

# Women in the 1921 Census of England & Wales

## Female Pioneers

Mary McKee | Rootstech 2022

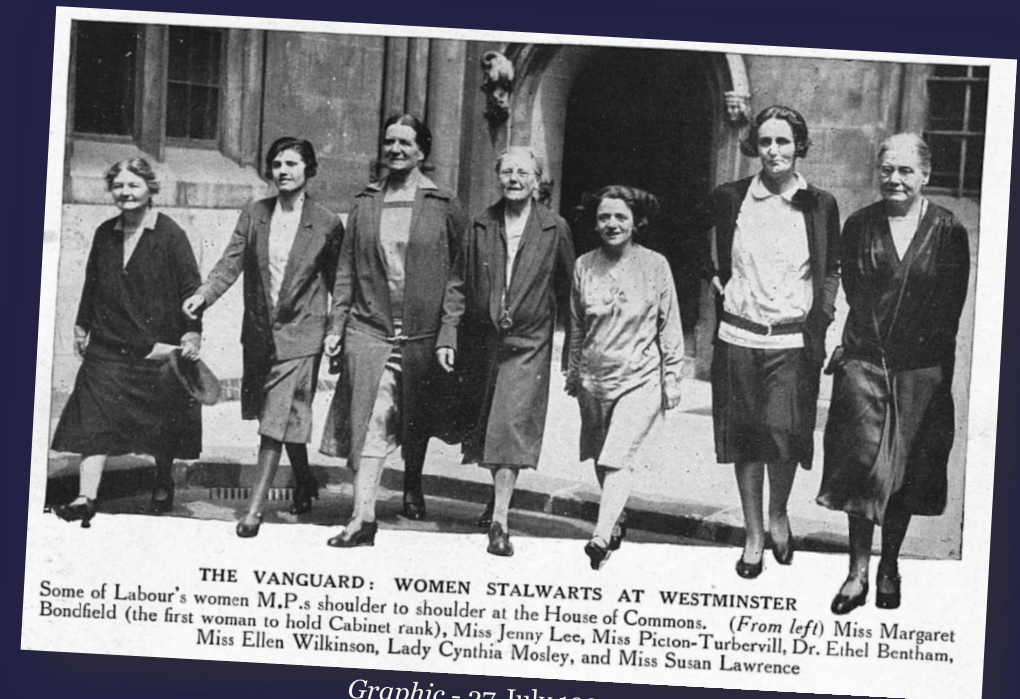
# Women in 1920s Britain

## Post First World War changes

- Sex Disqualification Act - made it somewhat easier for women to go to university and take up professional jobs as teachers, nurses and a few even qualified as doctors.
- Pre-War Restorations Act - as consequence over 25% of working women left the factories.
- Divorce Law reform 1922
- 1.7 million more women to men
- Reproductive rights – *Married Love* by Marie Stopes

## Today's Presentation

- Police
- Medicine
- Military Service
- Education



Graphic - 27 July 1929

# Women in the Police

Matrons were previously employed as civilians to assist with female prisoners.

22 May 1914 - discussions from the Criminal Justice Bill, undertaken at the House of Commons. Here:

*Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck...moved a new clause providing that there should be appointed in every county borough and in every metropolitan borough, and by order of the Secretary of State in any other local authority, two or more women police constables, chosen in county boroughs by the Chief Constable and in London by the Chief Commissioner of Police.*



Corps of Women Police. Leeds Mercury - 10 December 1914



# Women in the Police

## Florence Mildred White

### Firsts

First women to join a police force and to be attested as a constable.

First women to become an inspector and to receive a police pension.



1914 Senior Language Mistress at the Godolphin School in Salisbury

Governors of Godolphin  
School, Salisbury.

# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose.

Number of Schedule 2416  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after delivery.)

Mildred White

Boarder

37

Name of Person		Sex and Age		Marital Status		Place of Birth		Date of Birth		Religion		Profession, Occupation, or Trade		Place of Birth of Parents		Date of Arrival in this Country		Date of Naturalization		Date of Denaturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		Date of Re-naturalization		
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Salisbury, Godolphin School, 1928. Francis Frith Collection on Findmypast.

1911 Census of England & Wales on Findmypast. RG14/12106/346 © Crown Copyright Images reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England





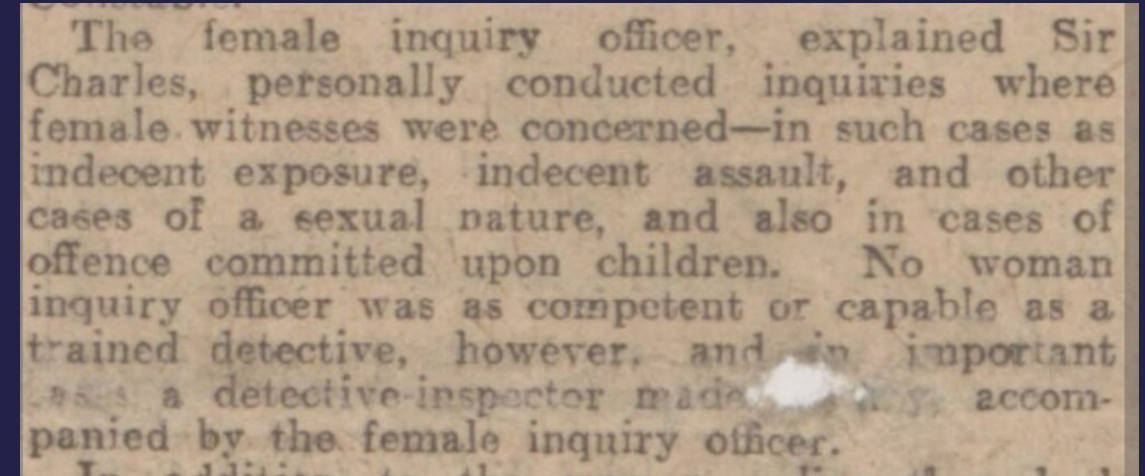
# Women in the Police

## Florence Mildred White

1 June 1925 – Age, 51, joined Birmingham Police Force's Criminal Investigation Department as Lady Enquiry Officer (Female detective).

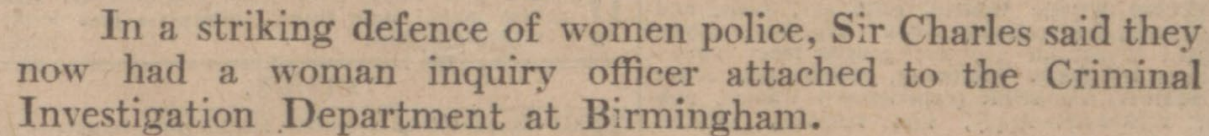
✓ First year dealt with 577 investigations

Feb 1937 - Retired



The female inquiry officer, explained Sir Charles, personally conducted inquiries where female witnesses were concerned—in such cases as indecent exposure, indecent assault, and other cases of a sexual nature, and also in cases of offence committed upon children. No woman inquiry officer was as competent or capable as a trained detective, however, and in important cases a detective-inspector made the inquiries, accompanied by the female inquiry officer.

Nottingham Evening Post - 15 November 1928



In a striking defence of women police, Sir Charles said they now had a woman inquiry officer attached to the Criminal Investigation Department at Birmingham.

"The women police have been an unqualified success in Birmingham," he said. "Their duties are not quite what their advocates wish them to be. We think in Birmingham that we have discovered the true sphere of woman's usefulness in police work. We need more, and I hope we will have them when finances permit."

# Women in Medicine

Fight for women to enter the male-dominated world of medicine began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Arguments against female doctors

- Lack of physical strength
  - Delicate nature
  - Monthly insanity
  - Brain was less suited
- Competition for male doctors
- Challenge societal role of wife and mother

## Argument for female doctors

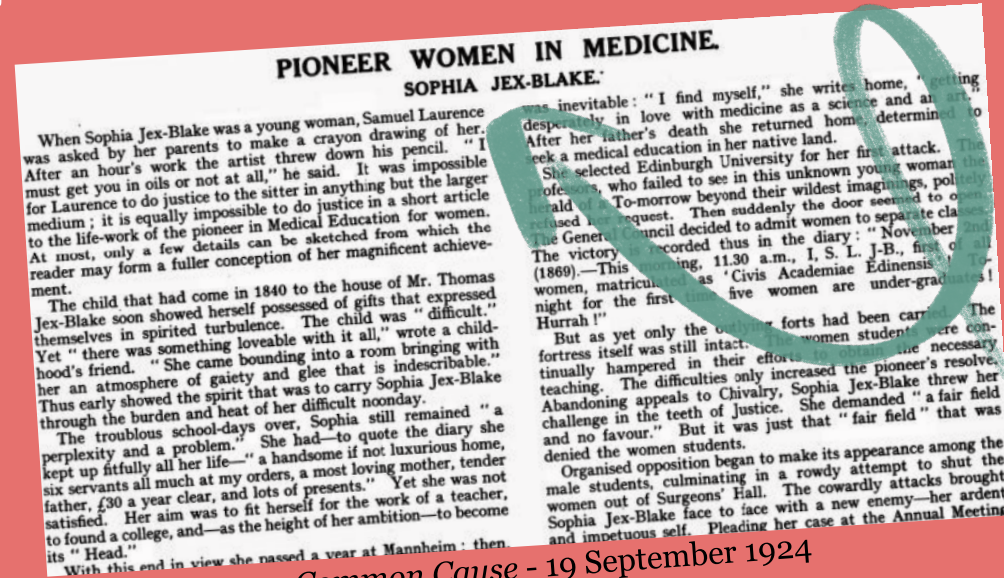
- Caring nature
- Empathize with patients
- Just as clever and strong
  - Equality

# Women in Medicine

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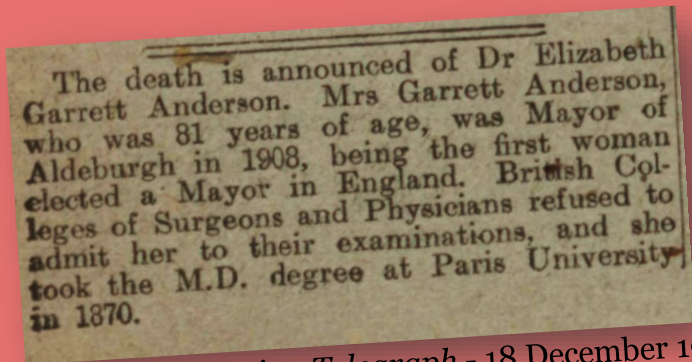


Elizabeth Blackwell. Photo: Bettmann/Getty Images



Common Cause - 19 September 1924

- Elizabeth Blackwell – 1858 - First women to be accepted on the Medical Register in Britain. British women living in America.
- Elizabeth Garrett Anderson - became the first women to qualify as a physician and surgeon.
- Sophia Jex-Blake – 1869 – started the fight for women's admission in medical education at University of Edinburgh, had to go abroad to get a degree



Dundee Evening Telegraph - 18 December 1917



# Women in Medicine

## Louise Martindale

1889 - Studied at Royal Holloway, University of London

1900 - Became an assistant and then business partners with Dr Mary Murdoch

1906 - gained her **Doctor of Medicine** and opened her own practice in Brighton and joined the Lewes Road Dispensary for Women and Children.

1920 - Set up New Sussex Hospital for Women in Windlesham Road, there she was the **Senior surgical Consultant** Practice in London.

1933 - **Elected Fellow** of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

1937 - **First woman appointed** to the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

1943 - **Elected as chair** of the Sussex Hospital for Women and Children

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Louisa Martindale (front row, fourth from the left) with the National Women's Party Group Photo in 1925. Seated at the far left is Alice Paul conferring with English members of newly formed International Advisory Committee of National Woman's Party – an American Woman's Club – in London. Left to Right – Seated – Alice Paul, Elizabeth Robins, Viscountess Rhondda, Dr. Louisa Martindale, Mrs. Virginia Crawford, Dorothy Evans – Standing – Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Alison Neilans, Florence Underwood, Miss Barry. London News Agency Photos. Credit: The Library of Congress, United States.

# Women in Medicine

## Louisa Martindale

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my past

### DAME LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE.<sup>1</sup>

PART I.

By LOUISA MARTINDALE.

In this short Biography Lord Riddell tells us he has aimed at revealing the personality of Dame Louisa and showing something of what she was as well as of what she did. In this aim he has succeeded, and many of Dame Louisa's friends will be grateful that this picture of her character and personality has been drawn by one who not only knew her in her work as Dean of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women and Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, but also had a keen insight into the ruling motives of her life.

Her childhood in Welsh Bicknor on the Wye seems to have been an exceptionally happy one. As a result she "became skilled in navigating the treacherous river, an expert with the rod, a fearless horsewoman, a daring swimmer, a capable veterinary surgeon and horsebreaker, a good carpenter and a keen and understanding gardener—achievements rendered possible by a sturdy body, a sound mind, a quick eye and clever hands."

*Common Cause* - 7 January 1927

Dr. Louisa Martindale, of Forest Row, is chairman of the new Sussex Hospital for Women and Children.

*Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser* - 24 September 1943

Louisa Martindale writes her autobiography under the title of *A WOMAN SURGEON* (Victor Gollancz. 18s.). We see how against heavy odds she pursued the career of her choice, pursuing it in many parts of the world, first in post-graduate courses in Vienna, later in visiting plague camps in India. After more studies in Berlin and London, Louisa Martindale became the first woman doctor in Brighton and, still fighting opposition, she was instrumental in founding there a hospital for medical and surgical cases for women. Then came a consulting practice in London, and vital and in part rewarding work in the realm of cancer research.

*The Sphere* - 12 January 1952

The other magistrates on the Bench were: Dr. Louisa Martindale, Miss Kingsbury, Mrs. Crittenden, Mr. J. Godwin King, Mr. D'Arcy Gray, Mr. C. Branwell, Mr. Ernest W. Young and Mr. A. T. Burt.

*Crawley and District Observer* - 23 October 1943



# Women in Medicine

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(a)	(b)	(c) years. months.	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1 Louisa Martindale	Head	48   7	£	Single	{	Sussex Leytonstone
2 Mary Fitzgerald	Tenant of unfurnished room	50   6	£	Single	{	Ireland Dublin
3 Edith Emma Nesell	Servant	51   6	£	Single	{	Sussex Brighton
Mary Ellen Harris	servant	23   9	£	Single	{	Sussex Brighton
Hoile	Servant	30   3	£	Single	{	Sussex. Lewes.
Hoile		33   1/2	£	Single	{	Sussex Lewes.

Physician & Magistrate  
M.D. B.S (Lond.) J.P.  
Employer  
1432.



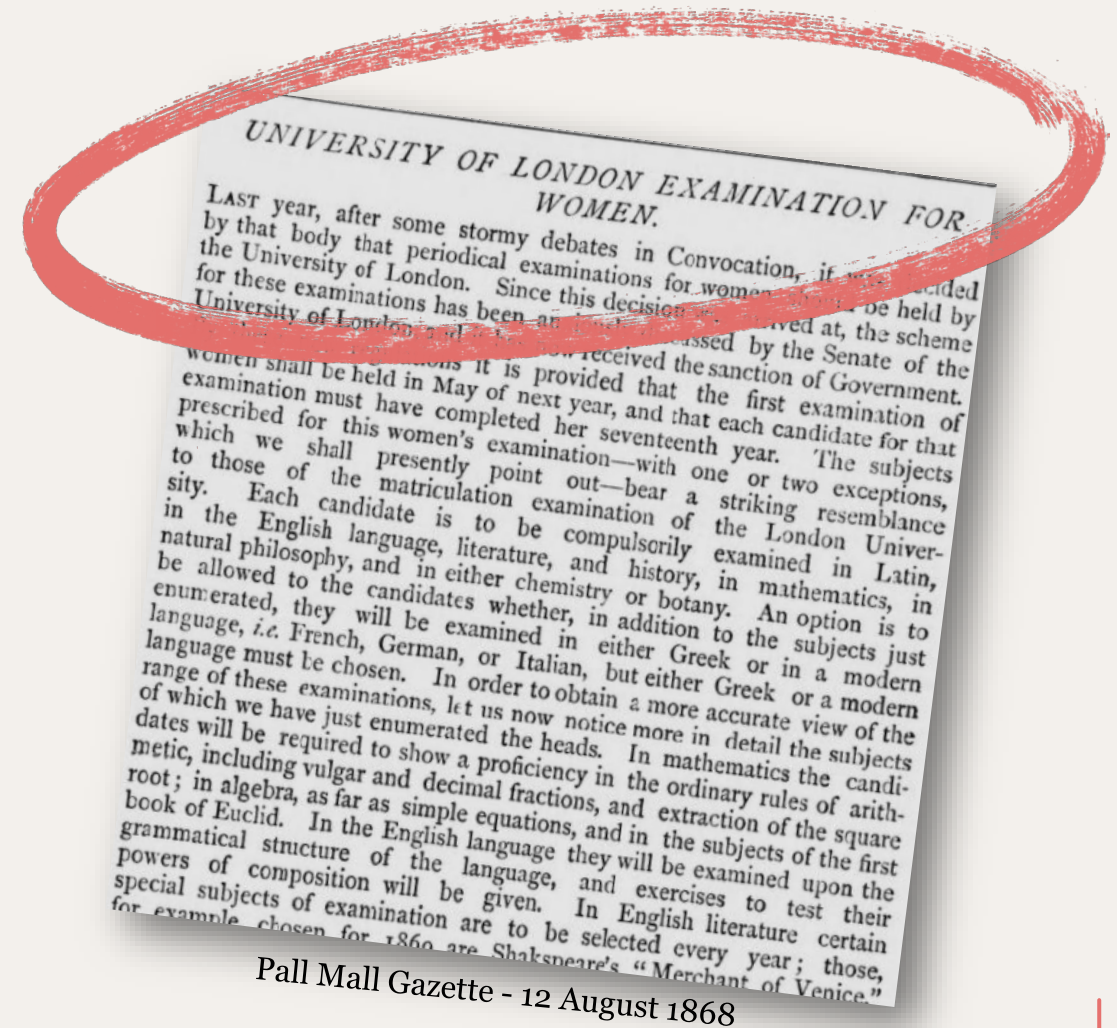


# Women in Education

1868 – First British women allowed to attend university - not awarded degrees, instead they received a certificate of proficiency.

1880 – First degrees were awarded

- ✓ 1888 – Eliza Orme first law degree
- ✓ 1895 - Lilian Murray first dentist
- ✓ 1898 – Ethel Charles first architect



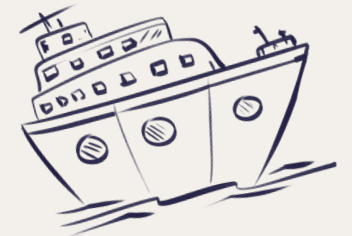
# Women in Service

During the First World War (1914-1918), the role of women in Britain was massively altered and the women's sphere was enlarged in every direction. Some historians mark **the First World War as a watershed moment in women's history** when women were looked at less as fragile creatures and more as robust figures.

The **Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)** was established in 1917 and was the women's unit of the British Army. In 1918, it became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Women were recruited to work as messengers, typists, cooks, and even carpenters.

The **Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS became known as the Wrens)**. They were first established in 1917 and disbanded in 1919 after the war ended. Then they were revived for the Second World War. Women were employed in various duties on shore hitherto performed by naval ratings such as cooks, clerks, wireless telegraphists, weapons analysts, electricians, and air mechanics.

The **Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF)** was founded in 1918 and employed women as mechanics and drivers. It was disbanded in 1920 but reinstated in 1939 for the Second World War. The WRAF was given the nickname 'Penguins' because they were like the birds since they did not fly.



# Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan



First Chief Controller, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) in France, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, GBE. Source Imperial War Museum

- First female professor at the Birkbeck, University of London – Professor of Botany
- Served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
- Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force
- Chief Controller of the Auxiliary Territorial Service



# Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan

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PALL MALL GAZETTE. NOVEMBER 15, 1922.

## LONDON CONSERVATIVE CHAMPIONS.

*Their First Policy: Trade Recovery, More Work, More Wages.*

One hundred and fifty-three candidates to-day are competing for Parliamentary honours in the London borough constituencies, and a large number of others are engaged in contesting the seats which are included in the Greater London area. The borough candidates are thus divided—

CONSERVATIVE	48
LIBERAL	37
NATIONAL LIBERAL	15
LABOUR	46
OTHERS	7

Siteseous fights are in progress in most of the London constituencies. It is unsafe for anyone to stay at home with a self-antidote idea that his or her candidate is sure to win. This is particularly an election when correct forecasts are impossible. New factors are introduced, preceding re-circles are unreliable owing to the circumstances under which the Coalition Parliament was chosen, and therefore the only safe way is to vote.

Every London Conservative seat must be held if the Government is to have the majority required in the new Parliament to ensure a period of stable government during which trade and industry may recover.

On this issue portraits of some of the Conservative champions are re-



MR. G. W. JONES.  
(Stoke Newington.)



DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN.  
(North Camberwell)



MR. E. ROY BIRD.  
(North Lambeth)

London is having a gala night to-night. Great crowds are expected to flock into the West-end to await the results of those polls which will be declared in the midnight and early morning hours.

Many theatres will remain open until midnight, arrangements having been made for the results of the polls to be announced.

In addition, at many outside points results will be exhibited on screens, and the waiting intervals will be taken up by cinematograph exhibitions.

Among other places where these exhibitions will be given are—  
Barker's, High-street, Kensington,  
Harrod's, Brompton-road,  
Horne Brothers', Oxford-street,  
and Tottenham Court-road.  
Selfridge's, Oxford-street,  
Shaftesbury-avenue and Piccadilly-circus Corner.  
Whiteley's, Queen's-road, Rye-water.  
Trafalgar Square.  
Fleet street.

Pall Mall Gazette - 15 November 1922

**The Commandant of the W.R.A.F.**

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has also been closely associated with Glasgow University. She is herself a Doctor of Science and a Fellow of the Linnæan Society, and holds a high place as a scientist of learning and ability. The "pleasant memory of her husband" was referred to by Professor Glaister, who spoke of a gift which he and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan had made to the University of books, manuscripts, and botanical material. Her wonderful work for the Women's Royal Air Force was referred to by Lord Weir at a dinner offered by the University to the new honorary graduates. He also took the opportunity of bearing testimony to the work of the Force itself. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, he said, would endorse his opinion that no one ever commanded a Corps composed of more honourable and devoted women with higher characters and principles than the girls of the Royal Air Force.

Common Cause - 28 November 1919



Edinburgh Evening News - 6 July 1939

NEW CHIEF OF  
W.A.T.S.  
APPOINTMENT OF DAME  
GWYNNE-VAUGHAN.  
COMMANDED AUXILIARY  
CORPS IN FRANCE

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has been appointed Director, Auxiliary Territorial Service, Army Branch, with rank of Chief Controller, it was announced by the War Office last night.

She is best known to the general public as Chief Controller of Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corps with the British Armies in France during the war from its formation in February, 1917, until September, 1918, and later as Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force.

Liverpool Daily  
Post - 5 July 1939

WOMEN IN SCIENCE.  
Papers to be Read at the Centenary Meeting.

The Botany Section.

The section of Botany is to be served very ably by women. Professor Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and Mrs. H. S. Williamson will describe the life history of a rare fungus, the spores of which were

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer - 24 September 1931



# Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan

on back hereof.						
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
		years. months.				
1 Helen Charlotte Isabella Gwynne-Vaughan	head	42 4	F	widowed	London, Westminster	
2 Elizabeth RYAN	servant	42 10	F	single	Castle Connell	
3	professor of botany	85 2 6			Birkbeck College (University of London)	Breams Buildings 9C4 4480
	working housekeeper	9 0 7 7		private		4470

1921 Census of England & Wales on Findmypast. © Crown Copyright Images reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.



10468 Gwynne-Vaughan, Helen Caroline	27 Lincoln Inn Fields	dwelling house	27 Lincoln Inn Fields
10469 Molony, James	"Shenfield," The Drive,	office (joint)	28 Lincoln Inn Fields

England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1832-1932

Isaac Stephenson, Esquire,  
Dame Helen Charlotte Isabella Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; and  
Ethel, wife of Our right trusty and well...

London Gazette 1665-2018

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# Thank You

A thick, horizontal yellow brushstroke with a textured, hand-painted appearance, positioned below the "Thank You" text.