

Mrs. Helen Green Allison
100 Wise Lane
Mill Hill
London, N.W. 7

14 April 1961

Program Director
Woman's Hour, BBC
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London, W. 1

Dear Madam:

In view of your recent talks on mongol children, it occurred to me that you might wish to have a member of your staff attend and report on the conference to be held on May 5th on the Psychotic Child, of which I enclose a program.

These children, more of whom are being diagnosed every year, suffer from a severe mental illness, the cause and cure for which are unknown. Their I.Q.'s are often very high, but their symptoms are such that in the past, many have been mistakenly diagnosed as imbeciles.

The mother of a psychotic child, who wishes to keep her child at home, is fortunate if she can find some day center to relieve her for a few hours, - but as the child grows older, she gradually loses control and is forced to surrender him to a mental hospital. As the whole theory behind the Mental Health Bill is to keep as many patients as possible in their own homes, there must be research carried out on these children, and more specialists trained to deal with them.

The mothers of psychotic children, of whom I am one, have long been buried in their local societies for mentally handicapped children, not even bothering to attend meetings, as so little interest was taken in their problems - mongolism and other mental defect in children being far more prevalent than mental illness. Now that the National Society has taken this imaginative step - to have a conference on the psychotic child - we feel that perhaps there will be an awakening of interest in the whole country which may lead eventually to a cure for our children. Public interest would help us so much - if only to make our neighbors a bit more understanding. Sometimes we wish our children, who are often physically beautiful and unusually graceful in their movements, looked "odd", so that those who watch our struggles to control them in public would encourage, rather than condemn us.

All mothers of psychotic children would be most grateful to you if you could find some time on your program to explain what these children are, what is being done for them, and what the future holds for them.

Yours faithfully,

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON, W.1

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS, LONDON, TELEX • INTERNATIONAL TELEX: 22182

TELEPHONE: LANGHAM 4468 Ext. 2524

Ref: 04/HT/JB

18th April, 1961.

Dear Mrs Allison,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 14th April and for sending us the programme of the one-day conference on the Psychotic Child, to be held in London on the 5th of May. I should very much like to attend the conference and wonder whether it would be possible to meet you there?

Yours sincerely,

Tell 5.16" date. 14th April
Jean Burns
(Jean Burns)

Producer, Woman's Hour

Mrs Helen Green Allison,
100 Wise Lane,
Mill Hill,
LONDON, N.W.7

KC

Mrs. Helen Green Allison
100 Wise Lane
Mill Hill
London, N.W. 7

3 July 1961

Ref: 04/WT/JB

Miss Jean Burns
Producer, Woman's Hour
BBC
Broadcasting House
London, W. 1

Dear Miss Burns:

Please forgive me for troubling you again on the subject of psychotic children, but I am writing in hopes that you are still interested in the subject.

Last Friday evening (30th June), there was a program in the "Lifeline" series on the Schizophrenic (psychotic) child which I felt was so misleading as perhaps to be actually harmful. My friends and I noticed with pleasure that the BBC had a correspondent at the Conference on the Psychotic Child on 5th May, and I am sure that she could confirm my view that the hope of "spontaneous improvement" spoken of in the "Lifeline" program was most certainly not raised at the Conference. In fact, the Conference gave a totally opposite impression, that of the urgent necessity of seeking early treatment, and the large proportion of these children who degenerate in adolescence.

Dr. Mildred Creak of The Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, who has seen hundreds of cases, said that out of 121 cases she had followed up only 2 were able to lead normal lives. Most of these children, she said, lose what relationship they had with other human beings and ultimately have to be institutionalized. (The American specialists Kanner and Eisenberg in a paper called "Notes on Follow Up Studies of Autistic Children" in Psychopathology of Childhood bear out this conclusion).

Dr. Kenneth Soddy of University College Hospital said that the necessity of early diagnosis (before age 2 preferably) could not be over-emphasized, as treatment can only be successful if undertaken early, over a limited period of time. Dr. G. O'Gorman of Smith's Hospital, who recommends residential care, emphasized the necessity for contact with the child being established before the optimum times for learning to speak and acquiring skills had passed.

The "Lifeline" program was, of course, quite right to emphasize the basic necessity for human contact with and relationship to the child. But the process of achieving this was over-simplified. Even Dr. Kenneth Soddy, whose whole method of treatment is based on the idea of working through the mother, pointed out that there are difficulties in such a method. Dr. O'Gorman feels that the necessary relationship can be formed only if the child is under

hospital care. In an article he wrote in the Times Educational Supplement of 8 July 1960 he says, "The basis of treatment is the establishment of a relationship between the child and some human being. Endless work, endless patience, and a great deal of time has to be spent on every patient if we are to make substantial progress." The entire panel at the Conference was very skeptical of the use of drugs in curing children--a point rather glossed over in the "Lifeline" program.

Letters in Parents' Voice (The Magazine published by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children) from parents of psychotic children who, I am sure, gave every bit as much loving care and attention to their children as the mothers interviewed in "Lifeline" describe how their children have never spoken, or finally deteriorated to that an institution was the only answer.

I am certain that the intentions of the "Lifeline" program were of the best, and, as a parent, I am grateful to all child psychiatrists who taken an interest in the psychotic child, but it seems to me so wrong to give false hopes of "spontaneous improvement" to the relatives and friends of psychotic children, or to lull the public into an attitude of false complacency. If it is, as Dr. Mildred Creak said at the Conference, "a monstrous problem", surely a responsible body such as the BBC must show it in its true light.

If the public in this country is going to donate funds for research into the causes and cure for childhood schizophrenia, if as taxpayers they are going to pay the bill for more hospitals for these children (O'Gorman says there should be 5 in each region), and if pressure is going to be put so that medical education on all levels gives proper emphasis to childhood psychosis, there must be public presentations of the whole problem with all its aspects fairly presented.

The British public has faced the cancer problem squarely and made every effort, voluntarily, to give cancer research their support. Although childhood psychosis is a less wide-spread scourge than cancer, it is none-the-less as painful and tragic for the individuals who suffer it, and for those who love them.

I was so touched by the interest you showed in this problem when I spoke to you on the telephone, that I thought you would understand why I feel compelled to write this letter. If, through Woman's Hour, you can add to the general understanding of psychotic children, not only parents, but society as a whole will have reason to be grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Green Allison

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON, W.1

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS, LONDON, TELEX ★ INTERNATIONAL TELEX: 22182
TELEPHONE: LANGHAM 4468 Ext. 2524

Reference: 03/HT/JB

5th July, 1961.

Dear Mrs Allison,

Thank you for your most interesting letter of the 3rd July and for drawing my attention to last Friday's edition of 'Lifeline', which unfortunately, I was unable to view.

As you know, I attended part of the Conference on the Psychotic Child and was very sorry that I was unable to contact you there. I wonder if you could possibly spare the time to come to Broadcasting House one day so that we might discuss some of the problems connected with psychotic children. I should welcome the opportunity of meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Burns

(Jean Burns)

Producer, Woman's Hour

Mrs Helen Green Allison,
100 Wise Lane,
Mill Hill,
LONDON, N.W.7.

KC

Mrs. Helen Green Allison
100 Wise Lane
Mill Hill
London, N.W. 7

1 September 1961

Miss Jean Burns
Producer, Woman's Hour
BBC
Broadcasting House
London, W. 1

Ref: 03/HT/JB

Dear Miss Burns:

I hope the enclosed is satisfactory as a description of our experience with Joe, our psychotic child. As you will see, I have tried to bring in the relevant terminology, and the important symptoms, in other words I have tried to include significant details which might possibly be of use to other parents.

Do please, let me know when and if I can be of use in revising this. My only previous experience of writing has been of historical research papers, and I am sure script-writing requires an entirely different technique.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Helen Green Allison

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON, W.1

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS, LONDON, TELEX * INTERNATIONAL TELEX: 22182

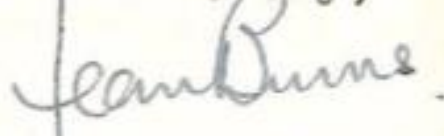
TELEPHONE: LANGHAM 4468 Ext. 2524

Reference: 03/HT/JB 13th September, 1961.

Dear Mrs Allison,

We should very much like you to come and broadcast your script about your son in Woman's Hour on Wednesday, the 18th of October, if that would be a convenient day for you. This would entail being at Broadcasting House for pre-rehearsal at 11.30 a.m. and staying with us through General Rehearsal and transmission until approximately 2.45 p.m. I do hope you will be able to come.

Yours sincerely,



(Jean Burns)
Producer, Woman's Hour

Mrs Helen Green Allison,
100 Wise Lane,
Mill Hill,
LONDON, N.W.7.

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON, W.1

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS, LONDON, TELEX * INTERNATIONAL TELEX: 22182

TELEPHONE: LANGHAM 4468 Ext. 2524

Reference: 03/HT/JB 10th October, 1961.

Dear Mrs Allison,

Thank you for your letter of the 8th October. We apologise for the mistake - the broadcast date of your talk is of course, Wednesday, the 18th October, and I look forward to seeing you at 11.30 a.m. on that day.

Yours sincerely,

(Jean Burns)
Producer, Woman's Hour

Mrs A. C. Allison,
Merlin,
100 Wise Lane,
LONDON, N.W.7.

KC

Jean Burns

Talks (Live or Recorded)

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
Broadcasting House, London, W.1.

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES : BROADCASTS LONDON, TELEX * INTERNATIONAL TELEX : 2-2182 TELEPHONE : LANGHAM 4468.

Our Reference: 01/PC/LMM

6th October 1961

Dear Madam,

With reference to our invitation to you to prepare and deliver a talk we offer you an engagement on the terms and conditions shown below and overleaf. If you accept, kindly sign and return the attached confirmation sheet, or reply otherwise, as soon as possible. (See Condition 1 overleaf.)

Service Light Programme
Title WOMAN'S HOUR - "NO RESPONSE"
Date of Recording _____
Time of Recording _____
Place London
Date of First Broadcast Wednesday, 16th October, 1961
Time of First Broadcast About 6 minutes between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m. Rehe: 1130 a.m.
Fee 7 guineas (inclusive of all expenses)

Letters addressed to speakers c/o the BBC will be forwarded, but for statistical purposes the letters may be opened before being forwarded unless we are notified of any objection. Letters marked "Personal" are forwarded unopened.

Mrs. Helen Green Allison,
100 Wise Lane,
Mill Hill,
N.W.7.

Yours faithfully,
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION,

Helen Allison
Talks Booking Manager

P/644/P 4.61 10000 A.E.B

EDF

1. This offer may be cancelled if your signed acceptance is not received within five days of the date of the offer overleaf and the Corporation considers that cancellation is necessary on account of planning requirements.
2. The word "records" shall include any contrivance whereby the talk(s) as delivered may be mechanically reproduced.
3. This contract is subject to your final manuscript(s) (except when the talk(s) is unscripted) conforming with the Corporation's requirements as indicated to you and being in the hands of the Corporation not less than ten days before the date(s) of the recording(s). Such manuscript(s) shall be retained by the Corporation unless specially reserved by you.
4. You agree to attend such rehearsals as are necessary in the opinion of the Corporation.
5. You agree that (i) the talk(s) shall be your original work and that you hold all licences or permissions necessary to authorise the use of such original work for all the purposes of this contract; (ii) the talk(s) shall not contain any previously published material written by you which the Corporation has not accepted in writing; (iii) if the talk(s) contains any copyright material which you have not written you will disclose this so that the Corporation may make any necessary arrangements for its use for the purposes of this contract; (iv) the talk(s) shall not contain anything calculated to bring the Corporation into disrepute or which is defamatory, provided however, that you shall not be liable in respect of any defamatory material which in the opinion of the Corporation was included in the talk(s) without negligence or malice on your part; (v) the talk(s) as delivered shall conform with the manuscript(s) accepted by the Corporation; (vi) you will not authorise any other broadcasting organisation to broadcast the talk(s) prior to the first broadcast by the Corporation.
6. The Corporation shall be entitled to make or to authorise the making of translations and records of the talk(s) in any language and without further payment
 - (i) to use the talk(s) or translations or records thereof for its private purposes;
 - (ii) to broadcast extracts from the talk(s) or from translations or records thereof provided that such extracts do not amount to a substantial part of the talk(s) within the meaning of Section 49 (1) of the Copyright Act 1956;
 - (iii) to broadcast the records once only in substitution for an actual performance;
 - (iv) to use extracts from the talk(s) or from translations or records thereof for the purposes of fair dealing within the meaning of Section 6 (1), (2) and (3) of the Copyright Act, 1956.
7. The talk(s) or translations or records thereof may be rebroadcast in the Corporation's Services for the United Kingdom irrespective of the Service in which the original broadcast was given on payment for each rebroadcast of a fee equal to three-quarters of the original fee if the whole of the talk(s) is rebroadcast. If abridgements or excerpts from the talk(s) are rebroadcast (other than extracts under 6 (ii) and (iv) above) a proportion of the rebroadcast fee based on the length of such abridgements or excerpts shall be paid but no such payment shall be less than one guinea. Abridgements or excerpts shall be so described unless you agree on request that such a description may be omitted.
8. The talk(s) or translations or records thereof may be rebroadcast in the Corporation's External Services on the following terms:
 - (i) if the original broadcast was given in the External Services
 - (a) as required during a period of 28 days from the date of the original broadcast without further payment;
 - (b) as required during a further period of 28 days on payment of one fee equal to three-quarters of the original fee;
 - (c) thereafter as required on payment of a fee equal to one half of the original fee in respect of each period of 28 days during which any rebroadcasts are actually given.
 - (ii) if the original broadcast was given in the Services for the United Kingdom
 - (a) as required during a period of 28 days from the date of the first broadcast in the External Services on payment of one fee equal to three-quarters of the original fee;
 - (b) thereafter as required on payment of a fee equal to one-half of the original fee in respect of each period of 28 days during which any rebroadcasts are actually given.
9. The Corporation shall have exclusive publication rights in the talk(s) or any translation thereof from the date of this Agreement until 28 days after the date of the first broadcast but such rights shall only be exercised in respect of its own journals excluding the *Radio Times*.
If the talk(s) is published in full in *The Listener*, the Corporation will pay a fee equal to 50 per cent. of the original broadcasting fee. If only excerpts or abridgements are published a proportionately smaller fee to be assessed by the Corporation will be paid, but the fee shall not be less than 10/6. Abridgements or excerpts will be so described unless you agree on request that such a description may be omitted.
10. (i) Any broadcast of the talk(s) may be simultaneously relayed by the Corporation and its assigns from transmitters in the United Kingdom or overseas.
(ii) Broadcasting Stations overseas may be authorised by the Corporation to record any broadcast of the talk(s) for the sole purpose of broadcasting the record once within 7 days of the Corporation's broadcast in lieu of a simultaneous relay.
11. The talk(s) or translations or records thereof may be used for the purposes of the BBC Transcription Service on payment of an additional fee equal to the original fee in return for the right to use the whole of the talk(s) in all territories throughout the world or if the whole of the talk(s) is used in certain territories only (as the Corporation may decide) on payment of a proportion of the original fee in accordance with the following scale:—

British Commonwealth and South Africa	one half of the original fee.
U.S.A. and its territorial possessions	— one quarter of the original fee.
All other territories	— one quarter of the original fee.

 If extract(s) from the talk(s) are used for such purposes (other than extracts under 6 (ii) and (iv) above) a proportion of the additional fee based on the length of such extract(s) shall be paid but no such payment shall be less than one guinea.
12. The Corporation shall have the right to edit or abridge the talk(s) or records or translations thereof but will use its best endeavours to notify you of any such alteration.
13. The rights hereby granted to the Corporation shall apply to the whole of or any excerpts from the talk(s).
14. The Corporation shall have the right at any time to cancel these arrangements: (i) if their performance is prevented by force majeure, or by any cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the Corporation, subject to payment of a fair proportion of the fee assessed by the Corporation after discussion with you, for work already carried out; (ii) for any other reasons subject to payment of the full fee under this contract or to the offer of an alternative date(s) as the Corporation shall decide.
15. If you are unable to deliver the talk(s) on account of illness, physical incapacity, or any other unavoidable cause, the Corporation may use the talk(s) for all the purposes of this contract subject to payment to you of a proportion of the fee assessed by the Corporation after discussion with you, but such proportion shall not be less than 50 per cent.