

early in its history, became an outlier. There are special terms for corporate membership, and for casual individual borrowers not otherwise entitled to use the Library. The following are the charges made :—

#### USE OF LIBRARY

Membership of the London and National Society for Women's Service, which includes full use of the Library, but not the provision of information,	} Annual Subscription
or, Use of the Library, as above, without membership of the Society	
Corporate Membership of Library, for Organisations, from	£1
Casual individual borrowers not otherwise entitled to use the Library, per volume per week	3d. plus postage

#### PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Research is conducted on subjects within the scope of the Library, and memoranda, etc., supplied	Charge by arrangement. Minimum fee for research 5s.
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For further particulars, please apply to the Librarian, Women's Service Library, 50, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

*The maintenance of the Library entails a heavy strain on the Society's resources, and donations for its upkeep will be gratefully welcomed.*

## London & National Society for Women's Service

(Non-Party—Formerly London Society for Women's Suffrage—Dating from 1866)

President—The Lady Emmott

Chairman of Executive Committee—Miss E. Watts

Hon. Treasurer—Roderick P. A. Garrett, Esq.

Secretary—Mrs. H. V. Horton

Hon. Secretary—Miss Philippa Strachey

### Women's Service Library

Hon. Librarian—Miss J. E. Norton

Address for Correspondence and Parcels

Librarian—Miss Vera Douie

at  
Westminster Public Library  
Great Smith Street, S.W.1

50 Tufton Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1

Telephone—ABBey 1541

#### ORIGIN AND SCOPE

The London and National Society for Women's Service has always acted on the principle that political work to be effective must be based on accurate information. Its Special Library originated in the odd collection of blue-books and other material it had brought together in the course of its existence. The Society itself originated in a Committee set up in 1866—the first of its kind—for the promotion of Women's Suffrage. After that object was attained in 1918, it turned its energies towards improving the economic position of women, working to widen their opportunities of employment and to secure the abolition of differences in remuneration based on sex. In 1926 it resolved to establish a Library to commemorate the long struggle of women for emancipation, and to supply a good collection of material to enable them to undertake efficiently their new responsibilities as citizens. Throughout the twenty-five years during which the Library has carried on its work, a balance has been kept between these two ideas, and the Library has been used in about equal measure on account of its unique collection on the position of women through the ages, and as a source of information on contemporary problems. Its growth has been astonishing, and it now possesses some 10,000 bound volumes, over 3,000 Government publications, and a formidable collection of pamphlets, reports and newspaper cuttings.

In 1930 the books were installed in the Society's newly-built Women's Service House, 29, Marsham Street, Westminster, in an admirably-designed Library, shelved and equipped with the help of a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees. The building was bombed in 1940, but the contents of the Library were evacuated intact to Hartland House, 56, Woodstock Road, Oxford, where, through the generous kindness of St. Anne's Society, they found a home, in which they were established until September, 1949. An offer of co-operation with the Westminster City Council was then gratefully accepted, and the Library is now housed in the Westminster Public Library in Great Smith Street, where it is kept apart as a separate entity under the care of its own librarian, while the right to use the material has been extended to those entitled to make use of the Public Library. The antique section is, however, kept on the Society's premises, where the Librarian has her office.

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## CONTENTS

The contents of the Library fall into four main divisions, (a) The Antique Section, (b) The Historical Section, (c) The Modern Section, and (d) The Biographical Section.

(a) The Antique Section includes the Cavendish Bentinck Library, collected and presented by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. It contains also the Society's own collection of rare books, presented by many kind benefactors. These between them form a unique library on the social, political and legal position of women in the past, their education, their work, their domestic arts, and the advice tendered to them as to how they should behave. The oldest book in the Library is a small German black-letter pamphlet concerning the revelations of St. Hildegard, as interpreted by Andreas Osiander, printed in Nuremburg in 1527. Other examples of the many interesting antique books in the possession of the Library are:—

*La Nobilita et l'Eccellenza Delle Donne, Co'Diffetti, E Mancamenti de Gli Huomini*, by Lucretia Marinella (Venice), 1621.

*The Lawes Resolutions of Women's Rights*, by I. L., 1st edition, 1632 (London). (The first book on the legal position of women to be printed in England.)

*Of Domesticall Duties*, by William Gouge, 3rd edition (London), 1634.

*Observations on the Visiting, Superintending and Government of Female Prisoners*, by Elizabeth Fry (London), 1827. (Copy presented by the author to Queen Adelaide, and bearing the Royal signature.)

In this section, which is still growing, are also to be found first and early editions of the works of women writers.

(b) The Historical Section covers the history of the women's movement in all its aspects, including the women's suffrage movement, the campaign to secure to married women the legal right to own property, and the struggles for higher education and greater opportunities of employment. The large collection of books is supplemented by the annual reports, periodicals, and propaganda pamphlets and leaflets issued by the women's suffrage and kindred societies. An autograph collection, of which the basis was the correspondence received by Dame Millicent Fawcett, leader of the constitutional movement for the enfranchisement of women, contains letters from most of the notable men and women of the Victorian Age, including Queen Victoria herself. Among the most interesting of these documents are papers presented by Florence Nightingale's family including her ground-plan of the hospital at Scutari, and letters written by Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson to Miss Emily Davies and others on her fight to secure entry to the medical profession.

(c) The Modern Section is designed to provide, in addition to material relating specially to the position of women, a useful collection for the general reader on such subjects as education, employment and unemployment, housing, public health, population

problems, penal questions, local and central Government and international affairs. A special effort is made to keep up the provision of Government publications, as these are often difficult to obtain in other libraries. The collection of classified newscuttings is so organised that up-to-date information on the subjects covered by the Library is immediately available. Additions are made daily from English papers, and, through the generosity of kind friends in Australia and the United States, clippings from Australian and American papers are regularly received and incorporated.

(d) The Biographical Section includes well over 1,000 biographies, mainly of women.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Books can be borrowed from the Library either in person or by post. The librarian is glad to advise borrowers, and to prepare bibliographies. In addition, Women's Service Library acts as an information and research centre, and large numbers of inquiries are answered annually. Typed memoranda are supplied when the information needed is not available in printed form. These services are not confined to Great Britain, for, during its comparatively brief history, the Library has been used by men and women from over 40 different countries; books have been sent to several European countries, to most of the British Dominions, and to the United States, while information has been disseminated over an even wider area.

## USE OF THE LIBRARY

Among those who have made constant use of the Library are Government Departments and Committees, M.P.s and their secretaries, civil servants, local councillors, political organisers of all parties, the secretaries and members of women's and other organisations with social and political objects, social workers, University teachers, research workers and students, authors, journalists and public speakers. The Library has assisted in the preparation of many a book, article, lecture and thesis. It is not, however, a Library designed exclusively for specialists; the ordinary reader, reading mainly for pleasure, is warmly welcomed, and will find much that is both interesting and amusing on its shelves.

## TERMS FOR USE

Though Women's Service Library is a private library belonging to the London and National Society for Women's Service, its use is not restricted to members. Books may be borrowed direct by those entitled to use the Westminster Public Library, and also through the National Central Library, of which Women's Service Library,