanic Medicine, etc’. The precise intended nature of these latter entities is unclear. Earlier that year the IBTh Secretary had written to Sir Hilton Young, Minister of Health, requesting legal status for ‘qualified practitioners of the Botanic School of Medicine’ (yet another title – for the afore-mentioned ‘College?’). In the Commons the Minister was asked what steps he proposed to take in response to this letter [*Hansard*, Vol 277, 25 April 1933]; it appears that he took no such steps.

In January 1934, Lionel now staged the first annual conference of the IBTh. It was a two-day event held at the Grand Hotel in Leicester and concluded with a dinner on the night of the 4th. In the Press reports of the occasion, Lionel was described variously as ‘the president of the British Federation of Natural Therapists [sic–Therapeutics]’ (BFNT) and as ‘the president of the Institute of Botano-Therapy’. Speaking to a reporter on the 3rd [*Leicester Evening Mail*, 3 January 1934], Lionel stated that ‘our college’, ‘the men, the training and the ability’ provided the answer to unregistered medical practice and stressed that the IBTh was not to be confused with ‘back-streets herbalist quacks’. The IBTh ‘sought legal responsibility from the Privy Council for the osteopath, the psycho-therapeutic practitioner and the natural-therapeutic practitioner’. Speaking at the concluding dinner on the 4th, Lionel stated that an anonymous donor had offered to place £50,000 at the disposal of the IBTh's board and that this donor was already ‘assisting financially in the establishment of a college of natural healing’ [*Leicester Evening Mail*, 4 January 1934].

(This 'college' was his forthcoming new facility in Effingham.) He mentioned that when people in London saw him they said "Here comes 'Athy' with his nature-pathic baby" and he also recalled that many years previously he had 'cured the daughter of the Mayor of Leicester, Sir William Vincent' [*Leicester Evening Mail*, 5 January 1934]. He stated that 820 osteopathic students had recently been enrolled and that there were 3,000 undergoing training to become osteopathic physicians. It was intended to hold a second conference of the IBTh at Whitsuntide; but that intent was perhaps submerged by the opening of the new 'college' in May, as discussed next.

The aforementioned Mayor of Leicester William Wilkins Vincent had been born in Bristol in 1843. One of his siblings was John Wilton Vincent, born in Bristol in 1846, who in 1882 married Caroline (née) Compton. It is not impossible that Caroline was related to Lionel's great-grandmother Ann (née Compton). In 1888 John and Caroline, who by then had moved to Leicestershire, produced a daughter Elizabeth Compton (née) Vincent. In 1916, in Leicester, Elizabeth married the ladder maker John Player Brawn. She must therefore have been first-cousin to the Mayor's 'cured' daughter. Perhaps this is why she and her husband had been willing to give thousands of pounds to Lionel.



Figure 24 Lionel (at centre) at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Botano Therapy in January 1934.

The first British osteopathic hospital

Lionel's new facility at Dunley Hill House was formally opened on Whit Monday, 21 May 1934. By then the house had been renamed as Sun Haven. It was not named as such in the Effingham Electoral Register until 1935. The name was presumably chosen to reflect that of the property of the similar name Sunhaven in Clevedon at which Lionel had been listed in the 1932 directory.

The opening seems not to have been widely reported in the Press but an article about it did appear in *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* on 26 May 1934. It makes interesting reading:

'NATURAL HEALING COLLEGE. New Home Opened in Surrey. On Monday Sun Haven, the Atherton Triune Healing Home, was opened, under the auspices of the British Federation of Natural Therapeutics, by Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

The home, which is on the edge of Ranmore Common, near Dorking, contains two grades of private rooms besides the screened private wards. The rooms command an uninterrupted view of the Surrey countryside, and the grounds are some 40 acres in extent. There is also a fine gallery lounge, ballroom, and dining-room on the ground floor for the use of patients, and

upstairs are the private rooms, wards and therapeutic rooms. There is a well-equipped electro-therapeutic theatre, manipulation theatre, X-ray room, and hydro-therapeutic room.

The establishment is under the personal supervision of Lionel Atherton and a resident staff of nurses trained in both orthodox as well as natural healing methods. There will be a number of visiting physicians to assist in the work, and, while natural healing methods are advocated, the building is fitted for any form of medical, surgical, maternity, or convalescent cases. Chalets are to be erected in the grounds so that open-air treatment can be carried out in suitable cases.

After the establishment had been declared open the guests were conducted over the premises and then entertained to dinner.'

The lady who opened it was Emilie Louise Lind-af-Hageby, known familiarly as Lizzy. She had for many years been a formidable leading feminist, activist and orator in the campaigns for women's rights, animal rights, international peace-making and vegetarianism. She was especially opposed to vivisection and in 1903 had been at the centre of a major libel trial one outcome of which, four years later in 1907, was the episode of massive public disorder in central London that came to be known as the Brown Dog Riots. Then in 1913 she was involved, as plaintiff, in another major libel trial at which the judge commented 'She is a woman of marvellous power', saying that she had cross-examined as well as any barrister could have done. She lost the case but rose substantially in the public's estimation of her.



Figure 25 Emilie Louise Lind-af-Hageby.

In 1906 Lind-af-Hageby had founded the Animal Defence and Anti-Vivisection Society. Its annual report for 1934 (published in 1935) contained this account of her opening of Sun Haven:

'On Whit Monday, 1934, she opened the Atherton Triune College of Healing at Sun Haven, Ranmore Common, near Dorking. This Institution, which is under the auspices of the British Federation of Natural Therapeutics, registers another step in the progress towards sane and natural methods of healing. Set in scenery of great natural beauty, 600 feet above the level of the sea, this Healing Home is devoted to the practical carrying out of three ways of healing, i.e. osteopathy, psycho-therapy and botano-therapy.'

We have not been able to discover any details about the above-mentioned Federation (BFNT) – was it just another construct in Lionel's imagination, or perhaps an adjunct to his IBTh?

The second of the above reports potentially makes a very useful contribution to our interpretation of the term 'triune' as used in the title of Lionel's new healing home and of some of his lectures. In general the term is used to signify the presentation of some entity as a manifestation of three distinct components; for example, it has long been used as a formal term in the Christian theological concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) as well as in scientific modelling of consciousness (brain cells, sensory information, internal perception). In Lionel's case it apparently applied to the notion of healing being accomplished through three agencies – osteopathic, psycho-therapeutic, botano-therapeutic – as depicted on the front of his Sun Haven brochure. This particular trinity of methods made no accommodation for the methods of conventional medicine such as synthetic drugs and invasive surgery.

The Dorking Museum and Heritage Centre holds two items relating to the Sun Haven hospital. One of them [Dorking Museum, Ref: E269] is a 1935 promotional calendar consisting of a single-sheet of card folded so as to present exterior front and back covers, the interior sides of which present the calendar. The front cover bears the main title 'The First British Osteopathic Hospital' with the subtitles 'Incorporating the Atherton Triune Healing Home' and 'Founded in 1932'. Lionel is named as the Principal, with qualifications 'D.O., M I.BTh., F.B.I.M.M.S. (LOND)', and the Director of Education is named as none other than Marshall (Ernest) Brown. M.A. (OXON), the former co-respondent with Lionel in the 1928 Hume case. Underneath a picture of Sun Haven is a telephone number for Lionel's London Consulting Room (then at 24, Welbeck Street in St Marylebone). Beneath this is the most tantalising feature – the words 'Send for beautifully illustrated brochure'. Very fortunately, we have been able to acquire a scan

of this brochure from one of Lionel's descendants [Personal Correspondence, 6 October 2023], and it tells us much about the facilities there. It is presented in Appendix II. The back cover of the calendar has only a photograph showing the interior of a chalet bearing the title 'Interior of Revolving Vita-Glass Chalet'. Vita-glass had been recently invented as a means of admitting ultra-violet light through the glass, for supposedly health-giving benefits. This particular chalet revolved, we may suppose, in order to capture the sunlight throughout the day.

The other museum item [Dorking Museum, Ref: E270] is a 'Washing Book' (effectively a small leaflet) issued to customers of the Dorking Electric and Hand Laundry Company which was evidently located on the 'Ranmore Road'. This particular item, according to the entry written on the front, had been in the possession of a 'Nurse Hayburn' at Sun Haven. Who she was we do not know and when she had this book we cannot say; the instructions inside had been formulated in 1930.

The features listed in the account of Sun Haven's opening sound quite impressive, especially the provision of X-ray equipment and resident nursing staff. Lionel must have invested a lot of money in acquiring this exceptionally large house with its extensive grounds and associated outbuildings, together with converting its interior to provide the facilities of a hospital and nursing home. The viability of this enterprise would depend upon whether Lionel's income, by way of fees from the hospital's patients, his London consultancy, his lecturing and so forth, would cover the overheads, including the financing of any loans. We currently have little insight into these details other than what was revealed in his bankruptcy hearings.

It may not have been easy to attract new staff to Sun Haven, or to retain them. The property was somewhat remote and had only a small community in its vicinity, aspects that might not have appealed to the young or the sociable.



Figure 26 Lionel, probably in the 1930s.



Figure 27 The rear and front covers of the Sun Haven promotional calendar for 1935.

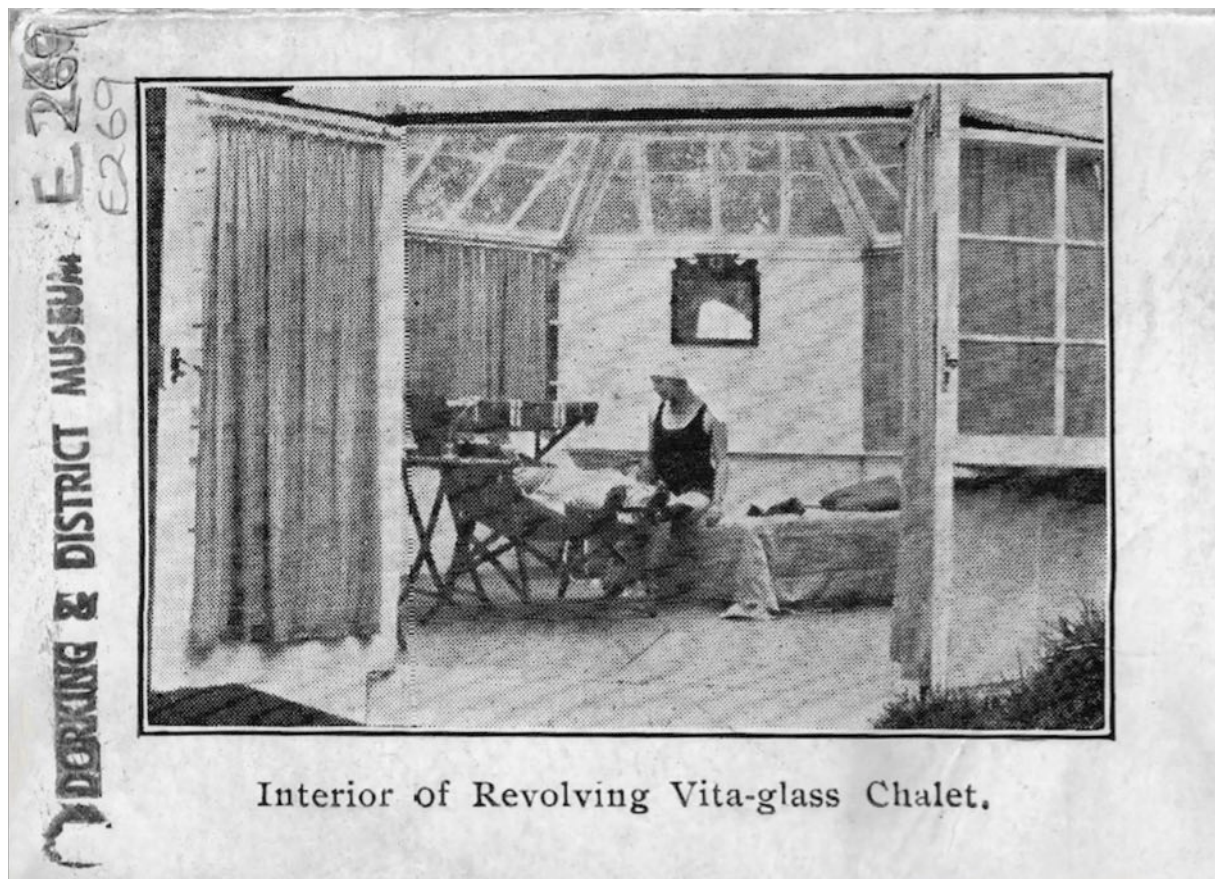


Figure 28 Expanded view of the rear cover of the promotional calendar.

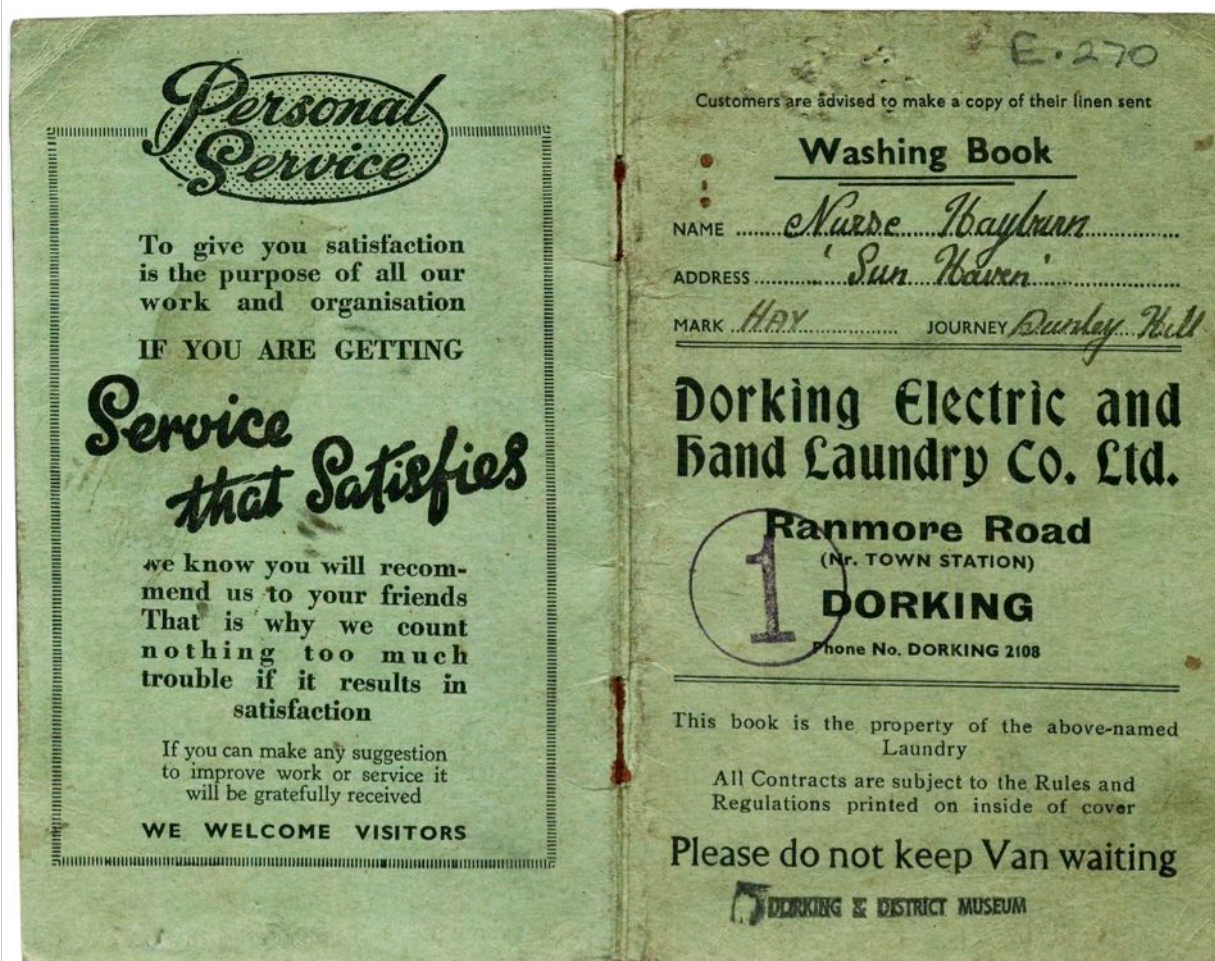


Figure 29 Nurse Hayburn's Washing Book at Sun Haven, 1930s.



Figure 30 Sun Haven postcard showing the main entrance on the western side of the house, mid-1930s.



Figure 31 Main entrance to Sun Haven (modern view).



Figure 32 Motif with Latin 'Salve Vive Vale' above the main entrance to Sun Haven (modern view); an arguably appropriate translation might be 'Welcome, Thrive, Depart'.

In January 1935 Lionel's wife placed an advertisement seeking a 'good' cook and also a maid for kitchen and scullery work [*Western Morning News*, 26 January 1935]. As the hospital had been open for over six months it must surely have had a resident cook from the start; if so, they had apparently resigned. This advertisement is a rare mention of Beatrice, who otherwise appears only in the Electoral Register from year to year. She is not to be found in any of the reports we possess about the local social life before the War. This is perhaps unsurprising given the distance between Sun Haven and the village centres of Effingham and the Horsleys. It would, however, have been close to the excitements of the town of Dorking.

A month later her son Lionel George, just 18, was fined £3 at the Dorking Petty Sessions for two trivial regulatory offences relating to his car [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 23 February 1935]. His solicitor told the court that the teenager had just been set up in business by his father and that the regulations that had been breached were extremely easy to misunderstand.

Zodiacal cell salts, two deaths and rejuvenation

In 1935 an advertisement appeared that possibly illuminates what Lionel had in mind when (as noted above) the aims of IBTh Ltd were asserted to include the founding and control of an 'Association of Dispensers of Botanic Medicine'. The advertisement [*The British Journal of Astrology*, Vol. 28, May 1935] bore the title 'The Cell Salt Remedies' and stated that readers of the Journal could purchase a month's supply of cell salts in tablet form from the 'Circle Cell Salt Co of Dunley Hill' by sending a 2s 6d postal order to the Journal's editor. The editor was Ernest Henry Bailey (1876-1963) who was deeply involved in astrology for many decades. He styled himself as the Director and Treasurer of the 'British Institute of Medical Astrology and Metaphysical Science'. The letters 'F.B.I.M.M.S.' appearing after Lionel's name on the promotional calendar discussed earlier must have been intended to signify that he was a Fellow of this body.

The medical astrologists associated, one-to-one, twelve particular inorganic salts with the twelve signs of the Zodiac – for instance, potassium phosphate with Aries, sodium sulphate with Taurus, etc. They believed that these salts were in turn related to twelve particular functions of the body and that administering the salts would remedy the deficiencies in those functions that were responsible for disease. These ideas had been developed and promoted by the American occultist and homeopath George Washington Carey who had been much influenced by the German naturopathic doctor Wilhelm Heinrich Schussler. The cell salt tablets evidently being formulated and dispensed from Sun Haven were just one example among the vast range of allegedly curative pills being touted every day in newspapers across the continent.

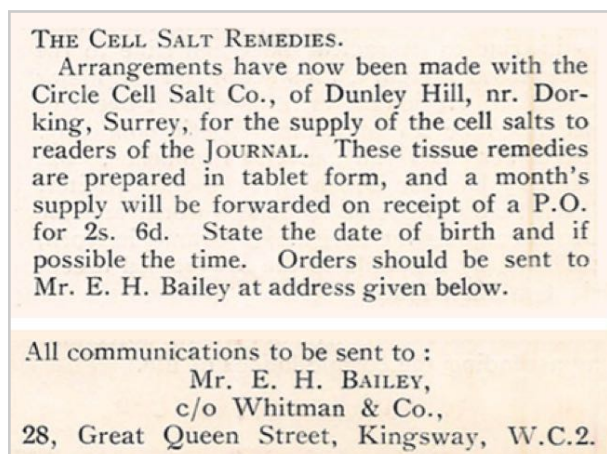


Figure 33 Dunley Hill Cell Salts advertised in *The British Journal of Astrology*, Vol. 28, May 1935.

In May there was an unexpected death at Sun Haven – the resident governess of Lionel's youngest daughter Joy Marguerite had been found dead on the floor of her bedroom there on the morning of Friday 24 May [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 June 1935]. She was an unmarried Scots lady described as aged '63' (but actually 64) and named Anaple May Gibb. Sun Haven's secretary, Miss Doris Mabel Vaughan Wilson, then aged only about 22, had taken Miss Gibb's breakfast to her room but been unable to elicit a response to her knocking. The door could

not be opened owing to Miss Gibb's habit of locking it upon retiring. Miss Wilson told the hospital's Sister to find a man able to break down the door, which was duly done. They found Miss Gibb still dressed in the outdoor clothes she had worn the day before, during a visit to London; a doctor pronounced her dead. At an inquest held at Shalford on 27 May, following post-mortem, it was determined that she had died from a cerebral haemorrhage.

A second death at Sun Haven occurred five months later, on 10 October. The person concerned was a patient, James Henry Sharrock aged 69. Four years earlier he had been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the major shipping company Elder Dempster Lines Ltd operating mainly from Liverpool, his birthplace. Besides this he had held directorships in many other major companies. His wife had died two years previously. A highly appreciative account of the long career of this distinguished man was published in *The Journal of Commerce and Shipping Telegraph* on 11 October. His funeral, attended by very many mourners, was held on 14 October at St Peter's Church in Formby. Probate was granted on 20 December to his children Kenneth and Olga (being the named Executors), his effects valued initially as £11,610 and subsequently re-sworn at £8,492. The details of Sharrock's Will and their relevance to Lionel will be discussed in the next section.

In late October of 1935 Lionel was once again presiding over a rejuvenation lecture. This was delivered on 28 October at the North End Hall in Croydon by a 'Dr Henry Chellew DSc etc (Lecturer to London University)'. The event was chaired by Lionel, described in the advertisements as President of the BFNT, the organisation under whose auspices his Sun Haven hospital had been opened. Chellew was another



Figure 34 Ernest Henry Bailey;
 Editor of *The British Journal of Astrology*.

devotee of unconventional interests. Born on 11 October 1880 in Liskeard, Cornwall, he was registered at birth as 'Harry'. He has not been found with certainty in any censuses prior to 1921. In 1919, presenting himself as 'Lecturer, School of Economics and Political Science', he gave a lecture at St Leonard's, Hastings on 'The United States of the World'.

This seems an ostensibly conventional sort of topic, even if we cannot discern its meaning. However, in the following year Chelley was quoted as saying that 'Nature seems to decide in advance, by face and gesture, what many people are best fitted for' [*The Catholic Journal*, 20 July 1930]. He evidently believed that 'by studying the faces of children, parents and teachers may obtain valuable guidance as to their future careers'. He claimed the qualifications of MA, PhD and DSc and in 1928 was described as a Professor and a 'Lecturer on Philosophy to the University of London' in the publication of an essay entitled 'Mental Distraction' [*Encyclopedia of Psychology*, Psychology Foundation SA, Brussels, 1928]. In 1931 he – now described as an economist – gave a talk on 'The Future of the Small Trader' at a meeting of the South Ealing Traders' Association, the content of this talk appearing entirely rational [*Middlesex County Times*, 6 June 1931]. However, this stood in contrast to the advertisement placed in the *Leicester Evening Mail* on 3 December 1934 inviting applicants to the International Phrenological and Psychological Institute (based at 3, Museum Square in Leicester) whose listed staff included Chelley. At the time of the 1939 National Register Chelley was living at 13, St Anne's Villas in Kensington with his wife Hylde whom he had married in 1926; his entry describes him as a 'Scientist (University Professor)'.

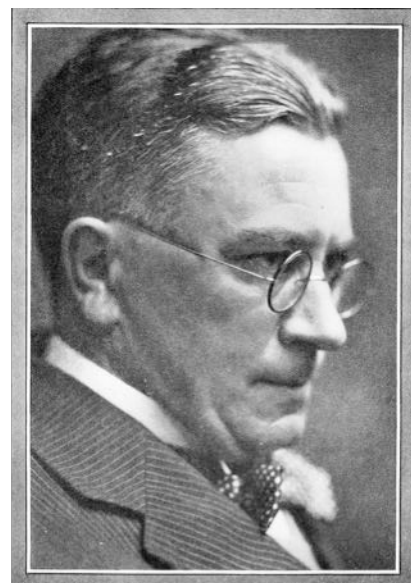


Figure 35 Henry Chelley, purveyor of unearned PhD degrees.

Chelley's doubtful character was later exposed in a hatchet job performed on him after the War in the pages of the *Sunday Dispatch*, issue of 26 September 1948. A Twickenham gentleman Mr Henry Thompson had received an unsolicited letter from an 'Académie Internationale', whose executive officer was Chelley, informing him that the degree of PhD had been conferred upon him. Puzzled by this, Thompson visited the academy's Registry from which the letter had been sent to discover it was just a single basement room. The reporter ascertained from the LSE that Chelley had never been a member of its lecturing staff, although thirty years earlier he had given lectures to some Army officer-cadets there.

The reporter also investigated the assertion in the academy's brochures that its president was the Duke of Athens; the Greek Embassy confirmed that Greece had no dukedoms. Finally, a five-page charter in Latin given by Chelley to the reporter conferred the honorary degrees of PhD or LLD and contained two blank spaces. Chelley told him 'You can fill those in, if you like, and give yourself the degree of doctor of philosophy or doctor of laws.' Chelley died aged 80 in 1961. The lecture on rejuvenation that he had delivered under Lionel's chairmanship in 1935 appears to have said nothing at all of significance: all it amounted to was the need for people 'to live rightly' and to recognize that they 'had to work to change their lives in any way' [*Croydon Times and Surrey County Mail*, 2 November 1935].

The ending of the year was marked by the marriage of Lionel's Director of Education, Marshall Ernest Brown, to a schoolmistress and blacksmith's daughter Clara Isabel (née) Wallis. Marshall's occupation was given as schoolmaster and his address as Sun Haven. They were married by Rev Harold Arthur Floud on 22 December 1935 at Effingham's St Lawrence Church.

A bequest disclaimed, triunism with songs and the Duke of Windsor's Aquarian star sign

Mr Sharrock's death received further mention in the Press three months later when the terms of his Will were brought to the public's attention. The Will had been made on 7 March 1934 and augmented with a Codicil on 22 October 1934. The Executors were to be his son Kenneth and his daughter Olga. The witnesses to the Codicil were Sun Haven's secretary and typist Doris Wilson (residing in Tooting Bec) and Freda Cecelia May Morgan (residing in Clifton, Bristol) described as a nurse. It appears that soon afterwards Freda took up residence in Sun Haven because she is listed there with the Athertons in the 1935 Electoral Register.

The provisions in the main body of the Will were straightforward: Olga was to receive £1,500 and all his house contents; two grandchildren were each to receive £2,000 upon reaching the age of 21; and the entire residue of his estate was to go to Kenneth. The Codicil, however, was more interesting:

‘Considering the benefit that I have received by the medical treatment of Lionel Atherton it is my desire that the mortgage of four thousand two hundred and fifty pounds on Dunley Hill house now known as Sun Haven, Ranmore Common in the County of Surrey for which the said Lionel Atherton is responsible to the mortgagees of the estate of Lord Phillimore and upon which he is paying interest at the rate of five percent per annum shall be redeemed and the property included as part of my estate. The interest and mortgage to be continued by the said Lionel Atherton for a period of not less than seven years. Also the side field and cottage which is now fenced off to the existing tennis court including the right of way through the existing lower gate to the front of the house and also a right of way through the lower field to make an entrance into Beech Avenue, according to existing arrangement I bequeath to the said Lionel Atherton for his use without hindrance of any kind. I am doing this in order that his work of spiritual and natural healing may be carried on should my health prevent me from helping according to my intention.’

At first sight the Codicil does not seem to make sense. What was meant by ‘the mortgage’ and where did this figure of £4,250 come from? If it were redeemed, why should Sun Haven be transferred to Mr Sharrock's estate, apparently conferring no benefit at all upon Lionel? Surely it would make more sense for the title to be transferred to Lionel. If the mortgage were redeemed, how could it then ‘be continued’ for at least seven more years? These enigmas arise from the Codicil having been sloppily phrased, which fact is itself a further enigma given the precise language of the main body of the Will and Mr Sharrock's highly-reputed business professionalism. The key here is to realise that although the term ‘mortgage’ is used in common parlance to mean a loan of money secured by a legal charge upon an asset, in legal terms it denotes only the mortgagee's security interest in that asset. Phillimore and Sandys Hill had not made a monetary loan to Lionel but had allowed him to occupy the house on certain terms, including a requirement to purchase it within three years; these obligations were his debt, as mortgagor, to them and until it was discharged their security lay in their retention meanwhile of the title. That security interest was ‘the mortgage’. The figure of £4,250 may have arisen only from Mr Sharrock mistakenly thinking this had been the price originally agreed for the eventual purchase, rather than £3,600. Redemption of the mortgage would entail the house being purchased from Phillimore and Sandys Hill out of Mr Sharrock's estate so that his residuary heir (his son Kenneth) would then hold the title. Continuation of ‘the mortgage’ thereafter would mean Kenneth allowing Lionel a further seven years in which to purchase the house from him; Kenneth would, in effect, have become the new mortgagee.

The newspapers took an interest in this because Lionel then claimed to have declined the bequest. His explanation was printed in *The Daily Post* (Liverpool) on 18 January 1936:

‘I have decided not to claim the bequest because of the help Mr Sharrock gave me during our association. He was a tower of strength, and was my guide and counsellor in many of my business affairs. He had a firm belief in the efficacy of the work undertaken at the hospital, and his daughter is actually helping me there now.

He came to me with nasal trouble, and I was at least able to relieve him of much pain. The founding of the hospital was largely due to his enthusiasm and his interest, and at the time of his death he was actually planning to make the work there far better known throughout the country.’

What Lionel was ostensibly declining was an entitlement to expect that Kenneth, under the terms of the Codicil, would now purchase Dunley Hill and allow Lionel a further seven years in which to occupy it.

A little more detail was offered on that same day by *The Daily Mirror* which stated that two years previously Sharrock, suffering from an incurable disease and given a few months to live, had gone to Sun Haven for osteopathic treatment by Lionel and had since lived for over two years. Lionel told the newspaper:

‘It is not necessary for me to claim the bequest, because Mr Sharrock's great generosity in the past has enabled me to redeem the mortgage myself. I did it unknown to him with the gifts which he so generously bestowed upon me. He had great faith in the treatment which he received at our hospital, and his gratitude showed itself by his assistance to me in my work. Two years ago he offered me an open cheque. I refused it because I did not wish to arouse criticism.’

Lionel's claim that he had in any case already redeemed the mortgage was untenable: he had not fulfilled the terms of the 1934 Sale Agreement and title still remained with Phillimore and Sandys Hill.

A few years later, when Lionel's bankruptcy case was heard in 1939, it became apparent that Mr Sharrock's involvement in the Sun Haven hospital project – and in Lionel's finances – had been far more substantial than the above reports indicated. It also emerged that Kenneth had related in a letter dated 12 July 1939 [Bankruptcy Synopsis 6] to his London solicitors that in 1936 he had forced Lionel, under threat of court action, to disclaim all interest in the Will (by signing a Disclaimer and Release form); he further observed that Lionel had then, through the newspapers in January 1936, 'tried to get as much advertisement out of his disclaimer as possible'. We will discuss the bankruptcy proceedings in the next section.

Mr Sharrock's daughter Olga, born in 1898, became in her twenties an amateur actress, making appearances in Liverpool and nearby Formby, and perhaps had aspirations towards professional acting. In 1925, for example, she appeared in Oscar Wilde's 'Lady Windermere's Fan' at the Crane Hall in a cast drawn from the Liverpool Repertory School of Dramatic Art [*The Stage*, 22 October 1925]. As mentioned above, by 1936 she was working in some capacity for Lionel, although she was not listed at Sun Haven in the Electoral Register. In March she and Lionel registered a new company named 'Olga Sharrock Dramatics Bureau Ltd' capitalised with £100 in one shilling shares [*The Stage*, 26 March 1936]. Its aim was 'To carry on the business of a school of dramatic art, elocution, physical culture, dancing, etc'. The Directors were just Olga (at Sun Haven) and Lionel as Chairman (at 24, Welbeck Street, i.e. his consulting premises in St Marylebone).

This company seems not to have prospered and in 1939 it was struck from the Companies House Register [*The London Gazette*, 10 February 1939] following a warning three months earlier [*The London Gazette*, 8 November 1938]. The 1939 National Register finds Olga living on private means at 54, Holland Park, Kensington. She spent her last years in Kent and died there in 1980.



Figure 36 James Henry Sharrock.



Figure 37 Olga's new company, March 1936.

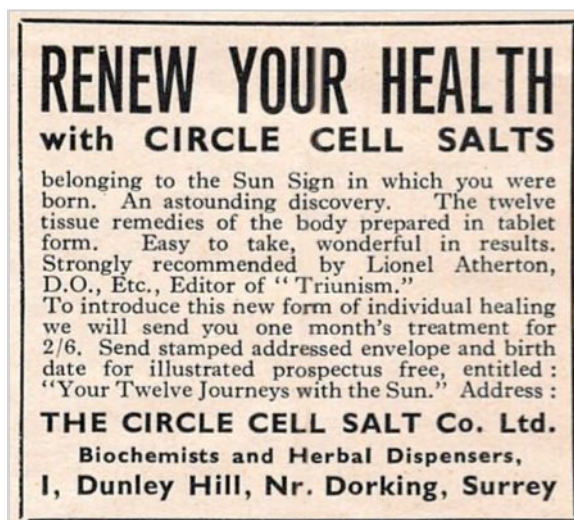


Figure 38 Dunley Hill Cell Salts advertised in *The Chemist and Druggist*, March 1936.

The Circle Cell Salt Co Ltd was advertised (rather belatedly) as a 'new company' in *The Chemist and Druggist* on 28 March 1936. It was described there as having been capitalised with about £100 and its aim was declared as 'To carry on the business of manufacturing chemists and druggists and manufacturers of toilet preparations, etc'. The sole Director was Lionel, at his 24, Welbeck Street premises. It was advertised in the occultist magazine *Prediction* in July 1936, giving its address as 1, Dunley Hill near Dorking; it is not clear whether this referred to the main Sun Haven house. Interestingly, it later turned out that this company had

been promoted in February 1936 not by Lionel but by Beatrice and that it was she who had made him its Director, giving him half of the 1000 fully-paid two-shilling shares; it was her business, selling herbal remedies and toilet preparations, but it never made any profit or paid out any dividends [Bankruptcy Synopsis 10].

In the 1936 telephone directory for London and the South-East, Lionel was listed at a third address besides those for Sun Haven and Welbeck Street: this third one was 3, Montpelier Street in Brighton, a very select street leading straight down to the sea front. In his title above all three addresses he was described as 'Osteopath Nature Cure Practitioner'.

As the year drew to its end, Lionel twice delivered a lecture, on two successive evenings at Worthing's Town Hall. The first was on the evening of Tuesday 15th, chaired by the Mayor of Worthing, and the second on the evening of Wednesday 16th, chaired by the Deputy Mayor. The subject was 'Triunism: The Twelve Types of Human Development and the Conquest of Disease'. Judging by the emphasis on the number twelve, his exposition was based on the Zodiacal signs; perhaps the event even offered an opportunity to promote the magical cell salts. One of the advertisements used the heading 'National Health Campaign' and invited the public to 'Hear the Dynamic and Brilliant Health Leader' [*The Worthing Herald*, 5 December 1936]. It also stated that Lionel had previously presented this lecture at the Royal Albert Hall. The health campaign was under the auspices of the BFNT of which Lionel was the President. On both evenings the lecture would be preceded by songs sung by the soprano Winnie Melville.

A second advertisement [*The Worthing Herald*, 12 December 1936] was almost entirely about her, simply noting of Lionel – 'the well-known osteopath' – that she would sing before his lectures. It stated that she had become interested in natural healing and through a mutual friend had learned of Lionel's work, whence she offered immediately to sing at his lectures 'and so fulfil the request of a large number of Worthing people who asked for her return'. We cannot know whether the eventual audiences attended more to hear him than to hear her. Descendants have kindly supplied us with a scan of a flyer for these lectures [Pers Corr, 7 October 2023]. It is presented in Appendix III.

It is not surprising that Melville grabbed this opportunity. She had had a significant career as a professional and famed concert singer and actress for over quarter of a century, appearing at many venues in London, Paris, New York and elsewhere. By the 1930s, her star had waned somewhat and she withdrew from performing for several years, then strove to make a comeback, singing regularly at the Worthing Pavilion. She was in financial difficulties and becoming alcoholic, however, and in failing health. Her mother made great efforts to curtail the drinking. In July 1937 Melville, who had been experiencing frequent falls and was often seen bearing bruises from them, took a fall outside a Ramsgate hotel while suffering some kind of fit.

After treatment in Ramsgate and London hospitals she returned to her flat where, on the 17th, she again had a fit. She was taken to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington where she died on the 19th, aged just 42. An inquest on the 21st determined that she had died from 'sub-dural haemorrhage caused by a fall and accelerated by cirrhosis of the liver due to alcoholism' [*The Evening Telegraph*, 21 September 1937].

One other detail of Lionel's lecture aroused Press interest, namely that he had declared that 'only one per cent of children born today are wanted'. He had called it an 'appalling situation', saying that 'the layman never saw the horror of hospital wards to which children had come as the result of ignorance, filth and disease' [*The Worthing Herald*, 19 December 1936].

NATIONAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN
Under the Auspices of The British Federation of Natural Therapeutics.

Hear The Dynamic and Brilliant Health Leader

LIONEL ATHERTON
D.O., M.I.B.H. (Lond.)
President of the British Federation.
Founder of the First British Osteopathic Hospital

ON

TRIUNISM
The Twelve Types of Human Development
And the Conquest of Disease.

This lecture was delivered by Dr Atherton at the Royal Albert Hall, and explains the new triune healing in a practical and interesting manner. For details see bills.

AT THE TOWN HALL

The Chair will be taken by
His Worship the
MAYOR OF WORTHING
(Alderman C. B. Barber, J.P.).
at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15th.

Wednesday, December 16th, at 8 p.m.,
the **DEPUTY MAYOR** (Alderman W. G. Tree) will preside.

Special Engagement of
WINNIE MELVILLE
The Star of the "Vagabond King," in songs from her famous repertoire.
Miss Melville will prelude the lectures.

A limited number of reserved seats 2/-, including tax. Book at Mansfield's Music Salons Worthing. Remainder of hall free. Collection to defray expenses.

Figure 39 Lionel in Worthing, 1936.



Figure 40 Winnie Melville by Bassano Ltd, bromide print, 1923,
NPG x83300 © National Portrait Gallery, London.

Lionel's last lecture of the year took place on 18 December at the Grottrian Hall in London's Wigmore Street [*News Chronicle*, 19 December 1936]. It was delivered to members of the Federation of British Astrologers, assembled for their conference. Lionel was described in advertisements for this event as the President (not merely a Fellow, as in May 1935) of the British Institute of Medical Astrology and Metaphysical Science. The number of seats in this long-established and beautiful concert hall was 425 but the audience – of which three quarters were women – occupied only 39. Among the various speakers was Dr Isidore Kozminsky whose specialist interest was in the astrological properties of gems – in 1922 he had authored a major work 'The Magic and Science of Jewels and Stones' containing many fascinating details. At this conference he explained how he constructed and sold personal talismen holding, for any particular customer, the gem most appropriate to them as judged using a map of the heavens at the time of their birth. Another contributor, Mr E Bray, discussed an 'influence in the universe' which affected the cut and shuffle of cards so that gamblers were given good or bad cards according to the moon's position in relation to the gamblers' horoscopic dispositions.

The talk that really gripped the attention of the audience and the Press was Lionel's, who began by stating that he and other astrologers had known for years that the former King Edward VIII would abdicate (Edward had done so about a week earlier). He also said that ten years previously he had predicted that Edward, being at that time the Prince of Wales, would take the name of Windsor. But more than that, he predicted that Edward, who had now become the Duke of Windsor and left the country, would return to Britain within the next ten years as the leader of Britain's social life, and that there would then be a division between Church and State. Lionel explained to a reporter that the Duke of Windsor's birth sign was Aquarius, which indicated that the Duke was 'of the people' as distinct from 'of the Crown'. He told his audience, looking 'very grave', that he could not touch deeply on the subject 'for international reasons'.

Clouds gathering

The preceding narrative of Lionel's activities up to 1936 was drawn mostly from what we have found in newspaper reports, in which he was often visible through his advertising, public speaking and conference attending in various parts of the country. It is striking that this visibility seems then to have come to an abrupt end. One gains the impression that, for whatever reason, things were not going well.

The nurse Freda Morgan who had been shown in the 1935 Electoral Register to be residing at Sun Haven was no longer there in 1936. She may have returned to Clifton, where she was certainly living in 1939. Marshall Ernest Brown, who had married in Effingham in 1935 and was strongly associated with the Sun Haven operation, was not there either. By 1937 he was living in a flat with his wife in Chartfield Avenue, Putney.

Serious legal problems began to confront Lionel during 1937. He had failed to comply with the requirement of his agreement with Lord Phillimore that by 23 April in this year he would complete the purchase of Sun Haven. He may not have even tried to complete it. He also had not paid to them all of the £150 p.a. due up to that date, nor the interest at 5% p.a. on the amount of the purchase money still unpaid – which was actually the whole amount, £3,600 – since that date.

In this same year Kenneth Sharrock began pressing Lionel to return to him the money (£3,000) that Lionel had previously received from Mr Sharrock [Bankruptcy Synopsis 3]. We do not know just what Kenneth knew, or supposed, about the intentions his father had had in advancing that money to Lionel, although Olga (who had also advanced at least £3,000, and probably nearer £5,000, to Lionel) had been much more involved in the matter and would have been able to give Kenneth her views as to this. But Lionel no longer had the money even had he been willing to return it, although he claimed to have paid Mr Sharrock and Olga interest on it at 5% p.a. [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8].

In late 1937 an apparently minor lawsuit was brought against the IBTh by a Belfast herbalist Samuel George Donaldson [*News Letter* (Belfast), 3 November 1937]. His complaint was that he had been unjustly struck out of the register of the Institute, so excluding him from the professional benefits of membership. The IBTh had received a complaint from a former business partner of Donaldson that the latter had wrongly exploited for his own advantage their former firm's customer base. The case was heard in London at the High Court's Chancery Division where the defendants were three members of the IBTh's Council, including Marshall Ernest Brown; Lionel was very probably there too. Brown offered the defence that membership conferred no right of property and therefore Donaldson could have suffered no deprivation. However, the Judge said that there was nevertheless an indirect benefit from membership and there was also a requirement for natural justice, even in a private tribunal; the Institute should have stated the charge more clearly to Donaldson and should have offered him an opportunity to refute the charge. On this basis he found in favour of Donaldson and awarded him costs. It seems improbable that this case would have made much of a dent in Lionel's financial or reputational position – but we cannot be certain.

As the year drew to its end, Lord Phillimore now turned his guns on Lionel. He and Sandys Hill prepared against Lionel a Writ dated 2 December 1937, claiming that he had refused and neglected to honour his obligations under their Sale Agreement and would not fulfil them unless compelled to by the High Court. They wanted their interest paid, damages, costs and either performance of the agreement or its rescission. The Writ was delivered to the High Court on 20 January 1938. The consequence was that the High Court ordered on 31 May 1938 that the agreement be rescinded, so rendering void any claim that Lionel might have made to the title to Dunley Hill. It also voided the charges upon the agreement that had been placed by Mr Sharrock and Olga as security for the advances they had made. Lionel had also lost the value of the expenditure he had made in renovating the house, which he estimated as about £2,900.

Just a few weeks afterwards, in July 1938, Phillimore and Sandys Hill sold Dunley Hill to Olga for the original sale price of £3,600, of which £2,000 was left on mortgage [Bankruptcy Synopsis 8]. We might well wonder what Kenneth thought of this move. With Olga's approval, but presumably not Kenneth's, Lionel and his family were now able to continue living there while paying something to Olga by way of rent.

The following year 1939 would prove to be a difficult one for Lionel. The first really dark legal cloud loomed up on his horizon on 27 January when, by his account, Kenneth Sharrock, still on the warpath seeking to recover the lost thousands that his late father had bestowed upon Lionel, issued a Writ demanding that Lionel repay £3,000 with interest and costs; he succeeded thereby in obtaining judgment from the Court in favour of this claim. This empowered him to serve a Bankruptcy Notice upon Lionel on 23 March. Such a notice normally requires its recipient (the debtor) by a prescribed date to pay up what is said to be owed, or to agree some arrangement for paying it or to apply to the Court for the notice to be set aside. If the debtor fails to do so – effectively committing an act of contempt – then the creditor(s) become entitled to present a Creditors' Petition to the Court with the aim of having an order made for sequestration of the debtor's assets. Lionel evidently had been given a week to respond and had not done so by

31 March, whereupon Kenneth duly drew up a Creditors' Petition dated 20 April which was filed at the Bankruptcy Court on 25 April under reference 344/1939 [Bankruptcy Synopsis 2]. This matter became apparent in the Press a fortnight later, when *The London Gazette* published on 23 May a notice that a bankruptcy Receiving Order had been issued against Lionel. This Order, dated 19 May, appointed Mr Leslie Arthur West as the Receiver of Lionel's estate, a form of trusteeship. Henceforth that estate became the Receiver's property, to be administered by Mr West in accordance with the 1914 Bankruptcy Act.

At this time Lionel's address, as far as the Court was concerned, was where he was 'carrying on business', namely 6, Barrie House in London's Lancaster Gate; this was the Sharrock family home, where Olga had continued residing after her father Mr Sharrock had died. The Notice stated that the bankruptcy had been already proved in the Creditor's Petition.



Figure 41 Barrie House, Lancaster Gate in 1937, by photographer Sydney W Newbery; RIBA Ref: No RIBA64479.

Also in May 1939 Lionel's son (Ernest) Kenneth had landed up in court. He had been involved in a car accident on the Kingston Bypass on 24 March, being described in a newspaper report as a music student aged 20 [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 May 1939]. A policeman, dealing with a cyclist and a van both attempting to cross from opposite sides of a junction, had stepped into the middle of the road to indicate to other vehicles that they should stop. Kenneth's car, in which his mother Beatrice was a passenger, was unable to stop in time and crashed firstly into the cycle and then into the van, which overturned. Kenneth was charged with dangerous driving at the Kingston County Police Court. He said that the policeman had not given him any reasonable chance to stop in time, which Beatrice confirmed. However, the court was not persuaded and fined him just £2 with £3-1s in costs.

At about this time Lionel was also involved in a motoring incident. This occurred in Church Street, Leatherhead on 12 May. He duly appeared in court on 21 June charged with having caused 'a motor vehicle to travel backwards for a greater distance than was requisite for the safety or reasonable convenience of the occupants of the vehicle or of other traffic on the road' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 24 June 1939]. He was fined £2 for this offence and a further 10s for having no driving licence.

On 23 May the *Gazette* also published an announcement that the date of 2 June had been fixed for a 'First Meeting' at Carey Street's Bankruptcy Buildings, one of the many premises of the High Court. It further announced that there would be a Public Examination of Lionel at Carey Street on 19 July.

On 9 June the *Gazette* announced that an Adjudication Order had been made on 3 June and noted that Lionel was residing at 'The First British Osteopathic Hospital Ltd, Ranmoor [sic] Common' whilst carrying on business at the Barrie House premises. This Order formally declared Lionel to be bankrupt. The Court would have drawn this conclusion partly from a 'Questions & Answers' form completed by Lionel on 24 May and used by the Receiver to construct a Statement of Affairs, dated 1 June, which Lionel had signed. The summary of this Statement was that his Deficiency Account's total – the amount by which his assets fell short of his liabilities – amounted to a little more than £10,000 [Bankruptcy Synopses 3, 4].

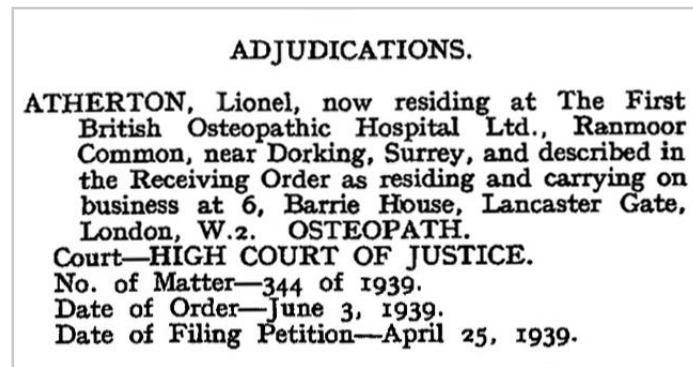


Figure 42 Notice of Lionel's Adjudication Order;
The London Gazette, 9 June 1939.

By the time of the Public Examination Lionel had signed a revised Statement of Affairs dated 13 July and a typed 14-page Statement also dated 13 July outlining his life from about 1901 onwards, whilst a third version of the Statement of Affairs prepared by Mr West was signed by Lionel and dated 17 July [Bankruptcy Synopses 7, 8, 9]. The Examination was presided over by a judge, Registrar Oscar Kean. Lionel, who was unrepresented, was examined by an assistant to the Receiver and by Kenneth Sharrock's legal representative. Although not mandatory in present times, under the 1914 Act the holding of such an examination was automatic for any debtor adjudged to be bankrupt. The Court's typed transcript runs to 32 pages. Lionel's qualifications, career moves, dealings with other people and financial management were put under the microscope [Bankruptcy Synopsis 10]. The most obvious conclusions were, firstly, that over the years he had procured one way or another huge amounts of money from a string of people but could give no clear account of where much of it had gone and secondly that his book keeping had been almost non-existent. He had £13 in the bank and was owed perhaps £34 from patients, against which he had liabilities of about £11,000. Despite this, he would not accept the Registrar's suggestion that this made him insolvent; instead he claimed he was solvent by virtue of his belief that there were others he could call upon, if necessary, to advance him thousands of pounds; he might be insolvent legally but not morally. One of his interrogators wondered how such a moral stance would enable the creditors to be paid.

A third conclusion was that Lionel had not provided sufficient financial evidence to the Court. He promised he would do so within a few weeks and the Registrar decided to adjourn the Examination until October. Not long afterwards Lionel wrote to the Receiver saying that he was not, after all, able to produce the records required of him [Bankruptcy Synopsis 11].

The 1939 National Register (i.e. as of 29 September) finds Lionel, Beatrice and their three children living at Sun Haven. Lionel's occupation was given as osteopath and physiotherapist. The son Kenneth was occupied as a cinema organist whilst the son Lionel George was an aviator and aeronautical engineer. The entry for the daughter Joy Marguerite, then aged about 15, is redacted. Besides the Atherton family there were a further 22 persons listed as residing at Sun Haven, nine of them redacted. Amazingly, one of these was the former ladder maker John Player Brawn who had bankrupted himself seven years previously after giving thousands of pounds to Lionel. Here he was now in the company of Lionel, now also bankrupt, with his wife Elizabeth and occupied as 'an assistant helper of evacuees'. At least four young children were present. None of these other persons had occupations clearly associated with the running of Sun Haven as a hospital. One person was a dancer Kathleen Mary MacVitie, born on 13 September 1910. We will encounter her again in the next section.

Lionel's older daughters were meanwhile still in Clifton. Esme Dorothy was living at 14, Royal York Crescent, her husband occupied as a head fitter of surgical appliances and also as a secretary to a doctor, whilst Ivy Rosina was living at 2, Caledonia Place, her husband occupied as a progressman fitter (meaning that he was responsible for maintaining an overview of fitting projects to ensure that they proceeded satisfactorily).

October arrived and the resumption of Lionel's Public Examination before Registrar Kean had been set for the 18th. Two days previously the Statement of Affairs had been re-sworn by Lionel, reconfirming the earlier Deficiency total but with a slight reconfiguration of its components [Bankruptcy Synopsis 12]. The Court's typed transcript of the hearing extends to 14 pages. On this occasion Lionel had with him his own Counsel, the accomplished barrister and politician Sir George William Henry Jones KC, MP. He was examined again by the Assistant to the Receiver and also by Kenneth himself. Why had Lionel not

produced the required financial data? Because he had left it to his auditor and therefore did not further 'bother' about it. Why had he produced no evidence of what he claimed to have spent from the Sharrocks' thousands on the Sun Haven renovations? Because he had been unable to elicit corroborative invoices from the firms involved. What had become of the money he had obtained by selling his equipment to his own company? Lionel could not remember. These matters were about to be probed further, but the Registrar intervened to say these matters did not need to be gone over again. One detail worth noting that emerged from their questioning was that Lionel had effectively closed the hospital at Sun Haven in November 1937. The remainder of the examination was undertaken by Jones, who took Lionel in detail through the complicated web of gifts, loans, supposed promises and expectations spun between Lionel and various other parties, besides the understandings subsequently forged with Kenneth and Olga. Jones wanted to understand why Mr Sharrock's Codicil had not been carried out. Lionel mentioned Olga's offer that if Lionel agreed to forego the provisions of the Codicil then she might persuade Kenneth to drop his claim for the return of the £3,000. But then, so he said, Kenneth reneged on this and secretly placed a legal charge for £3,000 on the property. Further explanation ensued but was not sufficiently clear to make it worthwhile trying to articulate here. One additional point of interest concerned that part of the Codicil bequeathing to Lionel a 'cottage' and adjacent field. We have learned [Pers Corr, 23 November 2023] that this cottage stood about 200 yards ENE of Sun Haven. Lionel said that it had been in a ruinous state and that he had had to rebuild it. It belonged to the Dunley Hill estate, having previously been part of Effingham Hill Farm in the possession of the Stringer family.

Lionel stated at this hearing that when it had become clear that Kenneth was not going to execute the Codicil he had refused to continue with the matter, had left Sun Haven and had gone to live with friends. Although these friends were not named we suspect he was referring to certain persons living in Cockfosters. We do not know what the full practical impact was upon him of his bankruptcy, which would have debarred him from applying for credit. He now owned essentially nothing and he would be unable to earn much beyond what was necessary to sustain a bare standard of living. However, Lionel was nothing if not a resourceful man and was clearly capable of cultivating support as necessary from others.

On 24 May 1940 the *Gazette* published, under the title 'Intended Dividends', a notice declaring that in Lionel's bankruptcy case the last date for Receiving Proofs was 8 June 1940. This meant that creditors had to submit proofs, by that date, of what Lionel owed to them so that the ensuing dividend (the fraction of the debt they could expect to recoup) could be correctly calculated.

On 16 July the *Gazette* published, under the title 'Dividends', a notice stating that in Lionel's case the amount per £ (payable to the creditors) had been fixed at 2d, and specifying the hours when these payments could be made at the Bankruptcy Buildings. The Receiver had arrived at this figure by determining that Lionel's realisable assets, after deducting fees and costs, amounted to about £86, which as a fraction of the £10,198 owed to his creditors equated (to the nearest penny) to 2p as a fraction of 240p [Bankruptcy Synopsis 14]. Having ascertained and documented this outcome, Mr West now applied for release from his administration of Lionel's former assets [Bankruptcy Synopsis 15].

By now the Second World War was well under way, with Britain still in a state of shock and disarray following the debacle at Dunkirk. We have very little knowledge of how the War affected Sun Haven but currently we think it likely that the house was at least partly requisitioned. In 2010 an application for planning consent [Guildford Borough Council Ref: 10/P/01452] in respect of a project to restore and convert the property stated, in giving the historical context of the site, that 'During the war it was used for research and development and until fairly recently heavy engineering equipment was set within the drawing room of the main wing.' A few hundred yards west of the house, approximately opposite Octagon Lodge, a huge Canadian army camp was established in 1941 and must have impacted very seriously upon all the nearby residents. It is described on the 'Derelict Miscellany' website (<http://derelictmisc.org.uk>) as follows:

'According to contemporary accounts, the base was muddy, isolated and uncomfortable. One regimental history recorded that "other than the NAAFI, the place had little amusement to offer" and days were filled with battle-drill, command-post and signal exercises, and seemingly interminable lectures on gunnery and gas. The thousands of Canadians stationed here and elsewhere on the Downs became a familiar sight in local towns and villages, although not always a welcome one: according to one source, some of the men would go down to Dorking High Street, get drunk on whisky and start fights until they were rounded up and sent back to base again. Others, no doubt, found more wholesome diversions: competitive sports, cycling, trips to the pictures and community socials would all have offered welcome distractions from the stresses and banalities of Army life. The Canadians proved popular with many locals, especially children (who were apparently captivated by their strange accents and

stories of far-away lands), and young women (a number of marriages and children resulted, though not always in that order).’

On 2 May 1941 the *Gazette* published a notice in respect of Lionel's bankruptcy case that Mr West had been granted release on 28 April. This signified that he had completed his administrative obligations in the handling of Lionel's assets and creditors.

On 6 May 1941 a transaction took place that was to have far-reaching and perhaps quite unexpected consequences for Lionel's family: Olga sold Dunley Hill to a Mrs Bevan, a wealthy widow in Cockfosters [Pers Corr, 15 November 2023]. Mrs Bevan would prove very useful to Lionel while she was alive but, remarkably, even more useful when she was dead. More of this tale will be told in the next section.

Another minor motoring incident arose in 1943. Lionel was brought to the Dorking Police Court on 5 May charged with wasting petrol and having failed to immobilize his car on 3 April [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 8 May 1943]. The first charge was dismissed but he was fined £1 on the second one.



Figure 43 Sun Haven's front entrance; undated but probably pre-1960.



Figure 44 Sun Haven's southern side; undated but probably pre-1960.



Figure 45 Sun Haven's southern and eastern sides; undated but probably pre-1960.

Digging up a widow, dancing girls and hypnotism

On 5 August 1947 a wealthy widow by the name of Marion Leila (née Sullivan) Bevan died aged 79 at her home, a substantial mansion (described as Elizabethan) named West Farm Place in Chalk Lane, Cockfosters in Hertfordshire. This was hidden among the trees in a 5-acre estate bounded by a wall twelve

feet high. In a tiny cottage adjoining the mansion lived her 85-year-old gardener Alexander K McGlashan. He described her as 'a lovely lady, tall and stately, with a heart of gold' [*Daily Herald*, 20 August 1947].

In her younger years Marion had been a friend of Queen Victoria (some sources state that she was a cousin of Victoria) and in charge of the 'Menus-Plaisirs' (entertainments) at Buckingham Palace. On 5 February 1891 she married at St Matthew, Bayswater to a banker Cosmo Francis Augustus Bevan. A year later their son and only child Desmond Russell Bevan was born.

Cosmo became a Director of Barclays Bank, his father Francis having served as its Chairman. According to the Electoral Registers, the family made West Farm Place their abode at some date in the period 1913-18, although they were often registered subsequently at other addresses. In their heyday the Bevans entertained lavishly at West Farm Place, residents recalling the many large parties held there.

Their son died in 1931 and Cosmo then died in 1935, after which there was very little entertaining done there and Marion hardly ever left the house, becoming a recluse for over ten years.

For some years before her death she had been in poor health and had been attended by her 'close friend and adviser Mr Lionel Atherton, an osteopath' who had lived at West Farm Place 'for many years' [*Daily Herald*, 20 August 1947].

Lionel was reported as stating that she had originally come to his consulting rooms walking with two sticks and unable to stand erect, but under his treatment she had improved so much that 'we went together and climbed about the pyramids of Egypt' [*The Liverpool Echo*, 16 October 1947]. Other articles added the detail that Lionel and Marion had also ridden camels in Egypt and one of them [*Leicester Evening Mail*, 16 October 1947] stated that he had attended her 'since 1936'.

Since May 1947 Marion had been attended every week by her doctor Hugh R Wylie who had formed the opinion that she probably had cancer, but her refusal to enter hospital prevented a firm diagnosis. She had already made her Will, on 18 February, appointing as her executors James Filmer Hamilton Houldsworth (her nephew), Geoffrey McCabe (her auditor), Donald ('John') Walter MacVitie and Marshall Ernest Brown (Lionel's colleague). Donald was the father of the dancer Kathleen MacVitie who, as we noted earlier, had been residing at Sun Haven in 1939.

Following her death on 5 August Marion was buried a few days later in the churchyard of Christ Church, just a short distance from West Farm Place, between the graves of Desmond and Cosmo. By then, however, local gossip had been stewing about the manner of her death and some concern had been expressed by at least one relative. The cause of death had been certified by Dr Wylie as cancer, but on the morning of the funeral a niece of Marion, a Mrs Henley of Suffolk, had gone to West Farm Place. She summoned Dr Grace Joan Fitch-Holden, from a nearby practice, to inspect Marion's body in her coffin, and asked the doctor to perform a post-mortem. Dr Fitch-Holden could not do so but, observing that Marion appeared very emaciated and 'uncared for', she informed the Coroner Dr A P L Cogswell who then ordered an inquest with post-mortem [*The Liverpool Echo*, 16 October 1947].

There had already been an investigation into recent matters at West Farm Place by detectives from Scotland Yard's CID, because a few days before Marion's death there had been a reported burglary there, property worth several thousand pounds having gone missing; the police enquiries had been instigated by suspicious relatives [*Belfast Telegraph*, 19 August 1947]. We do not know whether these enquiries ever came to any conclusion. The latter newspaper article included the detail that Marion 'recently gave a life size oil painting of herself – painted when she was 30 – to Mr Atherton'.



Figure 46 Cosmo Bevan by Olive Edis, bromide print 1931; NPG x931 © National Portrait Gallery, London.



Figure 47 West Farm Place after Mrs Bevan's death; *The Sphere*, 2 April 1949.



Figure 48 West Farm Place (modern view); after the British Electricity Authority had used the mansion for its offices, the house was converted into flats and is today named West Farm Court.

Meanwhile, in total secrecy just after dawn on 19 August, Marion's body was exhumed from the churchyard and taken to the mortuary of Tottenham's Prince of Wales Hospital where a post-mortem was performed by the Home Office pathologist Dr Donald R Teare who removed various organs for subsequent analysis. There was then a preliminary inquest, in the presence of one identifying witness and police officers, taking evidence only of identification; the inquest was then adjourned until 16 October.

The details of Marion's Will and – as will be described later – the very generous favour it bestowed upon the three children of Lionel and Beatrice had quickly become public knowledge, fuelling further gossip. On the day after the exhumation the eldest of the children, Lionel George – described as an engineer aged 30 – was interviewed at Sun Haven about the matter by the Press [*The Daily Mirror*, 20 August 1947] and gave his views as follows:

'Our family has nothing to hide. I knew Mrs Bevan socially and she was a charming woman. After the funeral we went to the house to hear the will read and it was a bit of a shock to everyone when they learned my brother, my sister and I were such large beneficiaries. We are each getting a fair amount, but we've no idea how much it will be. It's certainly substantial. After the will, one of the relatives – I've yet to find out whom – wrote to the coroner, and that's how all this trouble started. She had a lot of relatives, and of course she couldn't leave bequests to all of them. I have met with her brother and sister, they are both very charming people, and I am sure neither of them started all this mud-slinging.'

The Coroner's inquest, before a jury, duly resumed in October and was reported on that same day [*The Liverpool Echo*, 16 October 1947]. Mrs Henley and Dr Fitch-Holden gave their evidence as described above. The pathologist Dr Teare, of Harley Street, stated that he had sent some of Marion's organs to a Home Office analyst Dr Henry Redfern who had detected a small quantity of alkaloids and barbiturates, neither of them in excess. Tests for arsenic and other poisons were negative. Dr Teare said that his own examination showed that the cause of death was a large cancer and that there was nothing to make him think her death had been unnatural. Lionel, stating his occupation as a doctor of osteopathy registered with BAPMA, said he had attended Marion since 1936. The Coroner asked him if was treating a cancerous condition and Lionel explained that the law would not have permitted that; he had not known anything about the cancer until three weeks before her death. He had seen her on the night before she died and had given her a tablespoonful of brandy with a little water; she seemed to be the same as she had been for some weeks and he thought she would live for another two or three weeks. On the following morning he went to see Marion but Miss Mary Rosina Baker, who had for two years been Marion's companion, told him not to wake Marion because she had not gone to sleep until 5am. Later Miss Baker telephoned Lionel asking him to come over because she thought that Marion 'had gone'. Miss Baker had entered Marion's room at 2pm and upon opening the shutters found that she had died. The Coroner asked Lionel, who had gone to the house, if he had found anything to account for Marion's sudden death, but Lionel said 'No, I was just mystified. I came to the conclusion that haemorrhage must have taken place and that the carcinoma had reached the point where it burst internally.'

The Coroner said that he had held the inquest because relatives thought there were grounds for doubts about Marion's death but, having heard the evidence, he did not feel there was any negligence or criminality involved. The jury concurred and returned a verdict of death by natural causes. Upon leaving the inquest Lionel declared:

'My name has been cleared. The whole trouble was started by a relative. After certain bequests, the residue of the estate has been left to my two sons, Lionel and Kenneth, and my daughter Joy who is an ice star. My sons have designed a helicopter which they have patented and have started the Atherton Aircraft Company. Mrs Bevan was always interested in their work and she has left them the money to develop the plans. People have tried to make out I'd murdered Mrs Bevan or something terrible. It is all a pack of lies. I am seeing my lawyer to see what can be done about it.'

Despite this outcome, the controversy about the Will was by no means over, as will be narrated in the next section. Meanwhile, it is useful to examine more the connections between the various persons in the constellation surrounding the Lionel-Marion saga.

The following dwellings in Chalk Lane are listed in sequence in the Electoral Register for 1948: The Hermitage; The Vicarage, the Garden Cottage of West Farm Place and The Wilderness. The latter house had been in Mrs Bevan's ownership [Bankruptcy Synopsis 29]. The West Farm Place mansion was not shown because it was still unoccupied following Marion's death, but would otherwise have been listed

between The Vicarage and The Wilderness. At this time the Garden Cottage was still occupied by the gardener 'Alex' McGlashan and his wife Emily. The Hermitage was occupied by Lionel's daughter Joy Marguerite. The afore-mentioned executor Donald Walter MacVitie was occupying The Wilderness together with his wife Elizabeth Maude and their daughter the dancer Kathleen Mary.



Figure 49 Donald Walter MacVitie.



Figure 50 'Ice star' Joy Marguerite Atherton.



Figure 51 Kathleen MacVitie with Claude Newman, Royal Academy of Dance c1923.

It is plausible that Donald and Lionel had known each other since they were young men. Donald, born in Cheltenham in 1882 and so just a little older than Lionel, had been working at the time of the 1901 Census as a plumber and decorator, the same trade as Lionel's father Edwin; and Lionel too had been a decorator in 1901. Perhaps they had worked together on properties at various locations in Gloucestershire.

There was certainly some kind of symbiosis between Donald's daughter and Lionel's. Whether this was originally owed to the girls' fathers first being familiar, we do not know; possibly, the fathers came to know each other only after their daughters had become familiar. The symbiosis took the form of a company set up to promote Kathleen's dancing career.

Kathleen had been born in Cheltenham on 13 September 1910 and baptised there two months later at St John's Church on 13 November. The 1911 Census finds her living with her parents in Hewlett Street. The family later moved to Ambrose Street. In 1923 Kathleen was admitted, following examination, as a member of the Association of Operatic Dancing of Great Britain [*Gloucestershire Echo*, 28 September 1923]. She had been studying operatic dancing under a number of distinguished mentors including the renowned West End and Covent Garden prima ballerina and teacher Phyllis Bedells, herself a former pupil of Anna Pavlova. Further articles in the *Gloucestershire Echo* followed Kathleen's dancing progress in the 1920s. In 1925, following 'severe eliminating tests', she was chosen to perform in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at London's Drury Lane theatre. Over the years she went from strength to strength, performing at the Coliseum (with Anton Dolin) and many other London theatres, besides performing with great success in Europe and Scandinavia. By the early 1930s she was a member of the Gsovsky Ballet and appearing in Brussels, Copenhagen, Milan and elsewhere [*Gloucestershire Echo*, 1 December 1933]. She was performing at Drury Lane again in 1936 in a spectacular musical play 'Rise and Shine' which won superb reviews [*The Stage*, 14 May 1936]. Why she was residing at Lionel's Sun Haven in 1939 we do not know. One possibility is that she was a patient there being treated for a dance injury.

Soon after the War – and possibly before then – Kathleen had adopted the professional name 'Persephone'. Advertisements such as the following began appearing in *The Stage* newspaper during 1946-47:

PERSEPHONE

The International Dancing Star is forming her new Co. and would like First-class Artists (Variety & Concert) to send Vacant dates from Oct. 1. Persephone Productions 29, Bury Street, St James's, London S.W.'

The company's Director of Music, Ronald St Clare, advertised his wish 'to help young artiste-dancer, soprano, actress, violiniste without influence or capital anxious to become star; real talent, ambition essential; dancer to improvise own dances; age 12-20.' [*The Stage*, 6 February 1947]. The company's choreographer was advertised as being Pauline Bryant. The connection of all this with Joy became apparent in early 1948 when Persephone Productions was established as a limited company, capitalised with £5,000 in £1 shares [*The Stage*, 11 March 1948]. Its declared objects were:

'To carry on the business of producers, directors and trainers of classical ballets, drama, opera, variety, skating and any form of theatrical and open air entertainment generally; to act as agents, and to arrange for the supply of actors, actresses, singers and entertainers.'



Figure 52 'Persephone', 15 August 1946.

The Directors were Kathleen, 'dancer (permanent)' at The Studio, Chalk Lane in Cockfosters and Joy, 'skater' at Sun Haven. The registered office was 29, Bury Street and the Secretary was Mary K Check.

We have not been able to discover details of Joy's skating experience, beyond Lionel's description of her as an 'ice star'. Lionel – who by now was for certain purposes using the additional or alternate forename 'Rex' – was also apparently involved with the company because he was reported as having presented, 'by arrangement with Persephone Productions', a concert at the Wigmore Hall including a recital by the pianist and composer Alexis Gunning (whose son Christopher Gunning became a highly acclaimed composer). In this report [*The Stage*, 22 July 1948] Lionel was referred to as Rex Atherton.

We have found no reports about the company later than one published in early 1949 which was advertising the sale of a 14,000-watt theatre switchboard [*The Stage*, 24 February 1949].

In 1950 a curious experiment in hypnotism was staged at 'The First British Osteopathic Hospital, Ranmore, Dorking' [*The Sunderland Echo*, 24 March 1950]. The name Sun Haven was not mentioned in the latter article and neither was that of Lionel, although he must surely have been behind this. A man named William Badsey, described as the President of the Sunderland Psychology Club, based himself at the hospital and made a pre-arranged telephone call to an address three hundred miles away in Whitley Bay. There it was received and listened to by three Sunderland men in the company of a 'panel of Newcastle psychic investigators'. Badsey used the call to hypnotise the three subjects, whose entranced states were then tested by the investigating panel:

'One subject, Mr Barkes, had a needle plunged into his arm to a depth of three inches, a lighted match applied to his finger tips and then, while in a state of catalepsy, lifted by his neck and ankles while a 12st. man suspended himself from Barkes's body. The next subject and the one to be longest hypnotized was Mr Johnson who was made to laugh merrily whilst needles, judo holds and other tests were applied to him. Finally he was stretched rigid as a board, between two chairs, his neck and ankles being his only support, while a 13st. man stood on his stomach. The third man Mr Crinson was a new subject and Mr Badsey treated him leniently, putting him under the influence for ten minutes only and demonstrating his command by making Crinson bark like a dog ... The Panel of judges declared themselves satisfied that the subjects had been genuinely hypnotized by Mr Badsey on the telephone.'

So concluded another of Lionel's interesting adventures.

'Strange and secret things': Brother Rex, Supreme Magus of the Essenes

In June 1951 an article appeared in *The Daily Mirror* reporting an event in Glastonbury centred upon Lionel's activities there. Although that event is interesting in itself, the article also reveals an unexpected detail of Lionel at a much earlier stage of his life. Additionally, it harks back to the matter of Mrs Marion Leila Bevan's Will, about which a little context is required here.

Although the Coroner's Inquest in October 1947 had established clearly that Marion had died entirely naturally, at least one of her relatives was dissatisfied about the integrity of her Will, believing that Lionel had improperly influenced her making of it. Her effects had been valued at £131,354. Probate over her estate had been granted to two of her four executors, Donald Walter MacVitie and Marshall Ernest Brown (neither of them beneficiaries), on 27 August 1948, but this was almost immediately challenged by a nephew of Marion, Hugh Bevan. In the Will he had been left only 'the Silvanus Cup' (presumably a family trophy or prize of some kind) and, we may safely assume, he did not think much of this item for his mantelpiece in comparison with the approximately £70,000 bequeathed to Lionel's children, a sum which in 1947 would have been comfortably sufficient to purchase about fifty semi-detached houses.

As a purely technical arrangement by which to contest the Will, Hugh brought a legal case against another executor and nephew of Marion, Col James Filmer Hamilton Houldsworth; he was the son of Marion's sister Albinia Mary and her husband Rev James Hamilton Houldsworth. Albinia, then in her eighties and living in Lanarkshire, was reportedly taking no active part in the proceedings. Owing to the dispute being brought to court, the grant of probate was flagged in the Probate Registry's index as *pendite lite*, denoting a state of suspension. The launching of this action by Hugh caught the attention of the Press [*The Gazette*, 10 September 1948], this article recounting the bare facts of Marion's death, her treatment by Lionel ('practitioner in osteopathy and physio-medical healing, who claims to be a mystic as well as a healer ...'), her exhumation, the inquest and the Will.

The case was settled two years later on 20 December 1950 when the High Court issued a final decree confirming the validity of the Will the outcome being that Lionel's children were confirmed as beneficiaries having 'provided for the widow's relatives' [*Kalgoorlie Miner*, 28 December 1950].

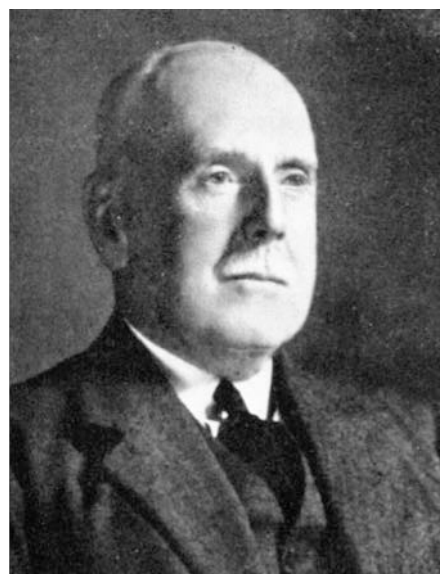


Figure 53 Rev James Hamilton Houldsworth.

It is bemusing that there appear to be hardly any newspaper reports of this outcome other than that in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, a publication focusing mostly on local matters of interest to hardened gold miners in a remote town of Western Australia. The cited article revealed that Lionel had for decades been centrally involved in the revival of an ancient cult under his leadership; that his activities in that context included annual mystical rituals on Glastonbury Tor; and that Marion had been one of his devotees:

‘Atherton said that the settlement did not surprise him because Mrs Bevan had sent a message to him at a midnight mystic service held on Glastonbury Tor in Somerset on June 21 saying that trouble over the will could be settled this year. “For years Mrs Bevan attended these annual midnight services of the brotherhood of the Essenes,” he said. “I, as Brother Rex, am now known to thousands of brethren as the reviver of the ancient cult of the Essenes (pre-Christian Jews distinguished by their community of property, charitableness and pursuit of virtue). Mrs Bevan was a devout believer. She accompanied me on a mission to Egypt, after having been given up as incurable by orthodox doctors. She was able to ride a camel to the Pyramids.” For 29 years this wealthy West End osteopath practised ancient mysteries on Glastonbury Tor clad in a robe of deep purple trimmed with black symbols with the gold star of David glittering on a white, lambskin cravat. He claimed that many years ago he came across mystical tracings concerning the Essenes which Latin scholars translated. “At first only my family and three others attended,” he said. Now I am allowed, by secret session of the Essenic Brotherhood, to write publicly about our mysteries and my following has grown immensely. When I pronounce the holy names at the midnight service, people with me may wish for what they want to happen to them during the coming year. Those wishes are always granted. Hard-headed businessmen find their businesses change marvellously. Their luck increases and they make money in thousands.”’

Relaxing with their cold beers after a day of toiling in the sun-drenched gold-fields, the Kalgoorlie miners must have felt their eyes popping as they read all this. It is curious that Lionel was described here as ‘wealthy’ despite still being an undischarged bankrupt. It is also notable that some of Lionel's family had, so he claimed, taken part in his early Glastonbury rituals. Had he really led his wife and children up the hillside chanting Essenic incantations?

Precisely how the settlement of Marion's Will finally played out is not known; we know only her intentions as originally expressed in it. In relation to Lionel's family she had willed the following:

- To Kenneth Atherton of Sun Haven Ranmore Dorking my Bluthner piano.
- To Beatrice Atherton of Sun Haven Ranmore Dorking the picture of me in the Library at West Farm and also the picture of my husband and my son at West Farm.
- [after paying out funeral expenses, debts and all other bequests] I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate ... unto Lionel [George] Atherton, Kenneth Atherton and Joy Atherton (the three children of Dr Lionel Atherton and Beatrice Atherton).

The Will left unconditional cash legacies totalling £9,350 to eleven named persons. Most of these legacies were modest. The two largest in value were £5,000 to a niece and £3,000 to Kathleen MacVitie; no others were above £500. A further £500 was bequeathed upon trust to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Christ Church to provide investment income for the upkeep of the churchyard. Nineteen named persons were left gifts such as pictures, jewels and furniture – including the piano for Kenneth Atherton.

Perhaps the most mesmerising aspect of this saga is that, because Mrs Bevan had purchased Dunley Hill from Olga Sharrock in 1941 and had retained it in her estate ever since, it now fell into the ownership of Lionel's family, just as old Mr Sharrock had originally intended, but without them having had to purchase it. And as the Will had in no way directly benefitted Lionel, Dunley Hill could not fall into the hands of his creditors, especially the hands of Olga's brother Kenneth, who must have been stupefied by this outcome, so neatly had it arisen from the actions of his own father, his sister and the camel-riding Mrs Bevan, a carousel of devotees rotating around the legally-but-not-morally bankrupt man at the centre of it all, Mr Lionel Atherton. As a long-drawn-out narrative of artifice, melodrama and serendipity by which wholly implausible aspirations at the start became miraculous realities by the end, it could have been a tale straight out of Dickens.

Just a few days after the High Court's decree Lionel must have applied for discharge from bankruptcy because on 28 December the Receiver invited him to attend on 2 January 1951 [Bankruptcy Synopsis 17]. After meeting with him the Receiver wrote a Memorandum noting that Lionel had an income of about

£125 p.a. from 11 patients but had the 'intention, if he could obtain the necessary funds from his children, to offer a sum of money by way of a judgment in the hope that the Court would grant his discharge upon such terms' [Bankruptcy Synopsis 19]. The wheels were set in motion and on 9 January the Receiver met with Lionel's solicitors, now L Bingham & Co. Meanwhile, on 16 March 1951 probate of Mrs Bevan's Will was granted to Donald Walter MacVitie and Marshall Ernest Brown.

On 18 April Lionel completed and signed a printed form of 'Questions to be answered by the bankrupt', on which he gave his address as The Wilderness, and the Court set a hearing date of 24 May. In preparation for this the Receiver drew up an 8-page report dated 16 May, giving the history of Dunley Hill, the Sharrocks and the financial transactions that had occurred, and regurgitated much of what had transpired at the 1939 hearing. He concluded by setting out the legal reasons why, in his view, Lionel had not met the conditions for discharge. In the present day discharge from bankruptcy is normally granted a year or so after adjudication but it seems that this had not been possible in Lionel's case. His application for discharge now was denied by an Order issued on 24 May, suspending his discharge for a further five years, that is, until 24 May 1956 [*The London Gazette*, 22 June 1951]. The relevant conditions of the 1914 Bankruptcy Act cited in this Order for refusing Lionel an absolute order of discharge were those given in Section 26, sub-section 3, parts (a), (b) and (f), laid down in the Act as follows:

- (a) That the bankrupt's assets are not of a value equal to ten shillings in the pound on the amount of his unsecured liabilities, unless he satisfies the court that the fact that the assets are not of a value of ten shillings to the pound on the amount of his unsecured liabilities has arisen from circumstances for which he cannot justly be held responsible;
- (b) That the bankrupt has omitted to keep such books of account as are usual and proper in the business carried on by him and as sufficiently disclose his business transactions and financial position within the three years immediately preceding his bankruptcy;
- (f) That the bankrupt had brought on, or contributed to, his bankruptcy by rash and hazardous speculations, or by unjustifiable extravagance in living, or by gambling, or by culpable neglect of his business affairs.

On the Court's copy of the Receiver's Report pencilled annotations were made, presumably by the Registrar Mr Cunliffe, including the following:

'Man appears [to have] taken advantage of posⁿ with patients. Some kind of trust. Applies monies to own livelihood. Serious case. Susp^d 5 years.'

Evidently the Registrar had not taken kindly to Lionel. Nothing in the surviving documents [Bankruptcy Synopses 23-27] mentions the offer that Lionel had wished to make using funds from his children; perhaps that offer had not been formally put to the Court, or was put but rejected.

Two days later Lionel's colleague Marshall Ernest Brown, apparently having learned what had been said in Court, wrote an angry three-page letter dated 26 May to the Receiver condemning and refuting the accusation that the Registrar had allegedly made that Lionel 'had defrauded his patients one after another' [Bankruptcy Synopsis 28]. This accusation perhaps lay behind the Registrar's imposition of a 5-year suspension rather than a shorter one. On the surface the accusation appears to have been prejudicial, as nothing objective we have seen in any of the source materials has pointed to, or even suggested, fraudulence on Lionel's part. It seems that he genuinely subscribed to certain beliefs and practices, albeit very unconventional ones, to which others were willing and entitled also to subscribe, whilst those others were likewise willing and entitled to support him through their generosity as they saw fit.

This setback in 1951 evidently did not diminish Lionel's willingness or capacity for continuing with his mystical missions. Shortly afterwards he was back in the news having just performed, on 21 June (that year's summer solstice) one of his annual rituals on Glastonbury Tor [*The Daily Mirror*, 23 June 1951]:

'The mystics wish for success while the town sleeps. At 1 a.m. this morning, when most people of this West Country town were asleep, strange and secret things were happening in the darkness of nearby Glastonbury Tor.

A man with snow-white hair, dressed in a flowing wine-coloured robe, with a gold star glittering from a lambskin cravat, stood in a circle of 100 silent men and women on the Tor's side. The man in the robe stretched out his hands, told the circle of people to close their eyes and wish for "anything they wanted most in life."

Then, as they wished, the man pronounced “Holy names handed down to me from the East” and demanded that the Powers of the Night grant these wishes within a year.

“O Holy, Holy, Holy. Tet Ra Gram Atton,” the voice rang out across the Tor, “Yod He Vah He.”

Brother Rex, from Barnet, Herts, the Magus (leader) of “The Brotherhood of the Essenes”, his delegates and disciples were holding their annual secret, mystic service. Businessmen from London, a bank manager, a retired Army major, a theatrical impresario, a ballet mistress, a girl secretary from a West End office, a stage hypnotist, widows – made wishes on the Tor side which Brother Rex promised them would all come true within the next twelve months. “There is no question that you won’t get your wish,” he told them.

In the middle of the circle was a thirty-nine-year-old widow cripple, Mrs Gwendoline Evans. Brethren carried her up the Tor side on a chair. She has not walked for three years. After making their personal wishes, the brethren then demanded together of “the Angelic Forces of the Night” that she should be cured.

Brother Rex is Mr Lionel Atherton, osteopath and mystic. He is known as the reviver of the ancient “Essenic Cult.” The Essenes was a body of pre-Christian Jews, distinguished by “Community of property, the practice of charity and the pursuit of virtue.” They were also known for their powers of prophecy. Lionel Atherton claims he discovered the vital mystic secrets of the Essenes thirty years ago, and is now leader of Essenes all over the world.

One of his brethren, Mrs Marion Leila Bevan, a banker's widow, died four years ago. In her will she left the bulk of her fortune to Mr Atherton's three children. Relatives of Mrs Bevan disputed the will, but a settlement was reached and court proceedings were dropped.

Brother Rex told me today: “I know the value of my divine cause, but I am not in it for money. If people who have had their wishes granted by becoming brethren should see fit to show their appreciation to the cause by gifts, there is nothing to stop them. We are all sincere worshippers. It is quite astounding how many of the wishes come true.”

Brother Rex pointed to one of his brethren. “Today he is a prosperous man,” he said. “Three years ago he was failing in business. Then he made a wish with me on the Tor and everything started to go right for him.”

One hour after the mystic wishing service was over, Brother Rex and his disciples were driving through the night in two hired coaches back to London. It will be another year before Glastonbury Tor – the holiest place in England – receives another visit from the mystic brothers of the Essene.’

The syllables ‘Tet Ra Gram ...’ recited by Lionel (and misspelled in the article) constituted the word known as the tetragrammaton, that is, the four-letter name for God in Hebrew, the letters being (when read from right to left in that language) ‘Yod He Vah He’. Who were the ballet mistress, the West End secretary and the hypnotist? Perhaps they were Kathleen, Joy and Mr Badsey. The article does not tell us whether Mrs Evans rose from her chair and miraculously walked again. Nor does it explain why Lionel had not resolved his bankruptcy problems by the simple expedient of wishing them away on Glastonbury Tor. Perhaps the Angelic Forces of the Night had, after due legal consideration, declined to intervene.

Were it not for the above reports we might never have learned that Lionel's mysticism dated from quite early in his life. By his account, he had revived the Essenes brotherhood and begun the Glastonbury rituals in about 1921 when he was in his mid-thirties, living in Bedminster and managing cardboard box production.

Last years

In the 1930s Lionel's family occupied – to the best of our knowledge – the entirety of Sun Haven. We do not know how much of it was transformed by him into the osteopathic hospital. Also unknown is the impact upon the house of the War and of any requisitioning arrangements.

Electoral Registers are not a wholly reliable guide to where people were actually living – they determine only where they were entitled to vote. Even so, they record Lionel and his family as living in the main house at Sun Haven throughout the period 1935-56, with the exception that the older son Lionel George was living in the nearby Sun Haven Lodge (or Bungalow) with his wife Julia Cecilia (née Houlihan), whom he had married in 1948. (For reasons unknown she preferred to use the forenames Sheelagh Mary. She had formerly married in 1930 to John Adrian Francis Bowring and in 1935 was living with him at ‘New Hatch’ in Chichester Road, Dorking; they later divorced.)



Figure 54 Lionel as 'Brother Rex' applying 'his curative touch' to Gwendoline Evans at Glastonbury, 22 June 1951.

Lionel George formed an aircraft engineering company as well as becoming an aviator. In 1949 he was employing, as manager of his firm, an engineer and neighbour Bruce Ivan Cuthbert Rennie of nearby Octagon Lodge. In late 1949 Rennie crashed on his motor cycle into a closed gate at Gatwick Airport and subsequently died in hospital [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 23 December 1949]. At a Coroner's Inquest on 19 December Lionel George gave evidence that he had been driving a car behind Rennie (who was riding on ahead to show him the way out of the airport) and after briefly losing sight of him came across him, still astride the motor cycle which had become partly impaled in the gate. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Lionel George was the registered owner of a single-engine Piper J4A Cub Coupé aircraft with identification code G-AFSZ; it was registered to him during the period from 8 May 1952 to 17 July 1956 [Civil Aviation Authority: G-INFO Aircraft Register]. The field directly north of Sun Haven was used by him as a landing strip and even today is known locally as 'Atherton's Field'. His Atherton Aircraft Company, incorporated soon after the War, operated at Sun Haven with workshops established in the southern part of the main house [Pers Corr, 14 October 2023]. In early 1961 the company was advertising for engineering staff [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 18 February 1961]. Later that year, on 18 August, Lionel George died from cancer aged only 43 at the Central Middlesex Hospital, NW10.



Figure 55 Lionel George's aircraft from the Air-Britain website; © Peter Amos 1950.

The aircraft G-AFSZ, having been under the ownership of Edward Robert Barker in Cranleigh for some years, was written off following a crash on 30 May 1962 at Fair Oaks Airport in Woking [Aviation Safety Network: Occurrence #66436]. Atherton Aircraft continued in business and took up premises in Brook Way off the Kingston Road in Leatherhead, functioning as general machinists with emphasis on supplying machined castings [Archives of Leatherhead & District Local History Society]. It was wound up in 1970 [*The London Gazette*, 13 February 1970].

Sheelagh continued living to the end of her days in the Sun Haven Lodge, which by the 1970s was converted mostly into a public house named The Ranmore Arms. She died on 16 February 1986 at the Dorking General Hospital. Her currently living descendants, via the child Diane Mary from her first marriage, have confirmed to us that they have no personal knowledge of the Atherton family or of Sun Haven.

In the period when Lionel George had been using the southern part of the house – consisting primarily of the ballroom and bedrooms but without bathroom, kitchen, drawing room or even heating – as his workplace (and also, with Kenneth, having engineering workshops in the courtyard to the west of the house), the northern part of the house was owned and occupied by the family of Kenneth and his wife Sybil Elise (née Leverson) whom he had married in 1953; within this northern part Beatrice had



Figure 56 Atherton Aircraft Ltd, post-war.

her own self-contained apartment. The usage of various parts of the Dunley Hill site in this period is indicated in Figure 57, based upon information from the Atherton family [Pers Corr, 14 October 2023 and 9 November 2023].

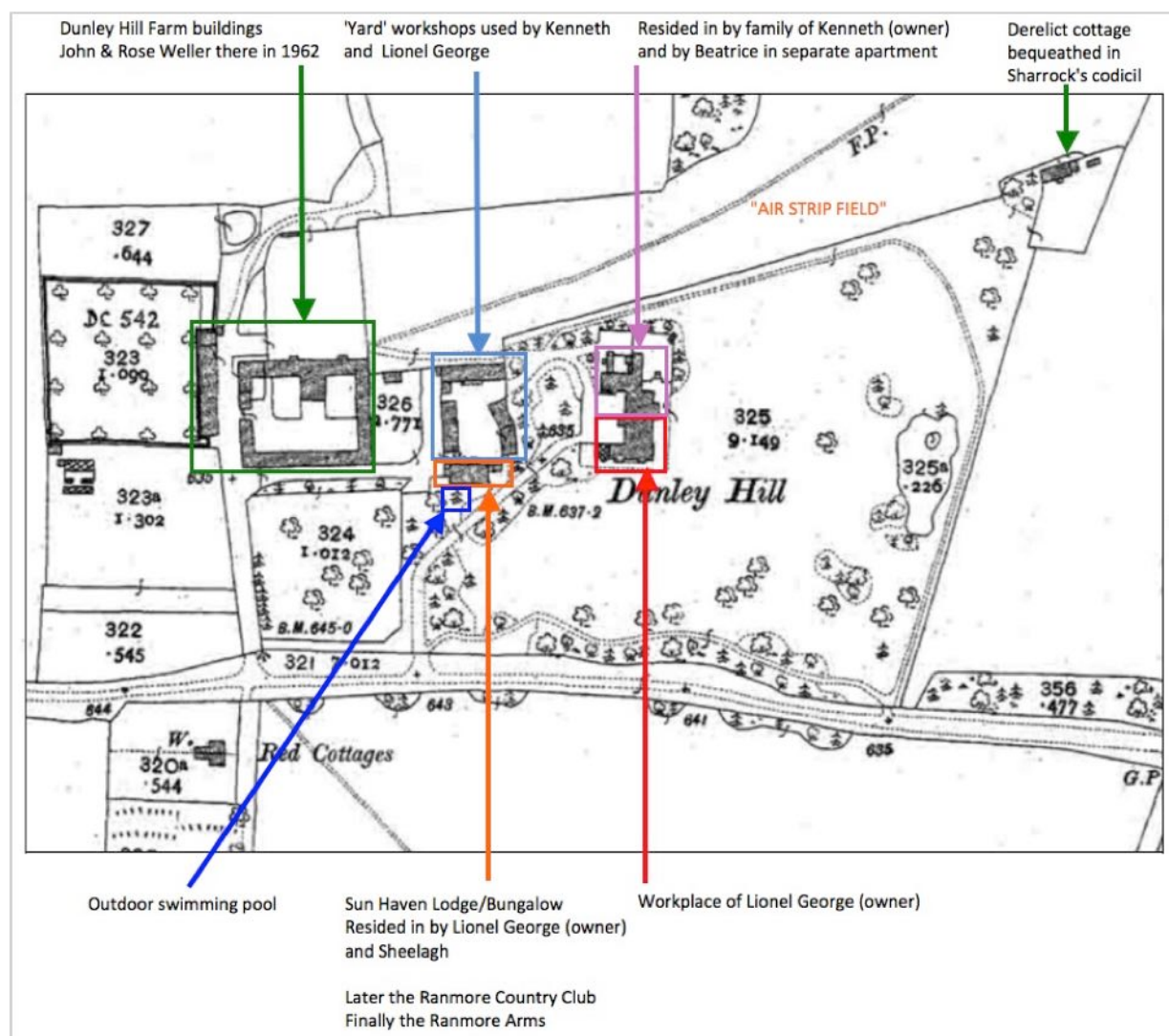


Figure 57 Dunley Hill, features and usage.

As noted earlier, Joy Marguerite was listed in the Electoral Register for 1948 as residing at The Hermitage in Chalk Lane, Cockfosters. Her registration had been at Sun Haven during 1945-46 and reverted to Sun Haven during 1950-52. In this period (or perhaps even earlier) she somehow came to meet a Wiltshire-born man Walter Gibbs King, born on 12 October 1919 and baptised at Donhead St Andrew on 23 November. In 1939 he was living at 14, Ellison Road in Streatham Vale and was occupied as a bank clerk. In 1942 he married Margaret Frances (née) Carey [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid E 2a 799, 1942 (Q3)].

It appears that Joy and Walter went off together to Luton, where the Electoral Register shows them living at 313, Dallow Road from 1953 until at least the late 1970s. Moreover, throughout that entire period Walter was listed as 'Walter George Atherton'. It seems clear that he had left his first wife and begun a new life in Bedfordshire under an assumed name. However, in 1956 he and Joy returned briefly to Surrey to marry, he using his correct King surname [GRO Ref: Surrey S E 5g 1949, 1956 (Q3)], and then returned to Luton where, in 1958, they produced a son. Oddly, Joy (but not Walter) was listed at The Hermitage in Cockfosters in the Electoral Register for 1956-58, concurrently with her registration in Luton.

It is hard to conceive what considerations had brought Joy to such a nondescript and unfamiliar town, to live in an undistinguished road of mostly old terraced houses. No. 313 was (and still is) a modest semi-detached house with a corner shop on the ground floor. This was a status far removed from the faded grandeur of Sun Haven, yet in November 1959 she had sold her third of the equity in Sun Haven to her brothers. In the following year the brothers formally divided the property between themselves through a Deed of Partition [Pers Corr, 15 November 2023].



Figure 58 No. 313, Dallow Road in Luton today – presumed to have been Joy's home.

Margaret Frances, also born in 1919, died aged only 42 in Purley on 1 September 1961 still using her King surname and described in the Probate Registry as a single woman; probate was granted to her brother Richard Alexander Carey who, like Walter, was a bank clerk.

Meanwhile, Lionel's last appearance at Sun Haven in the Electoral Register was for the year 1955-56, in the company of Beatrice. Before long he would be instead registered in Chalk Lane, Cockfosters. In late 1955 his Circle Cell Salt Company Ltd was among a list of companies warned that, unless cause were shown to the contrary within three months, they would be struck off the Companies Register and dissolved [*The London Gazette*, 13 December 1955]. Lionel may have managed to secure a stay of execution, but not for long – the company was finally struck off in the summer of 1956 [*The London Gazette*, 3 August 1956].

The bankruptcy files contain a note (but without details) that on 24 May 1956 Lionel had again been discharged but, again, with a five year suspension [Bankruptcy Synopsis 34].

Meanwhile, the sacred mission of the Essenes had to continue, as the Press were keen to confirm in 1957 [*Cheddar Valley Gazette*, 14 June 1957]:

‘For Thirty-Four Years BROTHER REX Supreme Magus of The Essenes has conducted the Divine Service at Glastonbury.

(1) A motion of the heavens called the “Precession of the Equinox,” brings a new sign of the Zodiac into power approximately every two thousand years. Preceding each one of these signs the Essenes come forth with the policy and plan belonging to the sign. When the foundation has been laid and the work is progressing the Essenes disappear as mysteriously as they came forth. Their secrets during the interim period are protected by an initiated body of men.

(2) The primary work of the Essenes in this period is preparing for the return of OUR LORD. They venerate to the utmost the inspired law – that is, the Law of God which admits of no intervention between any man and God by any other man. The Essenes explain and uphold the Divine Trinity expressed through the mystical laws of God in whose image man manifests as Spirit-Soul-and Body. These laws beginning with the Trinity in the heavens and end in the three centres of the body of man. “As above so below.”

(3) To explain the dual power of the man Jesus as the second Master of Righteousness, as revealed in the “Dead Sea Scrolls.” The true expression of Divine Power overshadowed the

physical at a certain age. The Essenes teach that modern psychology is forming on the lines that Jesus laid down, and that he had a knowledge of scientific facts nineteen hundred years before their time.

(4) "The Holy Grail: Arimathaeon Joseph, journeying brought to Glastonbury, where the winter thorn blossoms at Christmas, mindful of our Lord. And there awhile it bode; and if man could touch or see it he was healed at once, by faith, of all his ills." Tennyson.

All communications to Brother Mark, M.A. (Oxon), House of the Holy Grail, B.C.M., Glaston, W.C.1. Books of some of the Essenic Mysteries 3/6 post free.'

So this article was anticipating Lionel's annual appearance as Brother Rex on Glastonbury Tor a week before the solstice. The article ends by mentioning Brother Mark – he, of course, was fellow mystic Marshall Ernest Brown. As recorded earlier, he had been a keen astrologer at the time of the Hume case in 1928, a key role holder in the Sun Haven hospital/college and a defendant in the Donaldson case in 1937. On 22 September 1930 he had given a talk with the title 'The Fiery Chariot' at a meeting of the Astrological Lodge of London in the Hall of the Art-Workers' Guild in Queen Ann Square, Bloomsbury [*Astrology*, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1930]. His normal occupation was a schoolmaster. His pupils and colleagues may have been unaware that they had an initiated Essene and astrologer in their midst.



Figure 59 Lionel in 'Brother Rex' garb, with the Star of David on his cravat; perhaps 1950s.

In 1959 the Electoral Register showed both Lionel and Beatrice at The Hermitage in Cockfosters, whilst concurrently showing Beatrice at Sun Haven. Kathleen MacVitie was no longer listed at The Wilderness – this name disappears from the Register – but at a nearby (and possibly new) house in Chalk Lane named Ammon, not seen named as such previously and apparently on a site different from that where The Wilderness had been. The word Ammon has various connotations. As one example, the Essenes' alleged writings in the Dead Sea Scrolls mention the ancient Semitic tribe known as the Ammonites. As another, in Hebrew the word Ammon can signify a teacher or leader in a secretive context. It does seem likely that its choice as the house name had something to do with Lionel's leanings.

It was at Ammon that Lionel died on 15 August 1959. The death certificate [GRO Ref: Wood Green 5f 361, 1959 (Q3)] names him as Lionel Rex Atherton, a retired osteopath aged 74. The cause of death was certified as '1a. Coronary thrombosis b. Coronary atheroma'. The informant was Kathleen 'Causing the body to be buried'. We do not know his resting place. He appears to have died intestate. He had never obtained an absolute discharge from bankruptcy.

Later that year one of the Mrs Athertons – either Beatrice or Sybil, we cannot tell which – was among those persons reported as helping with Effingham's Christmas Bazaar in the Convent on Lower Road [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 21 November, 1959]. The article states that 'Mrs Lionel Atherton' was a stallholder offering fancy goods, in partnership with a Mrs Rennie, possibly the widow of Bruce Rennie who had died in the accident described previously.

In 1960 Lionel's company The Institute of Botano-Therapy Ltd was struck off the Companies Register and duly dissolved [*The London Gazette*, 9 December 1960].

Kathleen MacVitie continued living by herself at Ammon for a few further years. Her mother had died in 1948 and her father in 1954. However, in 1964 the Electoral Register shows her at Ammon in the company of David S MacVitie whose relationship to her we have not determined. She died in Harpenden on 20 December 1992 and left estate valued at nearly £166,000.

Lionel's daughters from his first marriage appear to have remained in the Somerset/Avon area. Ivy Rosina died in the Weston district in 1975, whilst Esme Dorothy died in the Avon district in 1990.

The wife Clara Isabel of Lionel's fellow Essene and astrologer Marshall Ernest Brown appears to have resided finally in Pol Major Polperro near St Agnes, Cornwall and to have died on 18 March 1967 at Barncoose Hospital in Redruth. Probate was granted to two persons, one of them a member of the Bevan family; her effects were just £449. Marshall died in London in 1978, apparently intestate.

In August 1964 Lionel George's widow Sheelagh sold some land and farm buildings to John and Rose Weller of neighbouring Dunley Hill Farm; in 1966 she further sold her half of Dunley Hill House to Brian Stanford whilst (Ernest) Kenneth sold his half to P. Isaacs.



Figure 60 The Ranmore Arms, previously the Sun Haven Bungalow in which Sheelagh had lived.

In late 1965 and early 1966 Beatrice, then still living in Sun Haven, had been advertising for a 2-room flat or an opportunity to share a house with another lady [*Surrey Mirror*, 31 December 1965, 7 January 1966]. Her final place of residence was Pinehurst in Mickleham; she died on 29 March 1983.

Lionel's third daughter Joy Marguerite remained in Luton to the end of her days and died there in 1992; her husband died there (as 'Walter George Atherton') in 1996.

Kenneth's wife Sybil resided finally at Albury and died on 14 March 2006. Kenneth resided finally at Bourton-on-the-Water and died on 10 February 2012.

The Brotherhood lives on

Lionel's Essenic revival, by way of creating his Brotherhood in the early 1920s, seems to have become an enduring legacy. In 1966 a small band of members – ‘eight figures wearing magnificent robes led by a woman with a coronet’ – were reported as making their way to the Battersea Dogs' Home to give the dogs there a New Year snack [*The Sunday Mirror*, 2 January 1966]. The article was particularly struck by the fact that the members were all conspicuously carrying identical packets of dog food. It was explained that the Essenes believed in the sanctity of all animal life.

By 1967 the leader of the Brotherhood was a Dr Jose Bennetto, a former osteopath. It was reported that on the solstice he and his members – numbering over 100 – had ‘trekked to Glastonbury Tor during the early hours ... for their annual convocation’ [*Cheddar Valley Gazette*, 30 June 1967]. Dr Bennetto told the newspaper of the Essenes' firm belief that the second Advent of Christ would take place soon at Glastonbury and that they had been making annual visits there since 1932. Until twenty years previously they had held their services in St Patrick's Chapel (in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey) but since then had held them on the lower slopes of the Tor. ‘The Essenes came to Glastonbury from all over the country. Coachloads came from London, leaving at 5 p.m. on Wednesday evening and returning at 7 a.m. on Thursday morning ... some clad in red, fur-trimmed robes, others in black.’ Dr Bennetto had for some years run an osteopathic practice in Glastonbury, but was now concentrating on his larger practice in Wolverhampton.

An extensive article about the Brotherhood's beliefs and Glastonbury services was printed after the annual event in 1972 [*Central Somerset Gazette*, 30 June 1972]. The midnight mystic service on this occasion was attended by ‘about 400 people including hippies’ filling the Town Hall and was followed by the ritual on the Tor. It was noted that the Brotherhood had been operating for 50 years and that its initiated members currently numbered fewer than 30.

‘They come annually to Glastonbury on June 21 because it is the end of the solar year. The Tor is one of the most important magnetic or cosmic points on Earth and is the “doorway” where the solar and terrestrial forces meet. These doorways are used by angels who have a task to do with these forces. The names of the angels are called at the Tor ceremony. The Essenes believe that these high beings, who travel through the heavens on their way into the Earth's atmosphere, rule, direct and guide mankind according to his spiritual degrees or spiritual status. The critical time for these events is true midnight and the co-operation of the Essenes is necessary.’

The article went on to explain in detail the Essenes' history, their reverence of animals, their belief in reincarnation and the Second Coming, besides much else.

At the present time Lionel's London-based Brotherhood of the Essenes is by no means the only Essenic body operating in Glastonbury. There is also The Nazarean Essene Order of Mount Carmel (Avalon) led by Rev Sister Dominic who styles herself as

‘... the founder of the White Eagle Healing Centre, the Firebird Medicine Lodge, The Little Church of the Sweet Flowers, Christ, the Trinity & All Angels, & the Living Waters Truth Centre ... On the Summer Solstice of 2014 with other members of the Essene Brotherhood internationally in the U.K. [she caused] the first Nazarean Essene Temple to be built in Europe for the past 2,000 years to continue on her work as instructed for her MASTER YESHUA the MESSIAH. It is known by the name of The Jesias Temple of the Silver Rose. In that former incarnation, she was known as the Nazarene Disciple Mary of Bethany, Magdala and Glastonbury, the sister of Lazarus that YESHUA rose from the dead ...’

In 2018 she made it clear on her website (<https://nazareanessene.co.uk/>) that

‘ ... a group that have been meeting up in Glastonbury Town Hall here in Avalon every Summer Solstice since 1920 calling themselves “The Brotherhood of the Essenes” and terrorising this town's lovely people since then, are NOTHING to do with my Glastonbury based “Nazarean Essene Order of Mount Carmel” [who are] NOTHING to do with this other un-GODLY, black-robed, non-Essene Dog worshipping, sword carrying, crowns on

velvet cushion carrying practising group that come here from London to hold their meetings on the Equinoxes and Solstices each year.'

It seems that not all is divine sweetness and love between these deeply religious groups. One cannot help but be reminded of The People's Front of Judea bitterly attacking the nearby Judean People's Front in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*.

Readers interested to learn more of Lionel's Brotherhood – which seems to be still going strong – may wish to apply for membership through the website (<http://www.essenes.org/index.html>), but should be aware that a precondition for this is firstly to attend one of the annual services at Glastonbury, with or without a red, fur-trimmed robe and a packet of dog food.



Figure 61 The Essenes with their dog food in procession to Battersea Dogs' Home, 1966.

Remaining questions

The main aims of our research for this article were to improve our understanding of both Lionel and the changes wrought upon Dunley Hill House after he had moved into it.

Considering the house firstly, we do not know what state it had been in, following a series of tenancies under the ownership of the Maxse family, at the time Lionel arrived. When it had been newly built for Admiral Maxse it would arguably have been one of Effingham's finest mansions, rivalled only by Effingham House and Effingham Hill House. As observed previously, the reduced sale price in 1932 had followed several earlier attempts to sell it, which may have been due in part to some deterioration in its fabric. In any case, the market for such large houses had evaporated even before the Great War, let alone after it, and this particular house's 'Queen Anne' style may no longer have been particularly appealing.

However this may be, the character of some portion of the house's interior was clearly changed significantly by Lionel's hospital installation. How large a portion that was and which part of the house it occupied remain unknown, but it was probably substantial. We know that there were wards and treatment rooms, but not how many. The maximum number of patients capable of being accommodated is not indicated in any documents we have seen.

Even less is known about the way in which the house was impacted by the War. Quite a lot of Effingham's larger houses were requisitioned, an action which in some cases did no favours to their interiors. We know that after the War about half of the main house was turned over to Lionel George's engineering operations. Perhaps when he set these in motion, the internal spaces used for this purpose had already been so compromised by wartime activity that their return to residential use would have been infeasible. What we know for certain is that the condition of the house and its surrounds, including the outbuildings, deteriorated dramatically as the twentieth century came to its close, with scenes of industrial detritus and disorder amidst breakers' yards, dilapidated caravans and police interventions dealing with drug running and illegal holding of guns. It was not until more than a decade had passed in the present century that all this mess was cleared up and the house restored to fully residential use.

As for Lionel, it is impossible to determine, a hundred years later, what factors originally induced him to take an interest in occult matters, or even in medical matters. Essenic sects make much of their disinterest in money or in acquisition generally. In such material as we have seen referring to Lionel's activities we have seen nothing to suggest that he was not totally sincere in the beliefs he held, or that he was unethical in the practices he engaged in. If a person's character is to be considered at all, it should be done against the backdrop of the times they lived in. In our present day most people would not take astrology, for example, seriously, nor imploring angels to fulfil one's wishes from Glastonbury Tor. But a hundred years ago these topics, far from being 'fringe', were almost mainstream. Fortune telling was rife, spiritualism was widely subscribed to and self-medication to cure every ill under the sun by taking Dr Williams' Pink Pills was normal. From our perspective, it was a credulous age – but not from theirs.

Early in this article we mentioned, *en passant*, another interesting character, Mark Lendon Bennett. There are striking similarities between Dr Bennett, FGCM, LVCM, FRSL, DCL, BSc, FGS, MA, LL.D, DSc and Dr Atherton, DO, MIBTh, FBIMMS (LOND), Pres.BFNT. For a start, they clearly liked their qualifications – but was either of them genuinely qualified in anything at all? We cannot say. Among their similarities were the following. Both were 'doctors'; both were osteopaths; both were naturopaths; both were members of the BPMA/BAPMA; both were founders of obscure institutions of which they became the 'presidents'; both got into legal scrapes with women; both went bankrupt. Might Lionel in his young and formative years, have encountered and been influenced by Bennett?

In conclusion, Lionel Atherton has turned out to be the most enigmatic Effingham resident we have studied to date. He has given us much to think about.

ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 62: from *Western Mail*, 22 June 1928; British Newspaper Archive © British Library Board

Figures 63, 64: from *Western Mail*, 23 June 1928; British Newspaper Archive © British Library Board

Figure 65: from *The China Express and Telegraph*, 28 June 1928; British Newspaper Archive © British Library Board

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We must start by expressing our immense gratitude to Julian and Vicki Atherton for providing us with scans of their original materials relating to Lionel, especially the Sun Haven hospital brochure, the 1936 lecture flyer and several valuable photographs of Julian's grandfather Lionel and of Sun Haven. We were thrilled to receive all of these. We are also very grateful for their patiently answering our many queries over several weeks about the family and the house and grounds.

We thank Jeremy Hume for permitting us to reproduce the photographs of his grandmother Dorothy Elsie (née Austen). Likewise we thank Peter Hughes for allowing us to display the photograph of his grandfather Ernest Henry Bailey.

In our early attempts to track down archive material relating to Lionel it was helpful to us that Teresa Stokes – whose aunt Diana Stokes was the daughter of Sheelagh Mary Atherton – was able to confirm that no such material had been passed down through that branch of the family.

We thank Brian Spalding for providing us with the original source of the image of Rev Houldsworth in Figure 53.

The staff of several organisations have kindly assisted with our enquiries. These include the University College of Osteopathy, The Royal Society of Literature, The Geological Society, the Dorking Museum and Heritage Centre, the Wigan Archives and The National Archives.

This article, like so many of ELHG's studies, has been greatly enriched by the resources made available by *Ancestry* and the British Newspaper Archive.

APPENDIX I

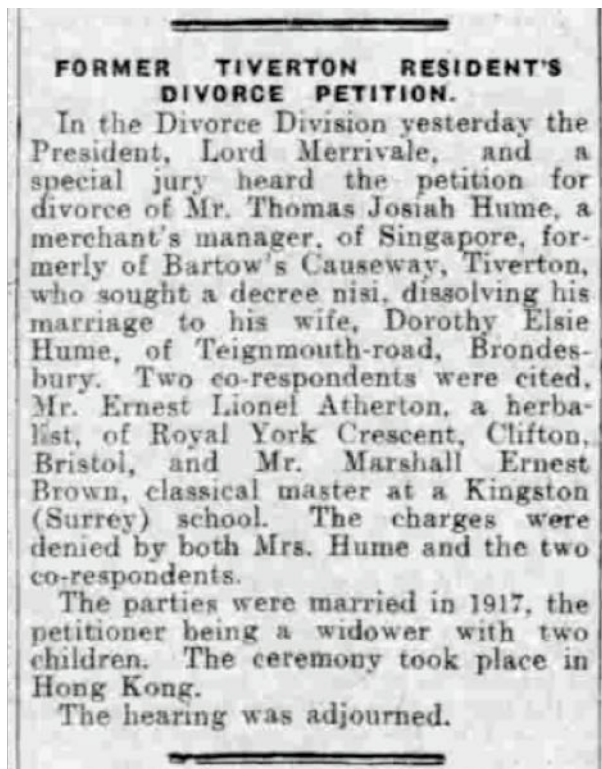
Press Reports of the Hume Divorce Case (1928)

Figure 62 The first day's hearing of the case.
Western Mail, 22 June 1928.



Figure 63 The next day's hearing;
Western Mail, 23 June 1928.

(continued overleaf ...)

" MISCHIEVOUS EFFECT OF CIRCLE."

From May, 1924, until January, 1925, Mr. Hume was at home, and he became on friendly terms with Mr. and Mrs. Atherton. In fact, in 1927, after his return to Singapore, he wrote to the Athertons stating that a circle, of which Mrs. Hume was a member, was having a mischievous effect on her mind, and expressing the hope that Mr. Atherton would not be a party to its continuance. It stated that so far as he was concerned the house in Teignmouth-road should not be used for the meetings of the people interested in astrology.

What was alleged was that from the early part of 1925 down to the end of 1927 Mrs. Hume, to use her own expression, was making herself a prostitute to the two men Atherton and Brown. When asked if she loved her husband she hesitated, and then said, "Well, I am the mother of his three children, but he accuses me of being a prostitute to two men at the same time."

" DEGREE OF DEPRAVITY."

Continuing, Lord Merrivale said: "Mr. and Mrs. Atherton and Mr. and Mrs. Hume are the people between whom the main question arises, complicated by the fact that it was said that between the very dates Mrs. Hume, with an extraordinary depravity, was giving herself in a houseful of people to the embraces of two strangers; that Atherton came at night and was in her bedroom; that she misconducted herself with him; and that Brown came in the afternoon, and under the pretence of taking tea in her bedroom they were there for two or three hours at a time from 1925 to January, 1926. A case with this accusation is a most grave and serious one, and if a married woman has been guilty of conduct of that kind, and it is proved against her, she ought to be divorced, and should not be pitied. But, on the other hand, before you blast her character and life by accusations of that degree of depravity, you must be quite sure that they are made out."

As to Atherton, it was suggested that the only description for him was that of a quack, a self-seeking humbug trading upon a confiding man who had given him the use of his house. But Lord Merrivale said that what had appeared in the course of the case was that he was a medical botanist carrying on a substantial business, and that he had supplied Mrs. Hume with distilled herbal products which had succeeded in reducing her weight.

Referring to Brown, the Judge said Brown had asked all the hostile witnesses if they saw anything between him and Mrs. Hume which led them to suspect improper conduct, and all the witnesses said they had not.

MRS. HUME AS "SALOME."

Lord Merrivale, turning to the house in Teignmouth-road, said it was common ground that Mr. Hume was also aware that it was used in connection with the ideas which several people shared at that time about astrology and intellectual action. From the time he went to Singapore in January, 1925, until his return to London Mr. Hume took no sort of action to deprive Atherton of the sanction he had given him for the use of that house, in which he now alleged that a course of habitual misconduct was going on. "What is called the circle went merrily on from 1925 to 1926, when it had been operating for something less than eighteen months, when, either because of the pecuniary burdens or something else, Mrs. Hume went to live at the vicarage at North Shoebury, and she lived there until early in 1927. Mrs. Hume has been engaging herself in these astrological studies and pursuits, and then as soon as her husband's arrival a petition is filed with these accusations.

"If I were trying this case I would ask myself where these came from," said Lord Merrivale. "Where do they come from?"

Mr. Hume's counsel, referring to the circle, had said Mrs. Hume was described as "Salome." Brown was "John the Baptist," and Atherton as "Karma, the second Messiah." Counsel, said Lord Merrivale, could not invent these things or think of the circle in which Scriptural names were used in a sense blasphemously, and in which there were such phantastic allusions as in the word Karma.

LORD MERRIVALE AND ASTROLOGY.

"I talk to you about this occult business, this circle, in order to make clear to you how little bearing it can have on this charge of misconduct.

"For my part, I would gladly cut it out from this case, and cut it out from people's conduct, but you cannot do that. All people are free creatures, and have a right, if they like, to believe in astrology. Mr. Brown chooses to believe in astrology. He refers to the Bible, and says it refers to the effect of the planets and the stars on the natural tendencies of human conduct. What is known about astrology, as far as this case is concerned, is that it regards the human creature as an item in the great circle of life, the fate of which is influenced by external natural tendencies, and especially by the course of the stars. And so you have got in this case horoscope stars of these various people. That is the study which I mention so that you may be able to appreciate the people. You will be able to see whether they are people with clean minds meeting for an innocent, foolish purpose, or whether this circle was a mere opportunity for the indulgence of beastly appetites."

The jury retired and found that there was no misconduct between Mrs. Hume and Mr. Brown. They retired again to consider the other questions in the case, and after a lengthy deliberation failed to agree, and were discharged.

Figure 64 The next day's hearing;
Western Mail, 23 June 1928.

(continued from preceding page)

LEGAL

ASTROLOGISTS IN DIVORCE SUIT.

In the Divorce Court on June 22, Mr. Thomas Josiah Hume, of Singapore, sought the dissolution of his marriage with Mrs. Dorothy Elsie Hume *née* Austin, of Teignmouth-road, Brondesbury, citing as co-respondents Mr. Ernest Lionel Atherton, a herbalist, of Bristol, and Mr. Marshall Ernest Brown, a classical master at a Kingston school.

The petitioner claimed damages against both co-respondents. By their answers the respondent and co-respondents denied the charges.

The marriage took place at St. Peter's Church, Hong-kong, on May 17, 1917, the petitioner then being a widower, with a son and a daughter. There were children of the marriage, sons aged from nine to six. The adultery was alleged to have been committed at the house at Teignmouth-road, where the wife was living while her husband was away at Singapore and elsewhere.

In their defence, the respondent and the co-respondents said their association was merely a friendly one, the house at Teignmouth-road being used for meetings of a group interested in astrology and kindred sciences.

Summing up, Lord Merrivale said that Mr. Hume, when in the East, married the daughter of a British chaplain at Yokohama. On returning to this country Mr. and Mrs. Hume became friendly with the Athertons. While the husband was away the wife became interested in astrology, and at her house at Brondesbury held what was called a "circle." Mr. Hume's counsel, in opening the case, had said that in connection with the "circle" Mrs. Hume was known as "Salome," the co-respondent Atherton was "Karma, the second Messiah," and Brown was "John the Baptist." But, said the judge, not one scrap of evidence had been given with regard to it. It had also been said that Mrs. Hume had declared that she loved Mr. Atherton very much and wished that she were free, but no evidence had been given about that and the author of "this fantastic story" was a servant. The jury might not believe in astrology, but others did. For centuries men had attached the greatest importance to it, believing human creatures were influenced by the stars. The question was: Did these people really believe in astrology, as they professed? Were they people of clean mind following an innocent, even if some thought foolish, study, or was this "circle" a mere opportunity for the indulgence of beastly habits?

The jury found no misconduct by Mr. Brown, who was dismissed from the suit. About Mr. Atherton they could not agree, and were discharged.

Figure 65 Lord Merrivale's summing up;
The China Express and Telegraph, 28 June 1928.

APPENDIX II

Sun Haven Triune Healing Home Brochure

The brochure's cover is deep brown in colour and is not suitable for reproducing here. On its upper half is an equilateral triangle containing the intertwined initials L and A (for Lionel Atherton) and on its sides are the words Osteopathy, Physio-Therapy and Botano-Therapy – the three strands of his 'Triune' healing approach. On the cover's lower half are the words 'The Atherton Triune Healing Home Sun Haven Dorking Surrey'.



The Atherton Triune Healing Home

The CHARM of SUN HAVEN

A GEM OF SUNNY SURREY



SUN HAVEN, the "Atherton Triune Healing Home," is a delightful summer and winter resort. Set on a hill some six hundred feet above the level of the sea and commanding a glorious panorama, its setting and environment might be termed a veritable garden city.

Its charm lies in its natural beauty and strongly marked individuality, and it is unique among natural healing homes in treating disease by the three systems of healing, Osteopathy, Psycho-Therapy and Botano-Therapy, and in its absence of artificial embellishment. Its broken and picturesque surroundings, embracing Ranmore Common, Beech Avenue, its charming undulating and wooded walks among luxurious vegetation with ever changing scenes and glorious sunsets, combine to make Sun Haven a real gem for the restoration of health by natural methods.

Figure 66 The opening page – the gates bear the name Sun Haven.



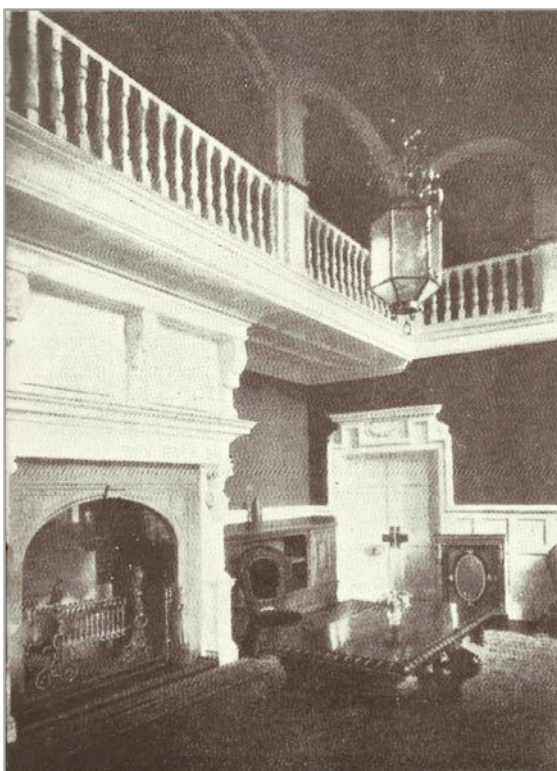
The Atherton Triune Healing Home

By its general situation and unobtrusive excellence as well as by the modest charges, it caters with every comfort for the slender purse or to the more luxurious demands of the wealthy. Two grades of private rooms are available while completely screened private wards will satisfy the requirements of those patients with limited means.

Whether for the specialised brief visit arranged for intensive treatment or the longer stay necessary for chronic cases, to escape within the hour from London's noise and to renew one's health in beautiful surroundings this should appeal to all who suffer and value health efficiency as a necessity.

The windows have uninterrupted views of the countryside and the delightful grounds and gardens, excellent lawns with grass and hard tennis courts, in all some forty acres.

Figure 67 Page 2 of the brochure – showing the west side of the house.



The Lounge

Mrs. Atherton personally superintends the household arrangements, and her real interest and practical ability in the nature cure and physical culture movement ensures that attention to the trifle that makes for comfort. It is the trifle that leads to perfection and perfection is no trifle.

As one enters the hall, one meets the kind of welcome associated

with real interest and kindly hospitality.

One's baggage mysteriously disappears, but awaits in one's room where wide windows invite the irresistible peep over the delightful surroundings. Into the excellently arranged bathroom where the water marked "HOT" does not lie. Plenty of towels and the refreshing smell of the special herbal pot

Main Staircase

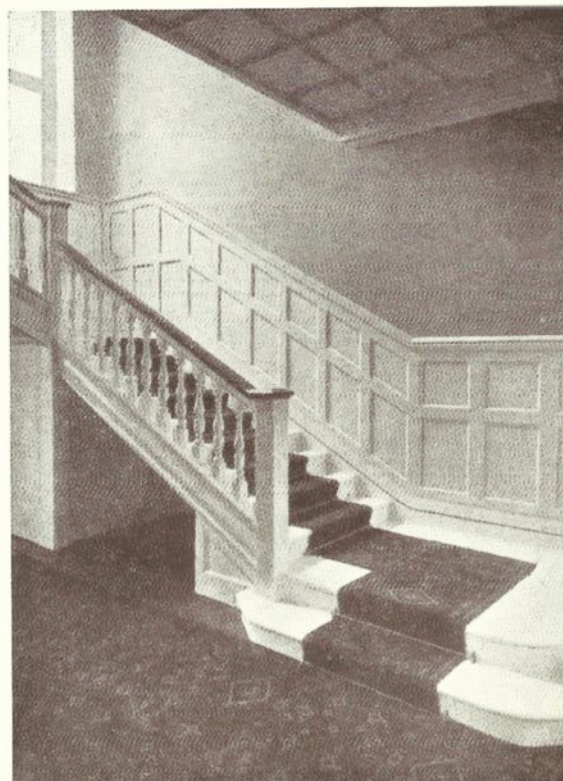
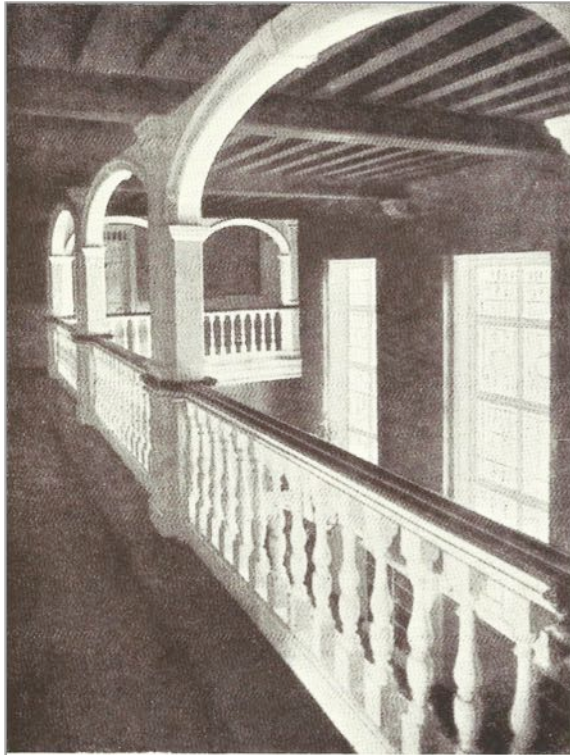


Figure 68 Page 3 of the brochure – interior views and confirmation that Beatrice was also involved in the hospital's arrangements.



The Gallery

pourri sprayed and burned throughout the building plus the ozone of lovely air has done its work. Dinner Gong !

The dining room overlooks the park. Here you immediately get the impression of the finest English fare. Almost everything for table is grown on the estate, while the milk comes from selected cows. Tea is served either in the patient's

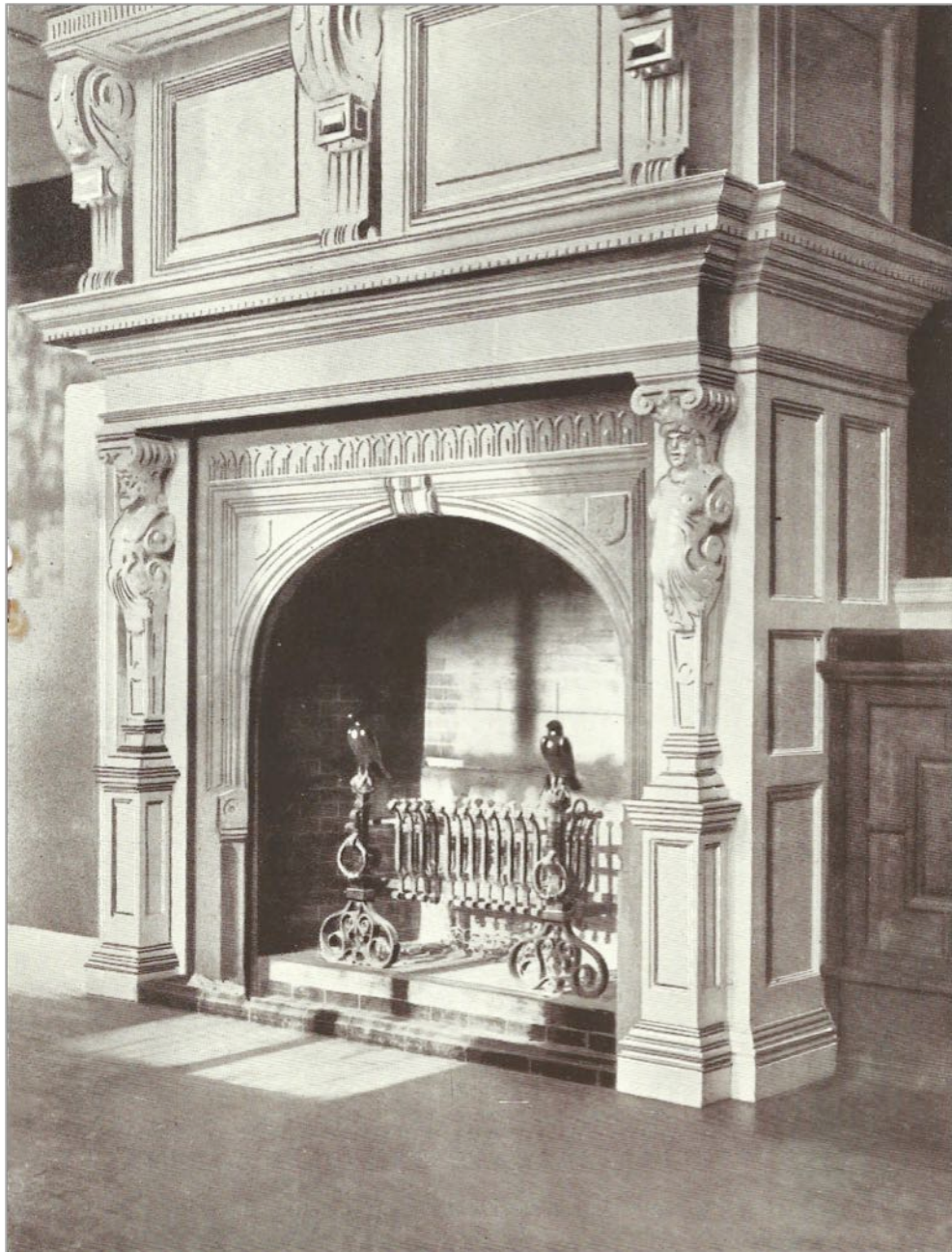
room, the gallery lounge or in the open air and the piping hot teapot is accompanied by a dumb waiter, carrying a generous supply of food. You just help yourself.

The usual general starvation method advocated by some nature healers for all diseases is not the policy at Sun Haven. Each patient is treated and served individually according to the dietician's report.

*View from a
Bedroom, showing
Dutch Garden*



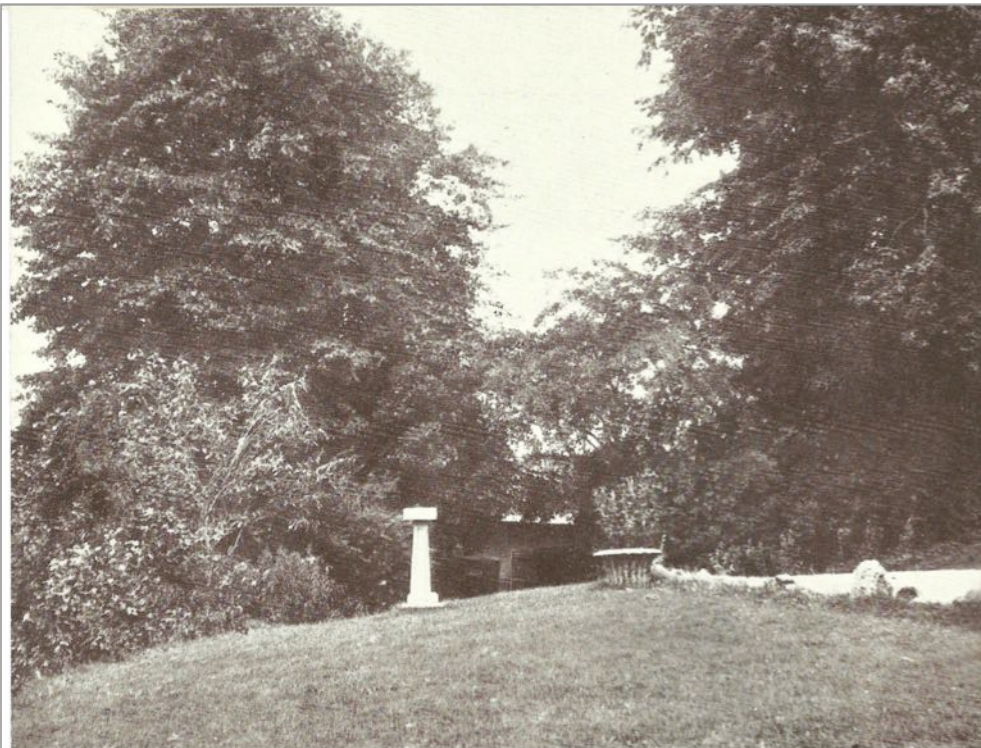
Figure 69 Page 4 of the brochure – description of Sun Haven's gastronomy.



THE TUDOR GRATE IN THE GALLERY LOUNGE

This is a delightful place to chat and meet friends. The gallery above overlooks this spot and patients can see if their people have arrived without coming down the main staircase.

Figure 70 Page 5 of the brochure – one of Sun Haven's impressive fireplaces.



A well Wooded Walk

The Ball Room is a medium-sized modern salon, which opens into the Terrace through French windows glazed with special glass which invites all the healthy sun rays. Here one can enjoy a dance, or games with good music, too.

The Ball Room is adjacent to the Gallery Lounge which can be thrown open into one fine suite for special occasions. The heating system at Sun Haven does not attempt to ape the Equator. It just gives a regulated heat thermostatically controlled. In addition there are log, electric and coal fires in all the principal rooms so comforting at most seasons.

THE SYSTEM OF HEALING

TRIUNE healing is carried out at Sun Haven. This consists of Osteopathy, Psycho-Therapy and Botano-Therapy and the curriculum is based on the examination standards of the three societies representing the above subjects and incorporated under the one title.

"The British Federation of Natural Therapeutics."—This is the Federation that is fighting for the recognition of the *trained* but unregistered practitioner. For further information read the series *"Lionel Atherton's Talks to His Patients."* In addition to the above Light Therapy, Hydro-Therapy, and Diathermy and special mud packs are used when prescribed. The most modern methods and equipment are used at Sun Haven in combating disease by natural methods.

Figure 71 Page 6 of the brochure – the ballroom and healing facilities.



On fine days patients are treated in the Grounds in the Patent Hammock Bed

Lionel Atherton gives practical lectures in the Ball Room on getting well and keeping well. Every endeavour is made to make the patient realise the psychological purpose of power, pep and personality.

GOLF

Golf to-day is the game of every man, and, in almost the same magnitude, of every woman. There can be no one of established social position to-day, indeed, who does not recognise the fascination of the game, and indulge in it whenever possible ; and thus it is not surprising that the development of golf clubs and their rendering available near our residential centres is very highly studied.

In studying these clubs, however, the time has passed in which the game alone had to be taken into consideration. It is true that the devotee of the game is more than ever critical of the character of the links : but this alone is not now sufficient to satisfy him. The "Country Club spirit" is abroad amongst golfers ; and it is demanded that, in addition to fine links, the golf club of to-day shall provide every amenity and every social pleasure which it is possible to provide. Judged from these standpoints, some of the clubs in the Home Counties are as nearly ideal as is anything in this un-ideal world ; but others, whilst sporting for the golfer, fall very far short on the social side.

Figure 72 Page 7 of the brochure – lectures, golf and external hammock beds.



Manipulation Theatre equipped for every form of Modern Natural Treatment.

From both points of view, the famous Effingham Golf Club in Surrey may be regarded as the typical example of what the golf club of the future must be. Effingham, indeed, is the ideal golf club, from the playing and the social points of view alike ; and would be an ideal country club even were not one of the finest links in the country its principal motif. We are not surprised, indeed, that there are some five hundred members to this by no means

Figure 73 Page 8 of the brochure – golf and manipulation.



Visiting Day. Spectators watching special demonstration in Revolving Vita-Glass Sun House

old club ; nor that the privilege of membership is one which is very widely sought.

The club has recently built two special courts which are considered by the leading players to be amongst the finest in the country. The club is situated a short distance from Sun Haven at the bottom of the beautiful Beech Avenue.

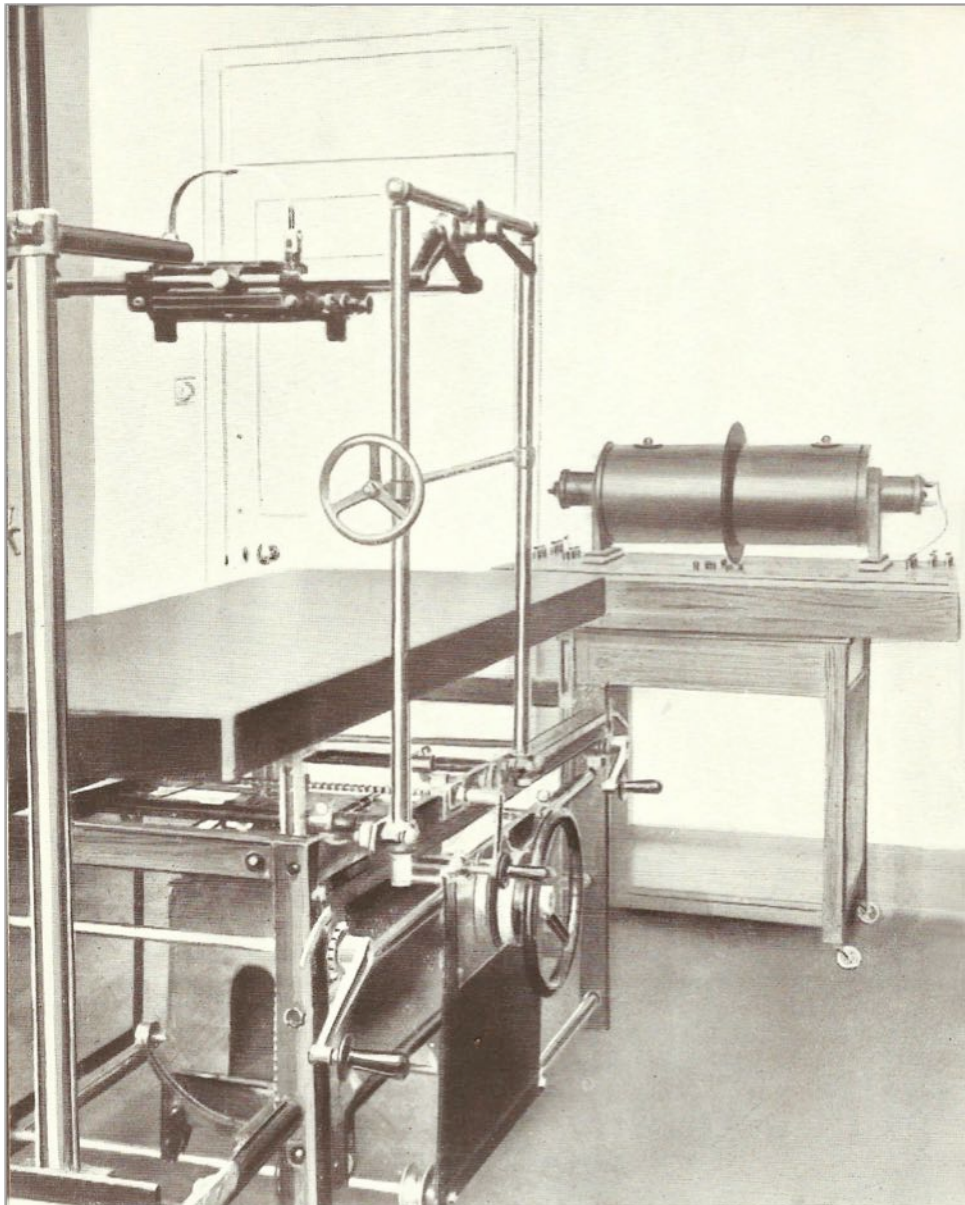
HOW TO GET TO SUN HAVEN

The estate lies between Dorking and Guildford, only twenty-five miles from Hyde Park Corner, five miles from Dorking, seven miles from Guildford and two miles from Effingham. Easily accessible by good motor roads. There is a good train service from Waterloo and Victoria stations. Patients should book to Effingham Junction where they are met by car and conveyed to Sun Haven.



Interior of Revolving Sun House

Figure 74 Page 9 of the brochure – Visiting Day, the vita-glass chalet and travel.



A corner of the X-Ray Room.

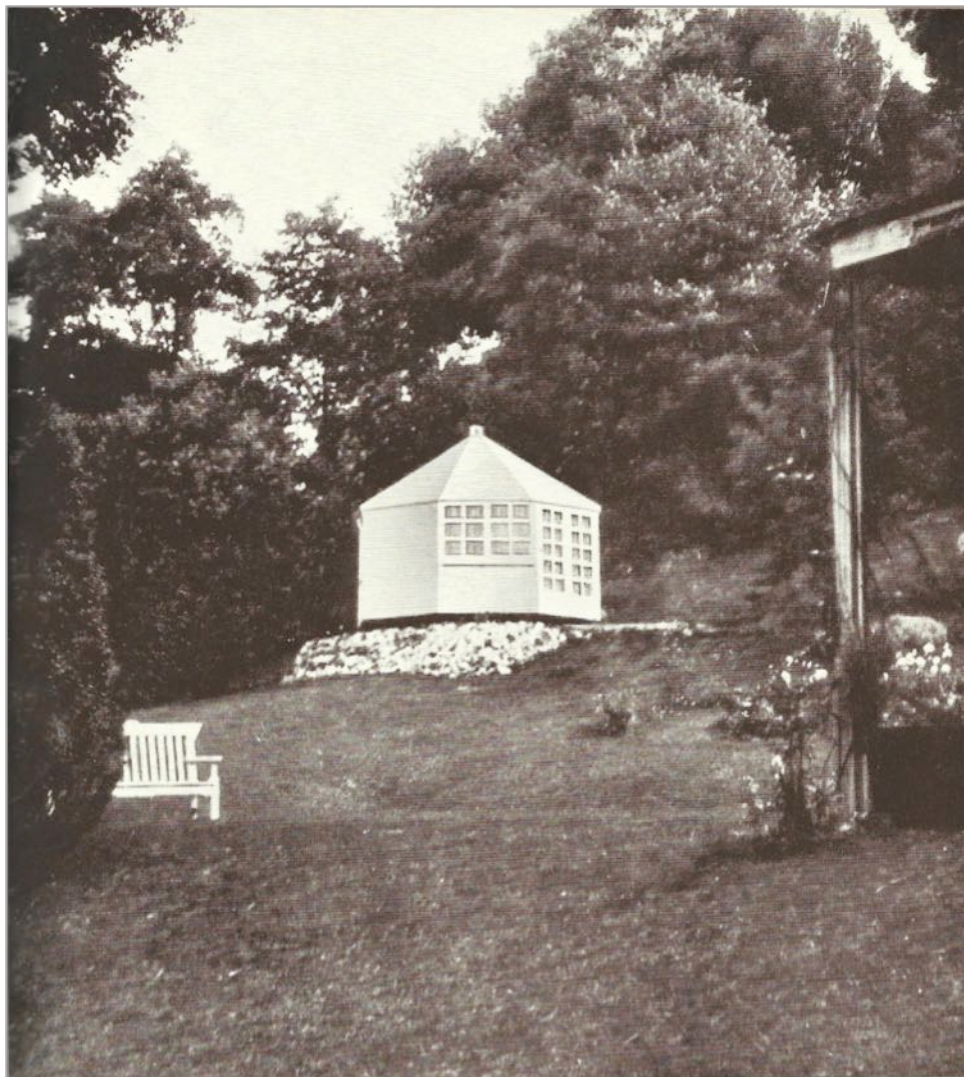
THE BLESSED GIFT OF SLEEP

As important as good food exquisitely cooked and deftly served is the vital need for beds scientifically constructed which invite sleep and soft forgetfulness. Each bed at Sun Haven is fitted with spring and airo-pad covering fitted with crisp hair between and above the yielding coils. This makes a wonderful mattress, especially after spinal manipulation and the electric bath.

X-RAY ROOM AND MANIPULATION THEATRE

These are fitted with modern appliances enabling quick and accurate work to be done. The manipulation theatre is fitted

Figure 75 Page 10 of the brochure – sleep and the X-ray Room.



The Revolving Sun House set in lovely surroundings.

with a special large Vita-Glass window facing north, while a change-over system of red lights show immediately the modern sterilisers should cease working. While we advocate and carry out Natural Healing, the building is fitted for any form of Medical, Surgical, Maternity or Convalescent Cases. The establishment is under the direct personal supervision of Lionel Atherton and a resident staff of nurses trained in orthodox and Natural Healing methods.

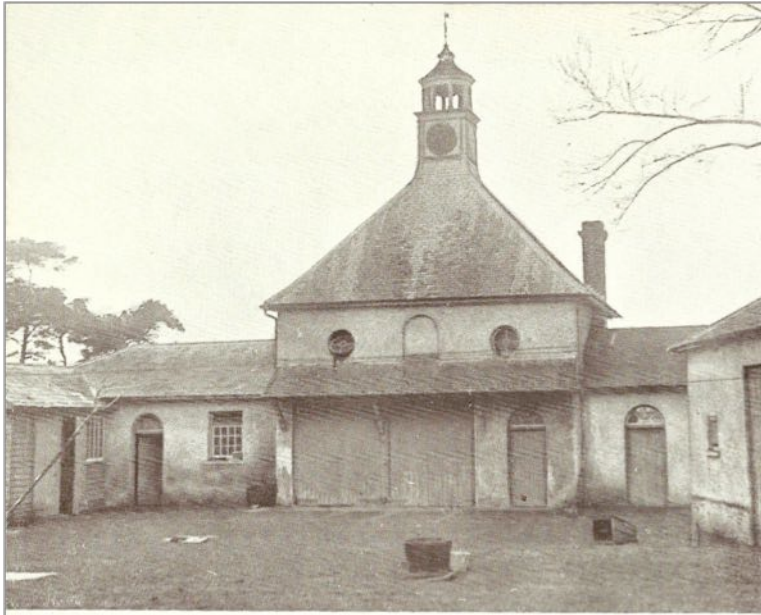
TENNIS

Is Tennis your game ? Two courts; one grass and one hard, are laid down at Sun Haven, while facilities for Squash, Croquet and Bowls are also available.

RIDING

Horsemen and Horsewomen can find their favourite exercise easy to enjoy. Mounts are available and fine country and

Figure 76 Page 11 of the brochure – the Revolving Sun House, tennis and riding.



(Above)
The Old
Courtyard

(Below)
Tea on the Lawn
at Effingham
Golf Course

moor rides, while a special riding row is allotted on Ranmore Common, within five minutes of Sun Haven. In the old courtyard there are six stalls and ample space for cars, while petrol, accessories and repairs can be obtained from the garage adjoining. You can take a different run every day for a month and always find some new delight in this galaxy of gems of sunny Surrey.

PICNICS

There are a thousand dells, glens and rocky nooks within easy reach for picnics, each radiant with green mosses, ferns, rainbow flowers and singing birds.



Figure 77 Page 12 of the brochure – the Old Courtyard and tea at Effingham House.

APPENDIX III

*Flyer for Worthing Lectures (1936)***The MISSION OF MY PRESENT CAMPAIGN**

is to explain to you the definite laws and formulas and to show you how to put these laws into action. Intuitively you know you should live in harmony with yourself and with surroundings, but in the majority of cases something happens that you believe prevents you from attaining the ideal. In my practice I have proved the principle of attainment in dealing with thousands of ailing persons, and demonstrated a degree of its application. I am able to assure you of success if you follow the law of TRIUNE HEALING. It matters not whether your interest is in music, literature, invention, dramatic art, profession, trade, or what it is these laws, when correctly followed, will help you to attain the ideal. Osteopathy, Psycho Therapy, Botano Therapy, three great sciences, each correlated and applied in their proper manner to the three magnetic centres of the body answers every human need. It gives me a forecast of real joy when I receive letters from aspiring people who care for practice with a purpose.

HODGKINS ENGRAVERS & PRINTERS WIDLEYBROOK

**HEAR
LIONEL ATHERTON**

D.O., M.Inst.Bth. (Lond.)

FOUNDER OF THE FIRST BRITISH OSTEOPATHIC HOSPITAL
PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF NATURAL
THERAPEUTICS. 19 YEARS IN PRACTICE

THIS Lecture was delivered by Dr. Atherton at the Royal Albert Hall, and explains the new triune healing in a practical and interesting manner. Not a dry-as-dust lecture but one that will galvanise your desire to know who, why, and what you are. Forewarned is forearmed. Be one hundred per cent efficient and prepare for what is ahead. Dr. Atherton's lectures will help you to the attainment of your heart's desire, your destined goal and path in life.

**TRIUNISM**

WORTHING NEW TOWN HALL
TUESDAY, DEC. 15th, & WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16th, at 8 p.m.

ON TUESDAY THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN BY
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF WORTHING

(Alderman C. B. Barber, J.P.),

AND ON WEDNESDAY BY THE

DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman W. G. Tree, J.P.)

A LIMITED NUMBER OF RESERVED SEATS 2/- (including Tax).
Obtain from Mansfield's Music Salon, Worthing.
Remainder of Hall Free. Collection to defray Expenses.

**INTRODUCTION TO ALL LECTURES BY
MARSHALL BROWN, M.A. (Oxon.)**

TRIUNE HEALING LEADS TO HEALTH, SUCCESS and HAPPINESS
IT WILL HELP YOU TO ACQUIRE A

DYNAMI**POWER, POISE and PERSONALITY
THE TRIUNE POWERS WITHIN YOU**

Only one in twenty persons enjoys "whole-health." The rest live on day after day in a state of half-health. They are not sick enough to stay in bed nor well enough to engage with zest in the busy business and social activities of life.

This condition increases your chance of failure.

It causes you to lack push and grit.

In time it affects your physical appearance and depletes your magnetism.

Vibrant personal poise and power should be yours.

The Triune method will show you how to obtain it.

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

you may have a desire to do something worth while. To influence circumstances and increase your social advancement.

You may seem "out of place" when attending a party, and others would seem to be having a better time than you.

There is a reason for this.

Often you have more ability than the person from whom you shrink.

IF YOU ARE A MAN

you will want to be as far as possible 100% efficient.

You will wish to take your rightful place in the affairs of the world.

When you are asked to give an opinion you will want to be able to speak with conviction and prove real ability. These things Triune Healing will help you to do.

Correct adjustment of the body, and the replenishing of the correct Cell Salt you lack coupled with scientific psychology will work wonders.

**HERE IS THE KEY TO THE CURE
OF NERVOUS DISORDERS:**

Of the long list of disorders and disease conditions there is no class of disorders in which Triune Healing has won greater triumphs than in diseases of the nervous system.

In many forms of neurasthenia Triune Healing has accomplished seemingly marvellous results.

Triune Healing skilfully administered, directly or indirectly, influences every structure of the body.

Many people keep in the pink of health by following the methods of Triune Healing.

**YOU HAVE THREE VITAL FACTORS
IN HEALTH BUILDING:**

What one might term wireless receivers; the methods and the three processes used in Triune Healing have been tested on thousands of private patients.

It has long since passed the stage of guess work.

It gives a complete and fascinating explanation of some of the difficulties encountered in healing.

These three magnetic centres must work in unison if you wish to maintain radiant health.

AMAZING REVELATIONS.

In these lectures Lionel Atherton explains some remarkable correspondence between the Macrocosm and the Microcosm—between man and the sphere.

He brings universals down to particulars and shows how they can be used in the daily life of man.

The man or woman who follows Triune Healing will see in a short time why they have had ill health or failed to succeed. You simply respond to a law and its realm is as wide as the world.

Sir Henry Drummond, the great scientist, said: "A law that is in operation in one part of the Universe must be equally operative throughout its whole."



INTERIOR OF
REVOLVING
VITRA GLASS
CHALET.



A CORNER OF
THE LOUNGE
SHOWING THE
OLD TUDOR
FIREPLACE.

Figure 78 Pages 1 and 2 of the flyer for the Worthing lectures in 1936.

C PERSONALITY



SPECIAL
ADJUSTABLE
HAMMOCK BED
USED IN THE
GROUNDS IN
FINE WEATHER.



THE FIRST BRITISH
OSTEOPATHIC
HOSPITAL
INCORPORATING THE
ATHERTON TRIUNE
HEALING HOME.

MAIN
CORRIDOR
TO
BEDROOMS



Concerning . . TRIUNE HEALING

A SANE HEAD (POISE), A SOFT HEART (POWER) AND A PURE BODY (PERSONALITY) are the three essentials for real success in life.

St. Paul said : "Investigate all things and hold fast to that which is good." He was trained in the mystic school of healing.

He applied his mystical training in a practical manner. When he said : "In HIM (Spirit) we Move (Soul) and have our being (Body)," he applied in a practical and scientific manner the basis of Triune Healing.

It links the mechanism of the body with the Cell Salt and the two with the aura or psyche of man.

Hear Lionel Atherton lecture on the Raising of Jairus' Daughter. The Magic Chain of Christ.

TEAR OFF HERE.

193.....

Please send me Reserved Seats at (Including Tax) for

LIONEL ATHERTON'S LECTURES

1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5.....

Please Enter in Space the Number of Tickets Required for Each Lecture.

Cheque / P.O. for £..... enclosed herewith.

Name.....

Address.....

Please Print Name, etc. in CAPITAL LETTERS.

DIFFERENT DISTINCT UNIQUE

THESE LECTURES BY LIONEL ATHERTON

YOUR TWELVE JOURNEYS WITH THE SUN

In connection with the Twelve Types of Human Development and the Twelve Cell Salts of the Human Body.

THE PRIMARY WILL OF MAN

Your Involuntary System of Human Development and Disease.

THE SEVEN AURAS OF MAN

Astral Angles and Physical Colours in Relation to Disease.

OSTEOPATHY IN THEORY AND FACT

The Birth of the New Medical School.

THE RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

A lecture of intense interest to all thinkers and believers in Spiritual Healing; an explanation of the Magic Chain of Christ.

The MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

latent in every individual is brought out to its full extent by the methods of TRIUNE HEALING. It means the things of practice, not the fancied thing, the mystical idea. I have no use whatever for that which is not for present practice and for definite results in the present. I know in the course of a busy practice during the past nineteen years that fidelity to this principle has enabled me to discover the three vital items concerning the source of Growth, Function and Differentiation. At this very moment you are exactly what these three forces have made you applied in their three way aspect to the Plant, the Animal, and the Man. Although you may not be aware of it the larger part of you is not manifesting the result of your own intentional voluntary thinking and desire. Neither the scientists devoted to the study of material conditions or those whose studies belong to the realm of mind make plain the laws and formulas for the attainment of the ideal. They say you should be healthy in mind, body and soul, that you should be spontaneously perfect in self-expression without showing you how to begin to attain them.

Figure 79 Pages 3 and 4 of the flyer for the Worthing lectures in 1936.

APPENDIX IV

Atherton's Bankruptcy File – Abstracts and Transcripts

The official papers concerning Atherton's bankruptcy are held in the BT (Board of Trade) class in The National Archives under reference BT 226/5071. They consist of over 40 documents spanning nearly 180 pages. In the ELHG archives each of these is held as a pdf file whose name includes a date suffix. The principal documents are listed below, followed by synopses of their contents.

Phillimore Writ	20 Jan1938.pdf
Chronology Summary	1939.pdf
Debts Due & Collected	1939.pdf
Receiving Order made	19May1939.pdf
Questions & Answers	24May1939.pdf
Statement of Affairs	01June1939.pdf
Adjudication Order	03June1939.pdf
Buckley Pigeon to Pritchard	12July1939.pdf
Statement of Affairs	13July1939.pdf
Atherton Statement	13July1939.pdf
Summary Statement of Affairs	17July1939.pdf
Public Examination	19July1939.pdf
Atherton Statement	post19July1939.pdf
Statement of Affairs	16Oct1939.pdf
Public Examination	18Oct1939.pdf
Trustee Release	22July1940.pdf
Trustee Release Cert	30Apr1941.pdf
Daily Express cutting	22Dec1950.pdf
Receiver to Atherton	28Dec1950.pdf
Atherton to Receiver	29Dec1950.pdf
Memo Applic Discharge	02Jan1951.pdf
Bingham to Receiver	03Jan1951.pdf
Receiver to Bingham	05Jan1951a.pdf
Receiver to Bingham	05Jan1951b.pdf
Bingham to Receiver	08Jan1951.pdf
Questions to Atherton	18Apr1951.pdf
Notice of Discharge Hearing	19Apr1951.pdf
Notice of Discharge Hearing	03May1951.pdf
Receiver's Report	16May1951.pdf
Discharge Suspension	24May1951.pdf
Brown to Receiver	26May1951.pdf
Hunter re Surrey Ad	28May1951.pdf
Receiver to Brown	29May1951.pdf
Receiver to Maple	30May1951.pdf
Maple to Receiver	04June1951.pdf
Receiver to Maple	07June1951.pdf
Edwards to Receiver	03May1966.pdf
Receiver to Edwards	17May1966.pdf
Edwards to Receiver	18May1966.pdf
Edwards to Receiver	31May1966.pdf
Receiver to Edwards	20June1966.pdf

1. Phillimore Writ**20 January 1938**

A Writ was issued on 2 December 1937 and delivered to the High Court on 20 January 1938. The Plaintiffs were The Rt Hon Godfrey Walter Baron Phillimore and Arthur Fitzgerald Sandys Hill. The Defendants were Lionel Atherton (henceforth LA), Kenneth Sharrock and his sister Olga Sharrock (Kenneth and Olga were the children of LA's deceased benefactor, J H Sharrock). This file is the Plaintiffs' Statement of Claim and it states the following.

The Plaintiffs entered into a written Sale Agreement with LA dated 23 April 1934 agreeing that Dunley Hill would be sold to LA in *fee simple* for the sum of £3,600. The purchase was to be completed and the purchase money paid on 23 April 1937, but in default of this LA was to pay the Plaintiffs interest of 5% p.a. on the unpaid money until completion did take place. Meanwhile LA would be entitled to take possession on conditions set out in a 'Second Schedule'. The Plaintiffs as mortgagees would convey the *fee simple* under their statutory powers. In an endorsement dated 30 August 1935 to a 'First Memorandum' LA accepted from Olga's mother a loan of £1000 at 5% p.a. interest on the same terms as that Memorandum.

James Henry Sharrock died on 10 October 1935 and his Will was proved by Kenneth and Olga on 20 December 1935.

At the date of the Writ, LA had not completed the sale but had retained possession and refused and neglected to fulfil his obligations under the Sale Agreement and would not do so unless compelled by the Court.

The Plaintiffs claimed the following: performance of the Sale Agreement; damages; a declaration of their entitlement to a lien in respect of unpaid purchase money and interest, enforced if necessary by the Receiver or by rescission of the Sale Agreement; payment of interest due up to 23 April 1937 of £130-10-0; payment of interest at 5% p.a. on the sum of £3,600 since 23 April up to the present; and costs.

(Legal matters then proceeded as follows. On 31 May 1938 the High Court, in response to the Writ, ordered that the Sale Agreement be rescinded. Shortly after this, the Plaintiffs sold the freehold to Olga Sharrock. Her brother Kenneth continued to pursue Lionel in an attempt to recover money given by his father to Lionel. Kenneth's actions resulted in a Bankruptcy Notice being issued and served on LA in March 1939. A High Court chronology of the case itemizes a Creditors' Petition dated 20 April 1939 and filed on 25 April 1939. This date of filing is confirmed in *The London Gazette* published on 23 May 1939.)

2. Receiving Order made**19 May 1939**

The Receiving Order clarifies that the petition had been submitted by Kenneth Sharrock – the 'Petitioning Creditor' – and assigned the reference 344/1939. On reading the evidence it contained and hearing the evidence of Kenneth's solicitors Pritchard *et al* and LA's solicitors Edwards *et al*, it appeared to the Court that LA had failed to comply before 31 March 1939 with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Notice that the Court had issued on 17 March 1939 and served on him on 23 March. LA was residing and carrying on business at 6, Barrie House. The Receiving Order dated 19 May 1939 was made against him and Mr Leslie Arthur West was appointed as Receiver of LA's estate, a form of trusteeship.

3. Questions & Answers**24 May 1939**

LA had been required to enter answers to printed questions on Form O.R.7. 'Preliminary Examination of Debtor'. The form posed 48 questions, many having several parts. LA's completed response – which included two extra pages (transcribed later in this Appendix) – took up 15 pages in total. As preliminary details he gave his age as 54, birthplace as Somerset, occupation as Doctor of Osteopathy, place of residence as Sun Haven 'for the last 5 years ... during which my liabilities have been contracted'. His place of practice was Barrie House in Lancaster Gate, conducted under his own name, and he had begun practice about 20 years ago. His current free capital was £400/£500. In the two extra pages (see separate transcript of these) he related in dense detail his career, his practice, his meeting Sharrock, his contract to purchase Sun Haven, Sharrock's death, Olga's position and Sharrock's Will.

He had been a Director in the company The First British Osteopathic Hospital Ltd for about three years up to 1939, but he had resigned this about a fortnight before the bankruptcy petition. Also from about 1935/36 up to 1939 he had been a Director of the Circle Cell Salt Company Ltd at 1, Dunley Hill from which he had also resigned.

The books of account he had kept were just a patients ledger, a bank pass book and his diaries. He also had a file of receipts, some pertaining to Barrie House and some to Sun Haven.

He estimated his unsecured indebtedness as £10,000 and had 7 creditors, of which a list was provided. He had possibly a very small credit in a Westminster Bank current a/c and a debt of about £1,700 to Lloyds Bank in Bristol which held the deeds of a leasehold property 39, Royal York Crescent in Clifton. He had not operated the latter account for the last ten years. He had never had any bank accounts except these. At Barrie House he had an osteopathic manipulating table now worth about £25. He no longer had any household furniture – he had sold it to his company in 1936 for £350. He and his wife were now living in about four furnished rooms at Sun Haven by kind permission of the owner Olga. He was owed fees of about £100. Thus his assets amounted to £125. He held a tenancy of a consulting room at Barrie House (within a flat there owned by Olga) for which he paid half of Olga's rent for her flat under the lease and a third of her expenses in its upkeep. He held a lease on the Royal Crescent house in Clifton which was empty except that a caretaker and keyholder slept on the premises; it was mortgaged to Lloyds Bank to whom he owed about £1,700 but the bank had taken no steps for possession.

His solicitors were Messrs Edwards & Sons in London and his accountant was Mr G McCabe also of London.

He had been married for 22 or 23 years and had three children, two boys aged 21 and 20 and a girl aged 15. The two younger ones were dependent on him, the eldest only partly, being engaged in engineering. (He made no mention of his two earlier daughters from his first marriage.)

Asked to write down the causes of his insolvency he listed these as commitments entered into to propagate osteopathy, such as advertising, hall hire, reconditioning of property etc. upon the promises made by the late Mr J H Sharrock to finance him up to £10,000; also to monies, in all about £5,000, borrowed from Miss Sharrock expended upon Sun Haven which was lost to him by reason of the failure of Sharrock's Executors to buy up the property as provided for in the Codicil to his Will.

Asked when he became aware of his insolvency he said he accepted he must have been insolvent since about 1930 but had realised it only in 1937 when Kenneth Sharrock pressed for repayment of Mr Sharrock's loans. Regarding the Clifton house he wrote 'Although I must have been insolvent in 1930, as a result of the heavy depreciation in the value of the house at Bristol, I am not perturbed about my position because the bank agreed to accept repayments of £100 a year, which I paid for about 3 years.'

He declared fee income in the year ending 30 June 1935, in the year ending 30 June 1936 and in the period 1 July 1936 to 19 May 1939 as £1,561, £1,138 and £1,056. He declared excess of expenditure over income in those periods as £704, £1,701 and £2,186. He declared the money drawn for household and personal expenses in those periods as £475, £957 and £1,161, noting that the latter figure included about £326 spent on his pleasure trip to Cairo with Mrs Bevan and Mr [Alfred Ronald] Heaver (Editor of *The National Message*) in about September 1938, his expenses having been borne entirely by Mrs Bevan as gifts to him.

4. Statement of Affairs 1 June 1939

This Statement of Affairs, dated 1 June 1939 and signed by LA, had to be completed and submitted as evidence for a 'First Meeting' held on 2 June 1939. This meeting may have required only the presence in court of the Receiver; there is no evidence that LA was present.

The Statement has ten pages setting out the details of the creditors and the debts owed to them. The principal creditors were listed as the Collector of Taxes in Guildford; the Collector of Taxes in Bristol; Lloyds Bank in Bristol; Lord Phillimore; Kenneth Sharrock; Olga Sharrock; and Marshall Ernest Brown.

The amounts owed to unsecured creditors were listed as follows: LA's solicitors (Edwards) for legal advice £7-7-0; Lord Phillimore for interest on purchase money £381-15-8; Marshall Ernest Brown £299-0-0 for three loans made in 1926, 1929 and 1936; Olga Sharrock for rent of room(s) at 6, Barrie House in Lancaster Gate £110-8-6; Olga Sharrock for loan and interest £5,123-16-0; and Kenneth Sharrock for loan and interest, costs of cancelled contract and costs of judgment £3,362-16-2. These totalled **£9,284-16-2**.

The amounts owed to creditors for rent (just one) were Olga Sharrock for **£110-8-6**.

The amounts owed to preferential creditors were the Collector of Taxes in Guildford for income tax and land tax £70-0-0 and the Collector of Taxes in Bristol for income tax £1-5-6. These totalled **£71-5-6**.

The amounts owed to partly secured creditors (just one) were Lloyds Bank of 74, Clare Street, Bristol for money (£1,700) lent in May 1920 for the purchase of 39, Royal Crescent less the property's current estimated value (£800) yielding a total of **£900**.

On the overall summary (Form H.34) in the Statement LA totalled his liabilities by summing the above four figures shown in boldface to produce a total of £10,366-10-2 but appears to have double-counted the rent owed to Olga.

On this same form LA listed his assets. He had **£13-6-6** as cash in the bank. He was owed **£34-11-0** by eight named individuals, probably patients owing him treatment fees. His Deficiency Account's 'total amount accounted for' was **£10,318-12-8**.

In working out his Deficiency Account he claimed to have spent £5,935-2-1 on Sun Haven; to have spent £1,047-1-3 on expenses for himself, wife and children; to have incurred a net loss on business over the past three years of £599-16-3; and to have had a deficiency of liabilities over assets on 30 June 1936 of £4,001-13-1. These four sums totalled £11,583-12-8 but against this was set £1,265 as 'gifts from relations and others', giving the deficiency as £10,318-12-8.

Altogether his Gross Liabilities on this Statement of Affairs were summed as £9,491-10-2. There was something not right here, as the Gross Liabilities should have exceeded his deficiency total. The Statement is liberally annotated with markings in pencil and red ink clearly arising from subsequent scrutiny by the Receiver or by the Court, including a red cross against the Gross Liabilities figure.

5. Adjudication Order 3 June 1939

The Court was satisfied from the 'First Meeting' on 2 June that LA was bankrupt and accordingly an Adjudication Order was issued to that effect on 3 June ordering that his estate now be administered in a summary manner.

6. Buckley Pidgeon to Pritchard 12 July 1939

This 2-page letter dated 12 July 1939 was written by Kenneth Sharrock's Liverpool solicitors Buckley Pidgeon & Co to London solicitors Pritchard Sons, Partington & Holland (who appear to have been appointed to represent him in this matter at the Bankruptcy Court) inviting them to attend LA's Public Examination on 19 July in order to 'ask him what

he did with the moneys which he obtained from our client's father James Henry Sharrock and his daughter Olga Sharrock.' The letter detailed advances (not described as loans) that LA had had from them: £2,500 on 12 September 1934, £2,500 on 18 March 1935 and £1,000 on 30 August 1935; of these amounts Olga had advanced £3,000. All had the 'ostensible' purpose of paying for Sun Haven and converting it into a nursing home. LA had never completed the purchase and Kenneth wanted to know what became of the money. LA had allegedly told Olga that he had 'landed property in the West of England'. The letter alleged that the Codicil in Mr Sharrock's Will had been drafted by LA and that had Mr Sharrock lived longer then LA would eventually have obtained all his money.

The letter states that 'We forced Dr Atherton to disclaim all interest in the Will because we threatened to apply to the Court for a Declaration that the Codicil had no testamentary effect, but when the deceased's Will was proved, you will see from the enclosed newspaper cutting that Dr Atherton tried to get as much advertisement out of his disclaimer as possible.' The cutting presumably came from one of the several newspaper articles that had been published in January 1936 (a few weeks after probate had been granted) in which LA explained why he had turned down the bequest made to him in that Codicil.

The letter's other enclosures were copies of the Sun Haven purchase Agreement, Memoranda of Deposit and Deed of Disclaimer (the National Archive file does not include these) and the letter urges Pritchard *et al* 'to make it as uncomfortable as possible for the gentleman'.

7. Statement of Affairs 13 July 1939

A revised Statement of Affairs dated 13 July 1939 was signed by LA, giving figures a little different from those submitted at the beginning of June. His Gross Liabilities were now submitted as £11,065-4-10 in contrast to the earlier figure of £9,491-10-2. His Deficiency Account total had been revised to £10,612-13-10. This version too was subsequently heavily annotated.

8. Atherton Statement 13 July 1939

A statement composed by LA bearing no formal title was signed by him on 13 July 1939. It extends over 14 pages, mostly typed but some handwritten. Presumably the submission of this had been required of him in preparation for the Public Examination on 19 July.

In it he lays claim to three 'degrees' – Doctor of Osteopathy, Member of the Institute of Botano-Therapy and Fellow of the Bio-Chemical Society. He wrote that during 1901-08 he had pursued 'ordinary studies and X-Rays' with a Dr Barclay with a view to a medical career but in 1908 began to study osteopathy. He then came into contact with an American school with whom he studied in England in connection with Osteopathy. In about 1908 he started a part-time practice in Bath as a medical botanist and in 1917 added to this the practice of osteopathy. He abandoned the aim of a career in ordinary medicine. Up to 1910 he had been financially supported by gifts from his mother [Sarah Ann, who died in 1913]. By 1917 he had accumulated capital of about £1,200, reduced to about £1,000 by 1920 at which time he moved to Clifton and continued his practice there.

A loan from Lloyds Bank enabled him to purchase the freehold of 39, Royal York Crescent and an overdraft enabled him to equip it with consulting rooms. The total amount advanced by Lloyds was about £2,000. A local man was engaged to run the premises as a hydro. The business was fairly successful for some years until the district began to decline, so that in 1928 he decided to move to Clevedon where most of his patients lived. At Clevedon he took a three-year lease on a house and he remained there until 1932. One of the patients gave him £2,000 which was spent wholly upon enabling LA to conduct research. However, Lloyds pressed him to reduce his overdraft owing to the fall in value of the Clifton house and had threatened him with bankruptcy proceedings; they finally agreed to accept payment of £100 p.a. on account.

While residing in Clevedon he began in about 1930 travelling to London to give lectures and to build a practice there as well. He rented a flat in Kensington to use as a lecture room, then in 1934 moved to a different flat in Buckingham Gate. He was there until 1937 but then moved again to a flat in Cavendish Square for six months, then to 24, Welbeck Street for a short time and finally to Barrie House in Lancaster Gate, where he had resided since about the beginning of 1938. At Barrie house he was a tenant of Olga Sharrock and had a consulting room there. He paid her half the rent and a third of the flat's upkeep, altogether about £160 p.a.

In about 1930 while still at Clevedon a patient Mrs Berry lent him £2,000 so that he might pay a deposit on a house to equip as a nursing home. In early 1934 Dunley Hill was chosen for this purpose and renamed as Sun Haven. He entered into a purchase agreement dated 23 April 1934 with Lord Phillimore and a Mr Sandys Hill. By this, the vendors agreed to sell him the freehold for £3,600 subject to completion on 23 April 1937 and to his paying all outgoings and keeping it in good repair, together with interest of £150 p.a. to the vendors up to the date of completion. He took possession on about 5 May 1934. In the event of failing to complete by the agreed date he would then pay interest of 5% p.a. on the unpaid purchase money.

At this time he possessed about £800-900 in unbanked cash but in view of the debt to Lloyds he was probably 'just about solvent'. He had entered into the purchase agreement because he could not raise sufficient deposit to obtain a mortgage on the balance. His lack of money arose from the fact that in order to licence the premises through the local council as a nursing home he would need to spend about £7,500 on structural alterations and equipment. He had hoped that he and Mrs Berry would be able to make enough money from his practice and the nursing home to complete the purchase.

He then met, at one of his London lectures, Mr James Henry Sharrock [JHS] who had cancer of the nose. He treated JHS and relieved his pain. JHS, who retained his mental faculties up to his death on 10 October 1935, had in about mid-1934 shown great interest in LA's work, saying he would help LA financially but would not want a woman involved in that arrangement. LA was therefore required to pay off Mrs Berry by returning her £2,000. This was made possible using the advances he had received from JHS and Olga (£3,000 from each). They had been afforded some security for these advances by executing 'documents which in effect gave them charges on his benefits under the 23 April 1934 agreement' [with Lord Phillimore].

JHS subsequently made LA a verbal promise of £10,000 to develop the nursing home and support his research work, although LA learned later that the earlier £3,000 from JHS had been intended as a gift and as part of the £10,000.

The monies already received from JHS and Olga had been used mainly for structural alterations, amounting to £2,488-3-7 by 30 June 1936 and a further £446-18-6 subsequently. Some of the money had also been used on living expenses, because the alteration work had led to a reduction of his practice income. Most of the structural work had been in respect of a drainage system.

JHS had not chosen to enable LA to purchase the house because that would have required JHS to realise investments, which he did not wish to do; instead, the moneys advanced by JHS had been dividends and these were not sufficient to raise a deposit and mortgage for purchase.

LA acknowledged that the result of Lord Phillimore rescinding the purchase agreement was that LA had thereby lost the value of all the money he had spent on the house. LA did not think he had been rash in spending that before acquiring proper title because he had depended upon Sharrock's promise of the £10,000 and a further promise that the Will would require the Executors to purchase the house and the deeds then handed over to the company that was to be formed to run the nursing home. LA had been paying 5% p.a. interest on the advances from JHS and Olga in addition to the £150 p.a. to Lord Phillimore. Despite having little money now to spare, LA did not consider that pursuit of the nursing home project had been rash or hazardous.

LA described the Codicil to JHS's Will. This had required Kenneth and Olga to purchase Sun Haven, to hand over the deeds to the proposed company and to allow him use, for life, of a cottage and part of the grounds. Before JHS had died he arranged with Olga that he would leave certain monies to her if she would stay with LA, devote time to the work and put a further £3,000 into the company. However, after JHS's death, Kenneth persuaded Olga to allow him to act as sole executor and also persuaded LA to agree to the estate not being required to purchase Sun Haven. LA had agreed to acquire the property himself if Kenneth undertook to treat JHS's previous £3,000 advance as a gift (rather than as a loan). After the death Olga had herself advanced a further £1,000 to LA in April 1936.

LA denied having had any part in drafting the Codicil, which he assumed had been written by JHS. He also denied that his consent to the Disclaimer and Release (relieving the Executors of the requirement to purchase and then hand over Sun Haven) had been by reason of any threat by Kenneth to contest the Codicil in the courts.

The company named 'The Atherton Triune Healing Home Incorporating the First British Osteopathic Hospital Ltd' had been registered in October 1936. LA's aim was to interest sufficient people in the company to raise enough capital to pay out Kenneth, to purchase the house and to fulfil JHS's wishes. The nominal capital was £15,000 in £1 shares. However, insufficient capital was raised and the company never did any real business. On 13 October he sold to the company for £350 all his assets at Sun Haven, including X-ray apparatus, operating theatre table, furniture and other items.

Lord Phillimore had issued his Writ against LA on 2 December 1937. A Court Order dated 31 May 1938 ordered that the purchase agreement of 23 April 1934 be rescinded whereupon LA lost all title to Sun Haven. However, in July 1938 Olga purchased the house from Lord Phillimore for £3,600 of which £2,000 was left on mortgage, so that she now benefitted from the earlier improvements to the property. The only creditor to have suffered, 'if he can be said to have suffered at all is Mr Kenneth Sharrock, as beneficiary under the Will of his late father'.

LA had remained at Sun Haven since December 1937 carrying on the nursing home and practice as best he could despite the distraction occasioned by Kenneth. Near the end of 1938 Kenneth broke his verbal agreement not to require payment of the £3,000 by issuing on 27 January 1939 a Writ against LA resulting in the court ordering repayment of the £3,000 plus interest and costs. Following that judgment Kenneth presented the petition on which the Receiving Order was made.

9. Summary Statement of Affairs 17 July 1939

A finalized summary statement by the Senior Official Receiver, L A West, of LA's affairs was dated 17 July 1939 and confirmed gross liabilities of £11,065-4-10 and Deficiency Account total of £10,612-13-10. It included a précis of LA's statement of 13 July, including the details of his early career and the steps taken to establish Sun Haven. It was entirely factual and contained no value judgments or opinions as to culpability on anyone's part.

10. Public Examination 19 July 1939

LA's Public Examination at the Bankruptcy Buildings in London's Carey Street took place on 19 July 1939. Such an examination was the means by which the Receiver enforced, through the High Court, the cooperation of the bankrupt person, by way of compelling them under oath to answer questions about their financial position and to disclose such records as the Receiver required in order to conduct his business. We do not know for certain why the examination was instigated in LA's case but insofar as he professed not to recognise his insolvency, had not complied with the

earlier bankruptcy notice and had submitted papers clearly displaying inadequate record keeping, the Receiver probably took the view that an examination was essential.

The examination was presided over by Mr Oscar Kean who in the autumn of 1935 had been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be a 'Registrar in Bankruptcy of the High Court of Justice'. LA had no counsel with him. He was examined by Mr V Armstrong, Assistant Official Receiver and by Mr S G Gates of Pritchard *et al* on behalf of the Petitioning Creditor, Kenneth Sharrock. The file is a typed transcript of the record taken in shorthand by one of the Court's official shorthand writers. The exchanges so recorded on 19 July fill 32 pages of foolscap.

Mr Armstrong began the interrogation and after confirming some preliminary details launched into a challenge of LA's qualifications. He wanted to know whether his 'degrees' had been earned through proper examinations. LA insisted they had been but was vague on details – they were 'English degrees of a certain Association formed during the past number of years here in this country'. Questions then followed about LA's homes in the Bristol area and the fact that in 1928 Lloyds Bank had threatened him with bankruptcy proceedings in relation to the Royal York Crescent property which was now valued at about £380 against an outstanding debt to Lloyds of £1,648. LA denied that he had been already insolvent in 1930. Besides the debt to Lloyds, which in 1930 stood at about £2,200, he also owed about £300 to Marshall Ernest Brown. He claimed that he had 'certain moneys' that had been given to him for his research work and he had chosen to spend it on that rather than clear his debts. (These 'certain moneys' probably included the £2,000 given to him for research in medical botany by the ladder maker John Player Brawn, who himself consequently became bankrupt in 1932.) Armstrong grilled him as to how much of this money had been spent and in what form and location it had existed. LA would not accept the Registrar's assertion that he had been insolvent in 1930, answering: 'Legally you may take it, yes, but not properly, no. I will not have it in any circumstances'.

The questioning moved on to the London consulting rooms and the idea of starting up a nursing home at Dunley Hill, which LA said had been in mind as early as 1930. For this enterprise he had been lent £2,000 interest free from a Mrs Berry. Why had he not used this money to pay a deposit and take on a mortgage in order to purchase the place from Phillimore? Because he had preferred to use it for research into a 'cancer paste' he had been working on. By 1934 when he had instead entered into the 3-year agreement with Phillimore he had about £700 remaining from Mrs Berry's loan. What had become of that? 'It was used in connection with certain things in connection with Sun Haven.' About £7,000 or £8,000 would be needed to structure and equip the nursing home. Armstrong suggested that it had been rash and hazardous for LA to have taken on such a project, having entered into a purchase agreement, without having capital to hand. LA denied this.

Armstrong's questions became ever more forensic and the exchanges ever more testy. The involvement of the Sharrocks in 1935, their loans to LA and the moneys spent were explored. The Sharrocks' only security had been their charges on the Sun Haven purchase agreement. It was also revealed that the Circle Cell Salt company had been promoted not by LA but by his wife Beatrice, who had given him half the shares in it and made him a Director. The company had made no profit. The discussion moved on to the incorporation of the Triune Healing Home as a company and the intention behind that of attracting capital investment, in which only LA and Olga – but not her father – were involved. By October 1936 LA had sold his apparatus and furniture to this company for £350 and the nursing home had closed down in 1937. Olga had purchased Sun Haven from Phillimore in July 1938 for £3,600, of which £2,000 was on mortgage. LA had lost any claim to title and had also lost the value represented by the £3,000 or more that he had purportedly spent on renovations.

Armstrong now attacked the inadequacy – more accurately, the near total absence – of LA's financial records. All that had so far been produced was a private ledger pertaining to 1938-39. What LA's transactions had been previously – or those of his company – were anybody's guess. LA's accountant (or 'auditor') had produced balance sheets of sorts, but based only upon LA's bank statements. Not all transactions had gone through the bank, and not all those that had were interpretable. LA could not recall the details and claimed that he had always just given everything to his accountant to sort out. The interrogation of these matters filled pages of exchanges. It was clear that, from any accounting point of view, LA's financial management had been chaotic. Armstrong became ever more sceptical: 'You are not impressing me with your answers at all.' 'You are not making it up as you are going along?'

It was now Gates' turn. He too started by challenging LA's qualifications. Had LA really passed an examination? One set on paper? Was it a stiff one? Set by whom? On which subjects? Marked by whom? Did anyone ever fail it? LA gave his answers but no one was any the wiser after hearing them. Gates moved onto money. 'You have existed, have you not, since 1930, on your own account of the matter, almost entirely on loans made by patients to you?' LA answered that he earned money from his practice and had spent it on his research. What had happened to the £6,000 advanced by the Sharrocks? According to LA, about £2,900 had been spent on the property, and some on wages for the eight to ten nurses at Sun Haven. Why so many? Because the [Surrey County] 'Council' expected that of a nursing home looking to be licensed; there had to be a nursing Sister present and nurses under her direction. How many patients were there? 'We had a few at periods and then they dropped off ...' Gates homed in again on evidence of expenditure. The Receiver had not been given LA's receipts, builders' accounts or anything else to show how the £2,900 had been spent on the building, or a wages book to show which staff had been paid what and when. 'Have you produced any such receipts to the Official Receiver?' 'I cannot tell you what I have given him. I have given a whole host of stuff.' LA said that the labour for the renovations had been undertaken by his sons. The probing went on and on. LA suggested there ought to be records of expenditures at Sun Haven. Registrar Kean now stated that he would allow a few months for LA to produce these and he would adjourn this case to give LA time to do so.

Gates now turned to JHS's cancer and LA's treating him. What did 'triune' mean? LA replied 'Triune is a thing I have evolved – it would take a tremendous argument to go into here – of uniting three nerve centres of the body.'

If we are going on to that we are going on a very long trail. I am quite capable of proving it.' Gates wisely chose not to take that subject further. Instead he returned to the original loans of £6,000 from JHS and Olga, since boosted by a further £1,500 from Olga, enabled by what she had been left by her father's Will. LA regarded the £7,500 as part of the £10,000 that JHS had verbally promised him. LA did not consider that any of this money should have been repaid because of the terms of the Codicil and what he had been told by Olga of discussions she had had with her brother Kenneth after JHS's death. LA's account of this was convoluted and the Registrar claimed not to have a clear understanding of it. There was a lot more exploration of LA's supposed earnings from his private practice in London, from which no clarity emerged in LA's responses. At this time he was earning very little, but previously perhaps £100 or more p.a. His expenses on personal upkeep, his taxes and his rent paid to Olga were next scrutinised, but answers were vague. There was discussion of his cars and of Beatrice's money.

In the end, Gates summed up his view of LA's financial state. There was £13 in the bank, and perhaps £34 owed by patients in fees, but a string of creditors who believed they were owed thousands of pounds. How could he not be insolvent? LA was now becoming rattled. 'I want you to appreciate the fact that I have many friends who will help me at this moment if it is necessary to take a legal case, even if it runs into thousands.'

This, then, was LA's view of what it meant to be solvent: if one had only very little tangible assets, but the expectation of being able to raise money by loans or gifts from others, then that fact made one solvent in 'moral' terms if not in 'legal' terms. JHS's alleged promise of £10,000 had in itself, in LA's mind, rendered him solvent.

The Registrar said that LA's Deficiency Account would have to be reworked and that he would allow LA 21 days to furnish the Receiver with a cash account showing *in detail* his receipts, his professional earnings and his expenditures from 30 June 1936 up to 19 May 1939. LA said 'I will do that sir.' The case would now be adjourned until October.

11. Atherton Statement post- 19 July 1939

This 4-page document (transcribed later in this Appendix) signed by LA is not explicitly dated but must have been written by him to the Receiver shortly after the Public Examination held on 19 July 1939. In essence, it explains that he had not after all been able to produce the records he had said he could produce from Sun Haven for the Receiver.

12. Statement of Affairs 16 October 1939

For the resumed Public Examination in October 1939 the Statement of Affairs was re-sworn by LA, on 16 October but at an office different from that on the earlier occasion in July. The figures on the new H.34 form remained the same whilst those on his Deficiency Account had been reconfigured, although still yielding a 'total amount accounted for' of **£10,318-12-8**. However, this form bears further annotations and so even in October may still have been incorrect.

13. Public Examination 18 October 1939

The resumption of LA's Public Examination on 18 October yielded a typed transcript (from the shorthand) filling 14 pages of foolscap. Registrar Kean again presided and Mr Armstrong again examined as Assistant Official Receiver. The Petitioning Creditor (Kenneth Sharrock) was present also as an examiner. Also appearing was Sir George Jones MP, being counsel instructed by LA's solicitors Edwards & Sons.

Armstrong began by reminding LA of the earlier court order that he should file his cash account by 9 August, but noting that it had not been filed until 9 October and moreover had been devised wholly from LA's bank pass sheets. Why had it been late? LA said he had left the matter entirely to his auditor 'and therefore I did not bother'. The Register told him that this was not a satisfactory answer. LA replied that he had thought the responsibility had not been his own but that of whomever he had instructed to deal with it.

Armstrong took him through the amendments on the Deficiency Account. He then raised the earlier requirement that LA produce invoices to substantiate expenditure, whilst noting that he produced only a few. LA said he had written to the firms involved but they had not been able to provide many copies of the invoices. The details of LA's claimed expenditure of at least £2,000 by the Triune company on Sun Haven were re-examined. The company had kept no books of account. LA said there had been one but the responsible woman keeping it had not done so properly and 'then some trouble came with it and it could not be found'. Armstrong went back over the dealings with patients and nurses at Sun Haven during the three years up to the closure in November 1937. No book had been kept on the moneys involved: there was only LA's diary and his bank statements. LA claimed that the evidence of his expenditures on the building would be evident to any architect or engineer inspecting it. There were further quibbling exchanges concerning moneys that had passed between LA, Beatrice and their sons.

It was now Kenneth's turn to continue the examination. He firstly wanted to know what had become of the £350 that LA had obtained by selling his equipment to his own Triune company, as it did not appear in LA's account. LA could not remember and was asked 'You know your own account?', to which LA replied 'You see I have never bothered with the accounts'. Jones intervened to say that he was informed by the accountant (who was also present) that the £350 was within the cash account. Armstrong pointed out that this matter had been already raked over in July, whereupon the Registrar said they would not go over it again, to which Kenneth acceded. Kenneth concluded by ascertaining that LA was no longer earning more than a little, LA explaining that because people were afraid of bombing they would no longer come into London. 'You are not in a position to put aside anything for your creditors?' 'Indeed not.'

LA was next examined by his own counsel Sir George Jones. He established that LA had been first educated at the Merchant Venturers College in Bristol where he had passed elementary examinations in chemistry and physics and then done a post-graduate course in Clifton. He had then worked for about four years under Dr Barclay at Bristol General Hospital. He had entered the Bristol University Old Medical School. LA and his mother, while in the United States, had then met Dr England from the School of Osteopathy and Electric Healing. 'You and your mother met him?' 'Yes, in the United States, he came over here.' LA's mother had been very keen on osteopathy. LA had then 'changed over' to Dr England and started his osteopathic career.

Next raised by Jones was the involvement of Mrs Berry, a trained and registered matron whom LA had treated in Clevedon. She had put up £2,000 for LA to find a larger place to practice near London because his premises in Clevedon were inadequate. Her £2,000 had later been repaid by Mr Sharrock (JHS). It was in April 1934 that LA had entered into a purchase agreement with Lord Phillimore. LA had taken on JHS as a patient in about 1933-34. JHS had promised LA £10,000 if Mrs Berry were paid off. JHS was to manage the business side of Sun Haven. JHS had often directed him to pay this or that invoice and he had duly done so. JHS's Codicil was discussed, it having been made only 7 months after the Will, of which Kenneth was the residuary legatee. What was the nature of the money being provided to LA by JHS and Olga – were they lending it as a business proposition? LA replied that he had wanted the 'much more honourable thing' to persuade JHS to provide money through a contract, but JHS would not hear of having a contract. LA mentioned the £5,000 cheque that JHS had given him (in Bournemouth) that LA had handed back to him, and noted he had asked Kenneth to look for the cheque's folio. The handing back was evidence that he had not in any way usurped a right over JHS. When JHS came to reside in Sun Haven his treatment by LA had finished and he was 'quite all right'. JHS wanted to live there with Olga in order to help LA run the business.

At Sun Haven JHS had banged his nose at night-time on a door. The bruise would not heal and after about two months LA had taken a tissue sample and, from a microscopic test, suspected a sarcomatous condition, whereupon he took JHS, together with the latter's own doctor Dr Wylie of Portman Square and the Sun Haven matron Sister Saveall, to a Professor Russell in Harley Street for a consultation. There the diagnosis was confirmed – secondary schirrus (a rare cancerous tumour) affected with a sarcomatous condition.

Jones now turned to the matter of JHS's Will and Codicil. There had been a dispute over this between LA and Kenneth as Executor – how had the matter been settled? LA stated that Kenneth, who had shown no interest in the work at Sun Haven, had come to there to tell Olga 'that he should not be called upon to pay for this property'. Jones observed that the Codicil provided that the mortgage on Sun Haven for which LA was responsible should be redeemed and the property be included in JHS's estate. (On the original transcript, either the Registrar or the Receiver pencilled in a double underline beneath the word 'mortgage' and in the margin alongside wrote 'What mortgage? He never owned Sun Haven').

Jones asked why the Codicil's provisions had not been carried out. LA said that Olga had suggested that if LA would forego it then she would get her brother to cease all claims against him. But that arrangement had not transpired either, LA explaining that he and Olga then learned that a 'sudden charge' on the property had been secretly registered (presumably by Kenneth) at the Land Registry 'for the amount I was supposed to be given, £3,000'. LA also noted that he had been due to acquire the 'cottage', its adjacent field and a right of way. He gave a long, rambling and not very intelligible account of his rationale in dealing with all this, ending by saying that he had refused to continue with the matter and had left Sun Haven to live with friends (unnamed but presumably in Cockfosters). He said the cottage had been a ruin, just four walls with part of the roof missing, and that he had had to rebuild it; it was worth nothing.

After a brief exchange about relatively minor money matters, including gifts and loans from Mrs Bevan, the examination ended with the Registrar simply declaring 'Concluded.'

14. Trustee Release 22 July 1940

By the summer of 1940 the Receiver Mr West applied to the Court for his Release as the trustee administering LA's case. His five-page form was dated 22 July and set out a detailed tabulation of the financial data. The summary was that LA's realisable assets amounted to about £141. Court fees and other costs were nearly £55, leaving about £86 to set against the claims of one preferential creditor and 6 unsecured creditors; these totalled, according to the 'Debtor's estimate', £10,198-6-6. Therefore a first and final dividend of just 2p in the pound was set by the Receiver. In summary, the creditors would recover almost nothing; more specifically, Kenneth would not recover the £3,000 that had been advanced by his father to LA. (However, Olga still held Sun Haven, albeit nearly half of its value being on mortgage.)

15. Trustee Release Certificate 30 April 1941

This file is just a sparse single typed page dated 30 April 1941 noting that the Certificate of Release (of the Official Receiver) from trusteeship had been dated 28 April 1941 and had now been filed.

16. Daily Express cutting 22 December 1950

This cutting, which appears among the file without comment, reported in the *Daily Express* on 22 December 1950 the settlement of the Will of the exhumed widow Mrs Bevan. The attempt by one of her relatives to have the Will declared invalid had failed and most of her substantial estate would pass to LA's three children. (That estate had included Sun Haven because Olga had sold it to her in 1941. Doubtless Mrs Bevan had left her bequest to LA's children because if she had left it directly to him, it would have been immediately seized by his creditors.)

17. Receiver to Atherton 28 December 1950

LA must have straightaway sought to be discharged from his bankruptcy, as the Receiver wrote to him on 28 December 1950 asking him to attend on 2 January 1951.

18. Atherton to Receiver 29 December 1950

LA replied to the Receiver on 29 December confirming he would attend as requested.

19. Memo Applic Discharge 2 January 1951

A Memorandum dated 2 January 1951 was made by the Receiver after the meeting with LA. It notes that LA was still engaged in osteopathy but had only 11 patients, giving him an income of about £125 p.a. His practice had declined owing to the publicity over the Bevan case. LA had confirmed that he had no interest in her Will but that his children were the chief beneficiaries. He hoped to obtain sufficient money from his children to make an offer by which the Court would grant his discharge.

20. Bingham to Receiver 3 January 1951

LA's solicitors appear now to have become L Bingham & Co of 1, Budge Street in London. On 3 January 1951 they wrote to the Receiver confirming that LA received no benefit from Mrs Bevan's Will. They confirmed LA's approximate income, stating that he had no assets at all and was actually living with a patient at this time. They requested an appointment.

21. Receiver to Bingham 5 January 1951 (b)

On 5 January the Receiver acknowledged the letter from Bingham's and confirmed they could meet him on 9 January.

22. Bingham to Receiver 8 January 1951

Bingham's wrote back to the Receiver on 8 January confirming the meeting.

23. Questions to Atherton 18 April 1951

A form with printed questions was sent to LA, citing his address as The Wilderness in Chalk Lane, Cockfosters. LA completed and signed it on 18 April 1951 and it was received by the Receiver on the 19th. He confirmed he had received no property since the Receiving Order, had not been a Director, had no bank account or post office savings account and no National Savings Certificates. He stated that he had been living with the assistance of relatives and friends and had earned only £200 over the past three years owing to the publicity in the Bevan case.

24. Notice of Discharge Hearing 19 April 1951

The Court informed the Receiver on 19 April that LA's application for discharge would be heard on 24 May 1951.

25. Notice of Discharge Hearing 3 May 1951

On 3 May the Receiver issued a formal notice of the hearing, copied to the creditors, together with a page of densely typed details of Section 26 of the 1914 Bankruptcy Act setting out the Court's options.

26. Receiver's Report 16 May 1951

The Receiver prepared an 8-page report, dated 16 May 1951, to the Court for the hearing. It began by recapitulating the determinations that had been made in 1939 leading to a dividend of 2d in the pound. It went on to outline LA's medical career and the steps in establishing a nursing home at Dunley Hill. LA, having entered into a 3-year contract to purchase the property for £3,600 had not done so, preferring instead to use his £2,000 loan from Mrs Berry to further his research. He met Mr Sharrock (JHS) who advanced £3,000 to him, as did his daughter Olga. Security on these advances was a charge placed upon the purchase agreement. Mrs Berry had her £2,000 returned. LA spent £2,900 on the nursing home in trying to meet licensing requirements. JHS died in October 1935 and after this Olga advanced another £1,500 to LA.

LA did not complete the purchase and so the vendors issued a Writ and secured a Court Order date 31 May 1938 rescinding the purchase agreement and voiding JHS's charge upon it, whereupon LA lost all claim to title. On 27 January 1939 JHS's son Kenneth obtained judgment from the courts on his claim for the return of his father's £3,000, with interest, so instigating the bankruptcy proceedings.

The report went on to recount, over several pages, what had been disclosed during the 1939 Public Examination and the explanations LA had given about his various dealings and eventual predicament. Much was made in recalling the lack of proper book-keeping.

The Receiver submitted that LA's current assets did not amount to ten shillings in the pound (i.e. 50%) of his unsecured liabilities; that LA had not kept proper books of account; and that LA had contributed to his insolvency through rash and hazardous speculation. A pencilled annotation dated 24 May states 'Man appears [to have] taken advantage of posⁿ with patients. Some kind of trust. Applies monies to own livelihood. Serious case. Susp^d 5 years.'

27. Discharge Suspension 24 May 1951

This single page states that the hearing, presided over by Registrar Cunliffe, had been attended by Kenneth's representative Mr Muir Hunter and by Mr O'Malley, Counsel to LA, and that on the criteria under Section 26 (3)(a, b, and f) alleged by the Receiver, LA was granted discharge but this was suspended for five years – so in effect, he was still disqualified from entering into bank loans, contracts etc. (In the present day a bankrupt is normally discharged from their bankruptcy when a year has passed since the Adjudication Order that deemed them to be bankrupt. However, in LA's case the operative legislation was the 1914 Bankruptcy Act and discharge could be denied or granted-but-suspended by the Court for various reasons, including being unable to repay one's creditors at the rate of ten shillings in the pound, but also including inadequate management and recording of one's financial affairs. Moreover, the annotation on the Receiver's Report indicates that the Court decision may have also had a punitive element based upon a dim view of how LA obtained his money from his patients.)

28. Brown to Receiver 26 May 1951

On 26 May 1951, just two days after LA's suspension of discharge, his long-standing colleague Marshall Ernest Brown wrote a highly articulate, but clearly furious, three-page letter to the Receiver expressing his disgust at the report he had heard that the Registrar had said in the hearing that LA 'had defrauded his patients one after another'. Brown gave his views on LA's integrity and on Mr Sharrock's genuine favouring of his work. He also accredited himself as the writer of the letter, pointing out that his circumstances and status as a classics teacher at a highly respected grammar school forbade him from involving himself in anything that would reflect a lack of conscientiousness. (He chose not to mention his astrological dalliances in the 1927 adultery case when he had played the role of John the Baptist for hours to Mrs Hume's 'Salome' in her bedroom, an activity not clearly compatible with teaching classics.) He ended by expressing his hope that some redress would be open to LA.

29. Hunter re Surrey Ad 28 May 1951

Kenneth had still not done with harassing LA. His representative Muir Hunter had found – or been presented with – a newspaper cutting from *The Surrey Advertiser*, issue of 26 May 1951, and had sent this to the Receiver's office. It announced that 'by direction of Dr Atherton and family' an auction was to be held by Messrs Maple & Co at Sun Haven during 12-14 June of the prodigious amount of contents of the late Mrs Bevan's mansion West Farm Place, the house having been sold to the Electricity Board. The cutting lists a wide range of seeming very valuable antique furniture, musical instruments, porcelain, books, jewellery, silver and much besides, for which an illustrated catalogue was supplied. On an accompanying note was scribbled in pencil 'Let them know the ... [illegible] Meanwhile if they can put out what connection West Farm Place, Cockfosters has with the dr's [debtor's] affairs they will let us know (and "Wilderness" formerly owned by Mrs Bevan).'

30. Receiver to Brown 29 May 1951

In a letter dated 29 May 1951 the Receiver acknowledged Brown's letter and confirmed that LA's discharge had been suspended for five years. He said that LA was represented by Counsel and would no doubt seek further advice if he wished to appeal. The Receiver had no powers in the Court's decision and knew of no grounds for appeal. He made no comment at all on what Brown had said about the Registrar's comments concerning LA.

31. Receiver to Maple 30 May 1951

In a letter dated 30 May 1951 the Receiver wrote to Maple & Co asking them to confirm that the bankrupt LA was the 'Dr Atherton' named in their auction advertisement and, if so, whether LA had asked them to account to him for the proceeds of the sale. The Receiver did not request that the sale be halted, but that Maple & Co should not account to LA until he had considered the matter further.

32. Maple to Receiver 4 June 1951

On 4 June Maple & Co replied to the Receiver stating that they had made a mistake in their advertisement which should have said 'By direction of the Beneficiaries Lionel Jnr. and Kenneth and Joy Atherton', as the effects were being sold on instruction from Mrs Bevan's Executors, to whom Maple & Co would be accounting for the proceeds of the sale.

33. Receiver to Maple 7 June 1951

In a letter dated 7 June 1951 the Receiver replied to Maple & Co stating that in view of their letter he had no further interest in the matter.

34. Edwards to Receiver 3 May 1966

On 3 May 1966, seven years after LA's death, the solicitors Edwards & Sons wrote to the Receiver pointing out that the charge on the 1934 sale contract remained registered with the Land Registry, and asking the Receiver to sign an application for the registration to be cancelled because Sun Haven was now being sold.

On the reverse of this letter the Receiver made in pencil a note that LA had been discharged on 24 May 1956 but this had likewise been suspended for a further 5 years until 24 May 1961.

35. Receiver to Edwards 17 May 1966

On 17 May the Receiver acknowledged Edwards' letter, stating that LA had never completed the purchase, the sale contract had been rescinded in 1937 and the property bought in 1938 by a third party (Olga), LA losing all title. He confirmed that the Receiver was willing to sign a letter to this effect as would be required by the Land Registry.

36. Edwards to Receiver 18 May 1966

Edwards replied to the Receiver on 18 May thanking him and saying they would enquire of Land Registry exactly what would be required.

37. Edwards to Receiver 31 May 1966

Edwards wrote to the Receiver on 31 May requesting for inspection a copy of the Court Order of 31 May 1938 by which LA's sale contract had been rescinded.

38. Receiver to Edwards 20 June 1966

The Receiver wrote to Edwards to confirm a conversation they had had by telephone in which Edwards were told that the bankruptcy files did not include the Court Order requested. He confirmed that the Order had been made, taking all title away from LA, nearly a year before the Receiving Order of 19 May 1939.

LA's details in the 24 May 1939 Questions and Answers Form OR7 (Verbatim Transcript)

For the last twenty years in practice. Originally medical student with Dr Barclay in connection with the Old University Medical School and Hospital. Changed over to Eclectic School of Medicine U.S.A. Representatives visited this country and started classes. Founder members of which I was one, after three years training were given D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy). Also became a member of the Institute of Botano-Therapy and eventually was elected its President. In 1932 I [was] invited to a Conference in London [with] representatives of the medical profession, osteopaths, botano-therapists, psychologists to see if it was possible to form a Federation of the various bodies of trained but unregistered practice. This was done. It was called the British Federation of Natural Therapeutics and I was elected President.

Started practice, successful until interrupted by war. Aftermath of war and loss of practice brought about financial losses.

1921-22 Raised £1,750 from Lloyds Bank on house valued at £2,000. District lost prestige, property dropped in value and house was valued at £800. Bank threatened bankruptcy proceedings but agreed to accept £100 per annum which I paid for some time. Overdraft was used to equip practice with modern appliances and also to equip a small Hydro which I was running near Bath. The place was too small for the growing practice and it was decided to combine the practice and Hydro at one address.

Rented a house at Clevedon (seaside) fitted this and used as a Hydro. Successful. Patients coming from London as residents suggested I should start a practice in London. Rented flat in Kensington [in Pembroke Gardens] from Mrs Meredith with use of lecture room for lectures on the New School of Medicine, etc. I continued occupation of this London practice from about 1930 to 1934. Then went to Buckingham Gate 3 years. Then to Cavendish Square. Then removed to 24, Welbeck Street and from there to Barrie House about eighteen months ago.

During series of lectures was consulted by Mr Sharrock. Found he had cancer of the nose. Sent him to Harley Street specialist who confirmed my diagnosis. Told Mr Sharrock that his disease could not be cured, but explained that I had a special herbal paste that would prevent the pain and would prevent the use of morphia and promised him that under my treatment he would not lose his mental faculties until a few weeks before his death. This proved correct and I hold certificate from Brain Specialist. Mr Sharrock enjoyed fair health, was able to walk, take car rides and had no pain after Sister Saveall (Reg) and myself had dressed the wound each morning. During the two years friendship with him, Mr Sharrock became interested in my work and suggested that he would like to help me. This suggestion was made within the first six months of meeting him and before any wound had appeared on the skin. (I say this because the opposition may suggest that Mr Sharrock was not normal.)

About the time I met Mr Sharrock I contracted to purchase Sun Haven with the help of a partner who put up about two thousand pounds. The property was taken over on a contract and Mr Sharrock became a resident patient. At this period Mr Sharrock had no financial interest whatever in the concern. I entered possession of Sun Haven on June 4th 1934. I never completed the purchase.

Within the first three months of living at Sun Haven, Sharrock told me details of himself. He said that he, before his retirement, was Managing Director of Elder Dempster Shipping Line, and invited me to rely on his experience in business and offered to take over Sun Haven, and to bring down from Liverpool an Editor, who was then running a magazine for him, to start a Health Magazine for me and generally to manage my publicity. I formed a conclusion that a man who could earn or demand £9,000 per annum as his salary was experienced enough to guide me from the commercial standpoint and I accepted his offer. Sharrock would not agree that my partner should remain and offered to pay [her] out. The partner accepted and Sharrock gave me three thousand pounds in order to pay out this individual and put the remainder in the bank. I want to point out here that had I not insisted upon the present agreements that form the basis of this issue, they would never have existed.

Mr Sharrock promised me ten thousand pounds to develop the new company which we intended to form. This has since been done. I have been fighting for twenty years to gain legal status and recognition for the trained but unregistered natural healer and Sharrock determined that this building in which he was interested should be the place in which to begin this work. The company was registered under the title of The First British Osteopathic Hospital. I was given to understand that I had a free hand to buy the necessary equipment to bring the hospital up to modern practice. Kenneth Sharrock who brought this petition about came with his wife and children and stayed a few days at the hospital and discussed matters with his father. His sister Miss Olga Sharrock was made a Director of the Company but Mr Sharrock would not admit his son as a member and I had no power to enforce it. I acted as a Director. No salary and was allotted 1,000 £1 shares for cash borrowed from Miss Sharrock.

Mr Sharrock had a conference with Miss Olga Sharrock and myself, and suggested to her that he was willing to leave her certain monies if she would stay with me and devote her time to the work and would put six thousand pounds into the company. Some of this money she put into the company and the rest she lent me to put into my account the greater part of which has been used on this property (see auditors report).

Sharrock left a Will in which he said that because of my great help to him he left me the property free of mortgage. He instructed his Executors to pay the Vendors the balance and give the deeds to the company, but that I must be given the cottage and that portion of land around it which he had wired off and made the subject of a separate plan for my own use for ever.

The son and his sister were given as joint executors and at the start Kenneth Sharrock persuaded his sister to give him power to deal with the probate alone. She tells me that she agreed to this. He then contended that as his sister had money left to her by the mother he ought not to be called upon to purchase the property but that the money should

go into his father's estate. On hearing this and in a weak moment and without consulting my solicitor I agreed to take the responsibility of the mortgage myself and eventually pay the vendors. The balance would be about £4,000. I believe that it was on Dec 17th 1936 that the *Daily Mirror* reported this item that I had in effect given back to Sharrock's son four thousand pounds. I did this only after agreeing with the sister that the present agreement for three thousand pounds I should not pay. After a few months, quite unknown to Miss Sharrock or myself we found that Kenneth Sharrock had put a charge on the property for the three thousand pounds. I then told the vendors that I would not complete and they agreed for Miss Sharrock to take the title to the property which she holds at the present time. I closed the building accepting no patients, and have paid the expenses from my own bank a/c. This bankruptcy proceeding should never have materialised because if Miss Sharrock and her brother sold the property they would have ample money to satisfy their claim, because the monies advanced have been used on the building.

My average personal expenditure per annum is within £60 pounds including my subscriptions to my Masonic Charities. Throughout the above period Mr Kenneth Sharrock's vindictiveness has made it impossible to deal with him in the matter. His sister has tried on several occasions to bring about a meeting but he refused.

I now state that my position is in no way brought about by failure in professional practice. This for some years past has paid its way yielding me however a small income sufficient for my needs as I have no extravagant tastes in living. My position is due entirely to the large sums expended by me in repairs and renovations to Sun Haven. Advertising charges; costs of Lecture Halls hired, etc. etc. wholly upon the strength of the promises made by the late Mr J. H. Sharrock namely to finance me up to £10,000 pounds in the purchase, equipment and running of The First British Osteopathic Hospital Ltd. Attached copy statements of claim will give details of proposed purchase of Sun Haven.

Atherton Statement post- 19 July 1939 (Verbatim Transcript)

re Lionel Atherton 344/1939

Although I have made a thorough search among my papers I have not been able to find the invoices that I undertook to produce to the Court to substantiate my expenditure on the nursing home. I have a large number of invoices, but not the relevant ones. I adhere to my statement that I spent over £2,000 on the nursing home – new hot water system, ward partitions and equipment, new drainage system and sanitary arrangements, attention to electric light system. My sons and I carried out the work with the help of casual labour. I employed an architect (Culpin of Henry [?] Street, SW) only in the first instance with regard to the general layout. I kept no books of account recording this expenditure – I made the payments out of the proceeds of cheques drawn to myself or cash. I did not give my sons a wage, but gave them a little pocket money (not more than £1 a week, each) out of my earnings.

The Atherton Triune Company kept no books of account, but a complete record of its transactions appear[s] in its pass books as all monies have passed through the bank account.

As regards Sun Haven, the nursing home was closed in about November 1937. I took no patients after that time for treatment in the home. But I continued my practice both in London and at Sun Haven, down to the date of the Receiving Order. I still occupy Sun Haven on the same terms, i.e. I pay outgoings by way of rent, but do not practice in London.

During the 3 years period covered by the Cash Account I employed 2 nurses from June 1936 until November 1937 when I closed the nursing home. Thereafter, I had a nurse receptionist.

The only book I have for this period of 3 years is the diary I have produced. The cash account and the income & expenditure account have been prepared by analysing my bank statements.

The only real discrepancy between the cash a/c and the income & expenditure account is that in the latter a/c certain items of fees have erroneously been treated as gifts. This arises because I had treated certain monies received from a patient Mrs Bevan as a gift whereas I was giving her treatment and the payment was accordingly a fee. The other difference in the figure of gifts is that about £400 there shown in the amended Deficiency Account represents loans received from the Circle Salt Company.

I have no documents or receipts that I can produce in support of the cash account other than my own bank statements.

I will try to find the receipts for the payment of rates and taxes on Sun Haven and I will produce them to the O.R.

Re Questions 217 *et seq.* This £150 I now remember I received in cash as follows: £120 from Mrs Bevan (£50 fee and £70 gift) about 3 weeks before the Receiving Order, and £30 from my wife a day or two before the Receiving Order. Out of this £120 I paid household and personal expenses (details of which I cannot remember) and paid some small amount to my sons for personal items (which also I cannot remember).

In view of the bank's request for payment I paid the balance in together with £30 given to me by my wife to cover the amount due. I had no money left when I paid the £108 odd into the bank. I borrowed a few pounds after the date of the Receiving Order to live upon. The statements made by me at my Public Examination are unfortunately confused: what I ought then to have made clear was that I had the bulk of this money in question quite three weeks before the Receiving Order and I had not received it only a day or two before the receiving Order.

APPENDIX V

*Mark Lendon Bennett (1880–1926)***Mark Lendon Bennett – a life curiously similar to Atherton's**

Mark Lendon Bennett was born in Hackney in 1880 [GRO Ref: Hackney 1b 641, 1880 (Q1)] to parents James Bennett – a manufacturer of stone products – and Miriam Emily (née Russell) who had married in 1873 [GRO Ref: Kensington 1a 190, 1873 (Q4)]. His principal early interest and achievements appear to have been in music and in 1899 he self-published a work entitled *How to Become a Successful Teacher: a scientific system for rapidly and effectually imparting musical knowledge ...* [cited in *The English Catalogue of Books*, Vol VI, publ. Samson Low, Marston & Co Ltd]. This 174-page book was produced by a company named M. Lendon-Bennett & Co established at his family's home address Granite House, 255 Putney Bridge Road. Here we see already the first signs of pretentiousness in the hyphenation of 'Lendon-Bennett', which had no basis in the naming within his family tree. Bennett had evidently already gained the Licentiate of the Victoria College of Music (awarded for performance) and had been made a Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians (patron the Archbishop of Canterbury). These qualifications were appended to his name in a list of artistes performing at the annual banquet of the latter Guild in mid-January 1899 [*Worcestershire Chronicle*, 28 January 1899]. Later that year, in July, Bennett attended a Twickenham funeral where he 'played the "Dead March" in *Saul*' [*The Herald*, 15 July 1899]. Bennett also published at about this time two other works, *Exercises for the Properly Clad Foot* [in *Organ Callisthenics*, London, 1899] and *Musical Mnemonics*.

These conventional activities were augmented by the end of the year with a less conventional one, namely his becoming a member of the Society for Psychical Research, as noted in its journal [*Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, Vol IX, No. 164, Dec 1899]. In 1900 he placed a substantial newspaper advertisement offering pianoforte lessons 'by scientific methods', describing himself as a gold medallist and musical specialist [*Richmond Herald*, 21 April 1900]. The advertisement noted his new method of musical education, its approval by the Royal Conservatoire of Music, Italy and its adoption by leading teachers throughout the world. The relevant address was given as Granite House.

The 1901 Census finds him at age 21 living with his parents and older brother James Herbert at 255, Putney Bridge Road (Granite House) and his occupation given as Professor of Music on his own account.

In the following year he married Ethel Maude (née) Williams [GRO Ref: Fulham 1a 652, 1902 (Q2)]. She was born in London in the late 1870s.

Soon after this, evidence begins to emerge of Bennett's numerous diversifications. Our first insight into this is afforded by a passage in the satirical magazine *Truth*, edited by Horace Voules, which for many years nurtured a reputation for scrutinising – and often debunking – dubious enterprises, for which it was frequently, but almost always unsuccessfully, sued by those whom Voules exposed. Here is what Voules wrote about Bennett in the issue of 10 March 1904:

'My attention has been called to another, and so far as I am aware a new, institution for the granting of diplomas, and even (according to the prospectus) of "higher degrees". It is entitled "The Society of British Composers," and on its crest is a rampant lion with its huge tongue hanging out, although I should have imagined that, where diplomas are concerned, the proper place for that unruly member is in the cheek. The "Founder and Director" is described as "Dr Mark Lendon-Bennett." This gentleman appears in the Musical Directory as "Mark Lendon-Bennett, F.R.S.L.," and as a teacher of the pianoforte, organ, voice, and composition. Whence he derived his title of "Dr" is unknown, although, as I understand, some semi-official inquiries have been made to him on the point without eliciting a reply. But the "Society of British Composers" is not a commercial enterprise like the "National" College. It is indeed almost philanthropic in its aims. It is described in the prospectus as "A learned and social Society, not for profit," and it is added "The movement is disinterested and patriotic"; although "terms for tuition, examination, etc may be had on application to the Secretary," and there are three titles, namely Membership "by nomination," Associateship "by examination," and Fellowship "by election"; for all of which fees are charged. But "Members are allowed reductions if necessary, according to their circumstances, and in special cases no charge whatever is made." Also "ladies are eligible for any of the above grades on same conditions as gentlemen," so that besides being disinterested and patriotic, the Society is likewise gallant, and the net is spread wide. Among the objects are the aiding of unknown deserving composers," the advising of members as to the sale and publication of works, and the giving of pecuniary help to needy members. As to the fees, the Secretary at present holds the secret. To the poor but honest maestro "no charge whatever is made," while the Park Lane plutocrat anxious to write himself down as "Ass. Brit. Com" will doubtless be made to smart. This is as it should be, although there is a remark in the prospectus that the "social suitability" of members is a "primary consideration irrespective of the financial question," which may lead even a South African millionaire to hope. But meanwhile Dr Mark Lendon-Bennett owes it to his society (which, by the way, meets in Putney Bridge Road) to disclose the source of his degree. Is he a Doctor of Medicine, or of Philosophy, or of Divinity, and what is the name of his University?'

From this we see that Bennett had already become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature (the Archivist of the Society has confirmed to us that Bennett held this position from 1901 until 1905). During the following fortnight Mr Voules must have done some further homework on Bennett, because on 24 March he printed this second *exposé* of Bennett's ever-expanding aggrandisement:

'Mr Southgate, the hon. secretary of the Union of Musical Graduates, in an open letter to *Musical News*, gives a good many particulars concerning the enterprises of the "Dr" Mark Lendon Bennett, to whose "philanthropic," "patriotic," and otherwise "disinterested" Society of British Composers (of Putney) I referred on the 10th inst. Mr Bennett has fixed the fee to become an Associate of the Putney society at a guinea and a half, with the right to wear a black stuff or silk gown, faced with red; apparently a sort of latter-day Mephistopheles. Besides this, Mr Bennett's name is attached to the prospectus of a certain "Society of Vocalists, London, which likewise confers "academical dress;" while he is also president of the "London School of Accompaniment" and of the "London College of Psychology," with which is incorporated "The Granite House School of Psychology in Putney." At this suburban retreat there is a special department for "Psychic Healers" and one for the rapid instruction in the Natural Treatment of Disease (N.B. – "Previous knowledge unnecessary"), articulated pupils being taken and academical dress worn. Connected with this psychological enterprise appears to be a "College of Naturopathy," which has something to do with the "Laws of Nature applicable to all, whether believers or unbelievers." The gentlemen who receive diplomas at the "London College of Psychology" are (by Mr Bennett) granted permission to wear a black silk gown, sleeves edged with green velvet – green, I assume, being the colour most suitable to such folk. This college, among other things, is to "safeguard the public against fraudulent adventurers," whose costume, perhaps, is less picturesque than a black silk gown with sleeves edged with green velvet. The whole affair is no doubt very laughable. But that it should be allowed to exist is scarcely complimentary to our national common sense.'

Voules gives the impression that the Society had been formed in 1904, but it appears to have existed as far back as the middle of 1903 owing to this brief remark published in *The Nairnshire Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Northern Counties* on 23 June 1903:

'We are pleased to hear that Mr J C Paul jun., F.N.C.M., [Fellow of the National College of Music] has just been initiated a member of the Society of British Composers, London.'

In the Autumn of 1905 articles appeared in the Press suggesting – although not stating explicitly – that the Society had been newly formed at about that time. *The Daily News* provided one such example on 3 October 1905:

'The Society of British Composers has been formed ... The subscription is only a guinea ... It should be noted that the Society already numbers all the best-known composers of the younger school. The secretary is Mr. John B. McEwen, of 34, Belsize Park Gardens, NW.'

The secretary was John Blackwood McEwen (1868-1948), a leading British composer who wrote many very fine works; he became a Professor, and then the Principal, at the Royal Academy of Music and was later knighted.

Another example appeared in *The Westminster Gazette* on 14 October 1905:

'The Society of British Composers is a new body which has been formed with the object of advancing the claims and improving the position of the native musician ...'

This very lengthy article did not name the founders but did list some of the members, who included Ralph Vaughan Williams. Not long afterwards Edward Elgar, Alexander Campbell MacKenzie and Hubert Parry, among many other major British composers, also joined.

The creation of the Society is dated to 1905 by *Wikipedia*, where it is asserted that the co-founders were composers and RAM professors Frederick Corder and Tobias Matthay, together with McEwen – Bennett receiving no mention. *The Northern Whig* claimed on 11 August 1906 that the Society had been founded in June 1905. It could be imagined that Bennett had originally formed the Society in 1903 and steered it for a year or so, but that it was then re-constituted on a more formal or professional basis in 1905 by the afore-mentioned musical heavyweights. Whatever the case, he had certainly not been marginalised in the running of the Society, as evidenced by this report published in *The Inverness Courier* on 12 December 1905:

'The above verses are by the Rev David R Williamson, minister of Kirkmaiden Parish, in Wigtonshire, and author of "Poems of Nature and Life," who has been elected vice-president of the Society of British Composers, on the nomination of Dr Lendon Bennet [sic], D.C.L.'

Taking this at face value, it is evident that Bennett was now claiming to have become a Doctor of Civil Law. This degree was awarded by only a few universities, and was generally held to be a little more distinguished than the LLD (Doctor of Laws) commonly awarded by others.

A month earlier, on 8 November, Bennett had been mentioned in an account of a concert held at the New Masonic Hall in Bellshill, Lanarkshire given by the pianist and teacher Dr Robert MacHardy LLD and his pupils, as reported in the *North-East Lanark Gazette* on 10 November 1905:

‘Lecture [by MacHardy] – Society of British Composers, founded by the eminent Dr Mark Lendon Bennett, B.Sc., F.R.S.L., F.G.S.’

So Bennett had also, purportedly, become a Bachelor of Science and a Fellow of the Geological Society; there does not appear to have been any other plausible organisation to which F.G.S. might refer. However, the archivist of the Geological Society has confirmed that there is no record of Bennett in its archives.

Meanwhile, turning to his family life, he appears to have briefly occupied a house 38, Ranelagh Gardens in Barnes, a little over a mile to the west of his parents' home in Putney Bridge Road. He is listed at this address in the Electoral Register for 1904, but the house seems to have been unoccupied in both 1903 and 1905; it may have been in a condition making it difficult to let. His occupation of it may have been connected with preparing for the birth in that year of his only child Barbara Ethel [GRO Ref: Richmond S 2a 500, 1904 (Q4)]; she was born on 26 October.

In April 1906 Professor MacHardy was unanimously elected as Scottish President of the Society of British Composers. It was reported in *The Falkirk Herald and Midland Counties Journal* on 18 April that he had been sent a congratulatory letter by ‘the eminent founder, Dr M Lendon-Bennett’.

Further expansion of Bennett's interests came to light a few months later – he had now become an enthusiast for osteopathy, according to *The Manchester Courier* on 29 August:

‘Dr Mark Lendon-Bennett says the latest profession open to women is osteopathy, the new bloodless surgery. The delicate, highly sensitive touch necessary in the manipulation of bones, muscles, and nerves will come naturally to a woman.’

A month later it became apparent that the BPMA was involved with the tuition required, as shown in this article in *The Daily Mirror* on 27 September:

‘New Profession for Women: Why the Latest Medical Treatment Can Be Administered Better by Lady Experts. The latest profession open to women is osteopathy. The principal feature of this new scientific system of natural therapeutics, which has the approval of medical authorities, is the removal of physical derangement and restoration to healthy function by manipulation of controlling nerves and tissues. It is claimed that the delicate, highly sensitive touch necessary to manipulation will come naturally to a woman. The course of instruction, arranged in connection with the British Physio-Medical Association, is practical, and all unnecessary technicalities have been eliminated, so that anyone of average intelligence can enter the new profession with every chance of success.’

The heavy guns of the orthodox medical profession now swung into action, firing off an excoriating critique of Bennett's claims in the august pages of *The British Medical Journal*, issue of 20 October 1906, under the headline ‘Osteopathy in England’:

‘This curious system of quackery, which has for some time striven unsuccessfully to obtain legal recognition in its birthplace, the United States, has now been imported into this country. A correspondent has sent us certain documents received by him through the post, apparently from the British Physio-Medical Association, which has its local habitation in Bentinck Street, Manchester Square. In one of the documents osteopathy is described as “a scientific system of natural therapeutics, simple and safe in practice, and approved as a profession by the highest medical and legal authorities abroad” – very much abroad, we should say. The system is said to be absolutely new in this country, though we believe it found a footing in Glasgow, and possibly elsewhere, several years ago. It is now introduced “under the auspices of the Physio-Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland, by the ‘School of Osteopathy,’ where thorough tuition by a staff of eminent British teachers, also treatment, may be obtained.” In another document the Council is described as “a private institution of advanced medicine.” The Chairman is Mark Lendon-Bennett, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D. (the source of these distinctions is not indicated); among the other officers are a legal adviser, an analytic chemist, two pharmacists, and a director of experimental electrotherapy and radiotherapy. It is interesting to note that among the officers of this society “for the study and research of advanced medicine”, all of whom append more or less formidable series of letters to their names, there is none who lays claim to the possession of a medical title of any kind. A graceful concession is, however, made to the profession in the statement that “registered practitioners of medicine and others who have gained distinction in collateral science are eligible for honorary membership.” The proceedings of the Physio-Medical Council will be

published quarterly in the form of “a private journal for the use of members only.” The osteopaths would seem to be a body as mystic and as secret as the priest-physicians of ancient Egypt. Nevertheless, our enterprising contemporary the *Daily Express* has been privileged to obtain some Information from Mr Lendon-Bennett, who is, we suppose, the hierophant of the cult in this country. The pathology of the osteopath as expounded by that oracle is simplicity itself: “When the tissues weaken pressure is felt, and this pressure arrests the circulation of the blood and nerve force. The slight pressure may cause intense pain in nerve centres far distant from the seat of the trouble. By manipulating the tissues, bones, and muscles the nerves are strengthened, and the pressure is removed before the cells become weakened and unable to combat their enemies, micro-organisms.” As an example of the method of treatment, reference was made to the case of a young man suffering from indigestion. “He had,” said Mr Lendon-Bennett, “tried cure after cure without relief. I discovered by touching him that one rib was slightly out of place. A little manipulation, which must not be confused with massage, was prescribed, and in a few weeks A. was perfectly well.” “One minute flaw,” solemnly added the manipulator, “in a perfect mechanism will throw the machinery out of gear.” This flaw, it is implied, it is the function of the osteopath to remove with a touch of his delicate, highly-sensitive finger-tip. Osteopathy is held out as a profession peculiarly suitable for women. The fees are high; in one case a lady was told that the charge would be 100 guineas! This is scarcely to be wondered at, for in such a school the pupil will certainly learn experience if nothing else, and experience is proverbially costly.

So Bennett had now become a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Laws (alongside his Doctor of Civil Law), besides augmenting his humble BSc with a Doctor of Science, an honour usually bestowed for exceptional contributions to science over a long and eminent career in that field. He was (ostensibly) acquiring higher degrees and fellowships more rapidly than people had birthdays.

If Bennett had seen the above BMJ article he had not let it dampen his zest. A week later he was again in the news [*The Scotsman*, 26 October]:

“The Rev David R Williamson, F.N.C.M., vice-president of the Society of elected an honorary vice-president of the Thomsonian Physio-Medical College, London, on the nomination of the Principal, Dr Lendon Bennet [sic], D.C.L.

The term ‘Physio-Medical College’ was presumably referring to Bennett’s new BPMA. The prefix ‘Thomsonian’ referred to the American herbalist and botanist Samuel Thomson (1769-1843), regarded as the originator of plant-based healing in America.

By December 1906 it seemed that Bennett was viewing osteopathy as perhaps not having as much curative power as simply being happy and not worrying. He had set up a Nature Cure Club, as reported in *The Millom Gazette* on 7 December:

“Tobacco for the Sick. A Nature-Club Cure Without Any Fads. “The Nature Cure Club” just founded in London, is the latest thing in cures. It is a symbol of the great revolt against the simple life with all its fads. It means meat and tobacco and comforting beverages and lively society for the sick, while as for the healthy, all they have to do to keep well is to do as they like. “Be happy and don’t worry,” is an epitome of the new health creed, and in order to practise what it preaches, the club has taken a beautiful house in the West End. “We believe it is natural to be healthy,” said Dr Lendon-Bennett, one of the founders of the club, to a Press representative. “The object of the club is to supply [a] bright, natural, social environment as a cure for disease. We don’t believe in fads, but in the existence of a vital force which will work wonders if it is only given a chance. Fresh air, happiness, and plenty of good food and company work wonders. Integrated parts of the scheme are a sanatorium in the country, and another in Switzerland, so that change of scene and air can be obtained by members under the most favourable circumstances. Non-poisonous drugs and bloodless surgery are employed in obstinate cases, but only as a help to our primary method, which is to cure the body by the happiness of the mind.” Worshippers of “My Lady Nicotine,” who are thinking of replenishing their pipe-rack in view of the coming festive season will do well not to tarry, for we hear that the price of the briar root is to be raised immediately. There is, however, no likelihood that the humble clay will advance in price, and there is a rumour that this class of pipe will become fashionable during the coming season.’

Advertisements for the club were placed on the front pages of *The Daily News* (London). One such, on 13 December, stated:

‘Nature Cure Club, London.— A Social Institution.— Those interested cordially invited to free associateship, London or country. Many advantages, no financial responsibility. Club rooms open for reception of new members any evening after 7.— Apply Secretary. 95, Mortimer Street, W. Hours 11-5.’

By early 1907, however, the facility at this address had changed character somewhat, as shown in the advertisement in *The Daily News* (London) on 3 January:

'Nature Cure Dispensary. Treatment personally by post. General Naturopathic methods. Harmless non-poisonous medicines. – Call or write, Offices, Naturopathic Institute, 95 Mortimer Street, W.'

After this, no more is heard of the Nature Cure Club, whilst 95 Mortimer Street began being advertised as the premises of various other businesses unrelated to Bennett.

By this time Bennett was occupying a house in Redhill, where the Electoral Register lists him at 109, London Road. The house bore the name South Court.

In 1907 Bennett got into some kind of financial or employment dispute with an unmarried lady aged about 49 named Ellen Sarah Taplin (she later formally changed her surname, by Deed Poll in 1912, to Dutton-Taplin). He had offered to employ her as the BPMA's manageress at the house in Mortimer Street but had required her to pay £50 to be trained for the role. She paid this but the arrangement did not work out and she then employed a solicitor to recover her £50 from Bennett. Horace Voules must have been keeping his eye on Bennett because he now took the opportunity not only to report this little embarrassment over money but to pour doubt upon everything Bennett was involved in [*Truth*, 19 June 1907]:

'I heard the other day a story of a lady who had paid £50 for the appointment of manageress of a concern called the Physio-Medical Association, of 95, Mortimer Street, W., at which address it conducts a "Naturopathic Institute." The payment was nominally for instruction in the mysteries of "physio-medication," but, of course, the chief consideration from the lady's point of view was the appointment as manageress, in which capacity she was to receive £1 11s. 6d. per week. However, after paying the money, the lady thought better of it, and consulted a solicitor, who got the £50 back for her. It is due to Mr Lendon-Bennett, the proprietor of the business, to say that he seems to have made no difficulty about returning the money. Nevertheless, I should say the lady was well-advised in withdrawing from the arrangement, and if I had to advise anyone who contemplated putting £50 into a business of this kind, whether for technical instruction, or for the sake of a paid appointment, or both, my advice would be – Don't.'

For some years past I have had a distant acquaintance with Mr Lendon-Bennett. I first knew him as a dealer in hypnotism, which probably is a relative of "naturopathy." As a physio-medico he seems to be doing things on a grand scale. A report of the British Physio-Medical Association gives an account of that body in five departments, and refers also to South Court, Redhill, Surrey, "now being specially adapted for Resident Open-Air Osteopathic Treatment," and also of the Lendon-Bennett Naturopathic Medical College and Hospital, "beautifully situated in a healthy and picturesque district close to Lake Neuchatel." One reads also of "The New Physio-Medical School of Pharmacy," and "The New Electro-Therapeutic Installation," which includes the "new Magnetic Ozone Oxygen Producer," also a "new regulation concerning students desirous of taking the complete physio-medical course, or the complete course in osteopathy."

All this looks very imposing, but when one comes to inquire who constitutes the British Physio-Medical Association, it is difficult to find anyone but Lendon-Bennett. We are told that the Governing Body of the Association is the council, which is sub-divided into finance committee, committee of management, and officers; but no names are mentioned except those of officers, who comprise the president, Mark Lendon-Bennet, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., an unnamed "eminent barrister-at-law" as "legal adviser," and half-a-dozen gentlemen employed in various capacities, and presumably paid for what they do. I have read the Report of the Association for 1906 from beginning to end, but although it is marked "Important," and stated to contain "the latest authorised information concerning the Association," I know no more about the Association, about physio-medication, or about osteopathy than is to be found above. This is one reason why I think the lady was wise in asking Mr – or should one say Dr? – Lendon-Bennett to return her money.'

It is not clear that the solicitor had actually succeeded in reuniting Miss Taplin with her £50. Whether because Bennett had not yet paid up, or because she had sued him to recover some other (and perhaps much greater) loss, the fact is that in September she caused a Bankruptcy Notice to be served against him. The Notice, first published on 14 September in *The Richmond Herald* and other newspapers, observed that he had been residing at South Court but was now living at Lake House, 27, The Crescent in Barnes. This was a substantial and elegant property situated just opposite the very pretty Barnes Pond in Barnes Green. One would think that if he had been able to live in such a select road then he would have had no difficulty in returning the £50; but he may have declined to do so as a matter of principle.

Bennett meanwhile continued his usual activities with his composers' Society, of which he had now evidently become the 'Principal' [*The Scotsman*, 25 October 1907]:

'The Rev David R Williamson, F.N.C.M., author of "Poems of Nature and Life," has been made a member of the Council of the Society of British Composers, on the nomination of the Principal, Dr Bennet [sic], D.Sc., having been previously elected a vice-president of that Association.'

A second Notice flowing from Miss Taplin's action was published in *The Evening Standard*, *The London Gazette* and elsewhere on 22 November. It stated that her Bankruptcy Petition (which had been filed with the court on 14 October) would be heard on 5 December at the Surrey County Court in Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, where Bennett could inspect it beforehand. Whether he failed to turn up at that hearing, or was unsuccessful in defending his position, the law moved on remorselessly: on 11 December *The Morning Leader* (London) announced that a Receiving Order in Bankruptcy had been ordered upon him, whereby all his assets were now under the control of the Official Receiver. We do not know whether he was unable at this stage to pay Miss Taplin or was defiantly refusing to do so. Whichever the case, *The London Gazette* of 28 January 1908 reported that on 23 January the court had made an Adjudication Order upon him, thereby designating him officially bankrupt. Could he have really been in such a dire financial position that he had been unable to avoid bankruptcy by settling with Miss Taplin? Further details of the case are not available, as Miss Taplin's petition has not survived among the now-sparse bankruptcy records held in classes B9 and B12 at The National Archives.

From this date onwards, it appears that nothing more was ever reported in the Press about Bennett. As the Bard might have put it, Bennett had strutted and fretted his hour upon the stage and then was heard no more. We have found only one mention of him after the bankruptcy and prior to his death, namely in the 1911 Census. On that occasion he, his wife Ethel and their daughter Barbara were listed as visitors in the household of a brewer's carman at 11, Hilmer Street in West Kensington. Barbara was attending the Mall Road school in Hammersmith. Bennett's occupation was entered as Musical Artist on his own account and not working at home.

According to *Wikipedia*, the Society of British Composers – which had not admitted women as members until 1914 – was disbanded in 1918.

The 1921 Census finds Ethel (with Barbara) living in the household of her parents Edgar and Matilda at 48, Dane Road in Ramsgate, Kent. She was entered as married and with no occupation. Her husband was not present and his whereabouts at this time are unknown.

Edgar died in 1924. It is not known what became of Ethel. Bennett died aged 46 in 1926. His death certificate [GRO Ref: Thanet 2a 1305, 1926 (Q4)] states that he died on 15 November at 10, Albion Place in Ramsgate. His occupation was entered as musician. The cause of death was certified as carcinoma of the stomach and the informant was his wife's sister Kate Matilda (née Williams) O'Connell, present at the death and residing at The Infirmary in Eastry, Sandwich in Kent. She was evidently a nurse, as that was her occupation in the 1939 National Register when she was residing in Banstead Hospital; at that time she was recorded as single and so had presumably separated or divorced from her husband John C O'Connell whom she had married in 1916.

By the early 1930s Barbara was living at 71, Park Hill in Clapham, where she married in 1933 to her first cousin James Herbert Bennett. The 1939 National Register finds them living at 31, Denmark Avenue in Wimbeldon. She died aged 93 in 1998 [GRO Ref: Merton B39, 2441, 83, 1998 (Feb)].