

3934

WOMEN'S ADJUSTMENT BOARD

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Special Appeal for Residential Clubs for Elderly Gentlewomen and Gentlemen

Hon. Solicitor: HERBERT SWINNERTON, Esq.
of JOHN BARTLETT & SON.
Auditors: THOMAS L. THEOBALD & SON.
Bankers: BARCLAYS BANK,
74 High Street, Kensington, W.8.

Hon. Secretary-General: Miss ADELINE BOURNE,
FLAT A, 114 QUEEN'S GATE, S.W.7.
Telephone Kensington 0549.

Mrs. Billington Greig,
146, Dora Road,
Wimbledon. S.W.19.

August 8th. 1956.

*Dear Mrs Billington Greig - See
Heaven's Bitch + left out the private*

I am enclosing you a copy of an article which appeared in the "Sunday Referee" in June 1935. I called it my Obituary at the time and it is 20 years ago, but you want dates I think.

I was born on January 8th. 1873 at Dakar where my people were stationed in India, I think it is Pakistan now. I came home when I was about 6 but went out again and came home for educational purposes, went up to Scotland when I was 8. Between the years of 8 and 16½ I was educated at Exeter High School where Miss Bell was the famous first Head. With my cousins we were very intimate with the Barnes' afterwards the Vanburghs, rather amusing. Then I went to Eastbourne, then to Blackheath, so I had a real rolling stone of an education as well as a rolling stone life.

returned
I ~~went out~~ to India before I was 17 and came home for good when I was 24, still thinking myself 17, and started on the stage at Sarah Thorne's in 1898. In 1899 I started my paid profession as an actress as Eileen in The Second Mrs. Tanqueray, ridiculous, of course. My acting life was as varied as my other, I was in the Provinces until I joined Mrs. Patrick Campbell in 1900 and went with her on her first American tour in 1901/2. in 1902/3 we went out to the West Coast when I first saw *San Francisco* California and went to Vancouver Island, Victoria the capital had trees all around and a few houses in the harbour. We went across the Rockies and saw Niagara Falls which were not so spoilt then as they are now, it was a wonderful time altogether. That first time there were ~~the~~ Power Houses there ~~and~~ Power Stations because I remember going down and an old lady in our Company was so frightened with the water rushing through the huge pipes that she had to go upstairs, *in the cell* it was terrifying to hear the thunderous sound and to think that if there was a crack of any kind, we were doomed down there at the bottom of the shaft, that

3934 *
* ~~_____~~ *
* ~~_____~~ *
with Olga

was in 1902/3. Then I went out again with Forbes Robertson this time in 1906/7 and went once again to the West Coast.

Netterole in 1907/8

Then in 1912 I did two Matinees at the Court Theatre, one I know was Salome and I think the other was Maeterlinck's Monna Vanna with Herbert Waring as the General and my husband in that play was Fisher White. In Salome I had Arthur Wontner as John the Baptist.

I also put on that year at the I not only played the principal part, but I called all the rehearsals and saw to all the scenery, I paid a large number of people their little expenses, I got programme sellers and saw to the selling of every seat in the house and I saw that there was somebody, it was Major General in those days who always received for me. Any money that was over, I always gave to some charity or other. How I did it all, I don't know, but I did.

* (should be 1906 not in 1912)

Then I joined Forbes Robertson that year and we produced Caesar and Cleopatra, Shaw's play in New York. I was the original Eftatateeta and made quite a hit, also I played Amelia in Othello and brought down the house I remember. I got some wonderful notices. 1913/14 we were on the East Side of America and 1915/16 on the West side and then we came home, and then our Chairman ~~Lady Forbes Robertson~~ of the Actresses' Franchise League told me that all the Actresses were doing and had done was being taken over by other people, bigger of course than ourselves. Decima and Eva Moore ~~was~~ the Emergency Corps which was being run by the Duchess of Marlborough, I think, I am not sure, ~~had~~ and idea of women's ~~activities~~ being run by the Marchioness of ~~Loudouderry~~ so I put before them what I had very much wanted to do myself, that is going over to France with a hospital unit, and so we started the

May Whittier Lab 7-8 was our President

u "British Women's Hospital" on the lines of the Scottish Women's Hospital, until I found to my horror that the Vicomtesse de la Panousse, the French Ambassadress didn't want the hospital unit at all, they didn't want us over in France, all they wanted was the money!!! I was not going to give them the money so I rushed to the British Red Cross and there I was asked by whoever was in charge, she was a very fins striking woman and Sir Frederick ~~TREVES~~ ~~Bridges~~ to undertake to raise money for the building of the Star and Garter at Richmond Hill. The old Star and Garter Hospital had been presented to the British Red Cross by the Estate Agents of England as a body and we were to build it. I remember I sent to India to all the Rajahs asking them to wire me money for the Star and Garter Hospital and we got £600 from them by telegram and that is how we started the Star and Garter for the Totally Disabled

TREVES
~~TREVES~~
~~TREVES~~
Totally Disabled

had a brain wave

I then thought of the English speaking press of the World and secured dear Marion Holmes a very great friend of mine

World

of mine, a Free Leaguer to write the Appeal, so with the Red Cross of the British Red Cross on our paper and a few distinguished names as well as distinguished actresses, I launched the Appeal in October 1916 on a world wide basis. The response was terrific, I think my first cheque was from South Africa for £6,000. America, Australia, Canada, every country in the world that had English speaking peoples, all the women banded themselves together and sent enormous sums.

the 1st day

I then asked Winifred, Countess of Arran, with whom I was very friendly in those days, to give me the name of some wealthy and well-known woman who would be our Honorary Treasurer and she gave me Lady (Arthur) Pearson, who had opened the Savings Bank campaign. I remember that she and her husband in Trafalgar Square each gave £1,000 to start the scheme and make it successful. As you know, they were made Viscount and Viscountess Cowdray for their patriotism and good works. I left them soon afterwards as I was hurt at the way I was treated, this, of course, is not for publication. I left in January or February and later in the year they were able to hand over a cheque for a million pounds, so that you can see what my good work brought forward. After that, of course, they had the full support of every organization in England, the Press, the Theatre, everyone helped for the totally disabled for which the Star and Garter was built. The Red Cross built out of the money we raised a Convalescent home at St. Leonards, they gave to the British Nurses £10,000 and they had difficulty in closing the Appeal, a great pity it ever was closed I think.

*with her husband
x a million Pounds each!
Nov 1917*

That, of course, finished my voluntary organizing. Then I became an Acting Paymaster and I raised a lot of money for the Y.W.C.A. for huts in France for the women. I joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps after Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Decima asked me

After the War I was asked to run the Entertainments at Cologne so that I did not get back to England until 1920. I found that the Theatre had forgotten me. I would not have minded having to begin again, but then they remembered that I could organize, so then I started organizing professionally and was the premier Organizer in England between the two world wars. I did the first mammoth cabaret with Cochran, it was a wonderful success and was really extraordinary, we had 1,000 people in the big Ballroom and 600 Artistes having supper in the old Ballroom.

raised over 10,000 in one night should have raised £20,000 - (was very disappointed Cochran of course did it)

My last stage appearance was in Cologne with "Lady Frederick" Decima Moore. My appearance in the play secured me an invitation to Government House, they had not taken any notice of me until I appeared on the stage and then I was asked to go there by Sir William and Lady Robertson, which amused me very much.

at the Commencement of the Second World War / (Nov 1939)
 called the A.F.L. ~~when I came home~~ ^{Committee} and the Actresses' Franchise League Committee ~~both~~ together, I asked them if they wished to revive the British Women's Hospital Unit or should we start the Adjustment Board? I found they were very hurt because in the Star and Garter at Richmond Hill there is no mention of the British Women's Hospital or the A.F.L. as having raised the money to build the Home, there is a Tablet saying that the Estate Agents gave the property and the land, but nothing about our building it, and, of course, it was a terrific building and is a wonderful monument to what the women of the world did for the totally disabled *men from* ~~and~~ every country I expect is there, at least, I hope so. So they plumped for the Adjustment Board and it was founded in June 1940 during that terrible time when the whole of Europe was falling under the German boot. Lady Violet Bonham Carter was our Chairman, she was our first Chairman but resigned later when she became a Governor of the B.B.C.

During the War I was asked by Mrs. Warren Pearl and Mrs. Reynolds Veitch to run an American Trailer Ambulance for them and this, too was a great success. *we gave Trailers to about 30 towns or more.*

I think it was in 1942 that Lady Cynthia Colville as Chairman with Gordon Moore suggested or proposed that we should call ourselves the Women's Adjustment Board, it really didn't matter very much whether we called ourselves the Women's Adjustment Board or Adjustment Board, and so it was carried.

In May 1942, I started the monthly meetings, I had asked Decima what she thought would keep us together, and *she said* she had found the different meetings attended with speeches the most interesting thing, so I used ~~the~~ ^{the} Actresses Name for the first three meetings and established it on their support. After that the meetings were called the Women's Adjustment Board and Decima ~~I think~~ never forgave me, she had hoped that I would have carried on the old Actresses' Franchise League, but the franchise had been won and suffrage had no longer any significance. Of course, this is one of the best things we did. I enclose you list of Speakers from 1942 to the end of last year. On Friday the 7th. of September, the first Friday in September, our meeting commemorates the opening of our first Alice Waddilove Club for elderly ladies on Clapham Common, we have 18 old ladies there.

The first organization we tried to start was our Theatre Committee. We wished to have in London a small Repertory Theatre where we could put on new plays by British authors and help to raise the type of repertory in the country and every summer to take our London Repertory company to provincial theatres while that theatre came to our London Club which we were going to start. Van Gyseghem attended two committees. We put our plan before him and said we could do it for £5,000, he said he thought it would be £10,000 we needed, but the second time he came

he said he thought it would be £20,000, so ~~we~~ realised that in a World War the thought of asking for £20,000 for a project of that kind which only touched a certain section of the people was not possible.

Then we turned next, I am sure you will laugh, to training domestics. Mr Gordon Moore was Chairman of that scheme. Just as we had got out a plan for a working girls hostel to be staffed by trainees to be brought up to cook, or wait or to be housemaids, the Labour Government got in first and started their Domestic Science School in Mount Street, and one of the members of that committee who herself was a Domestic Science expert, advised us to drop the scheme, said the Government would have thousands at their command and it would be impossible for us to raise the money we required. Now I see, my dear, that the present Government consider, like I do, that Mount Street is a waste of money, they are not turning out domestics by the hundred to do housework, they are only putting a few Domestic Science experts out and spending thousands to do so. I may go back to the original scheme, but there again my second scheme had to be dropped.

(if I live long enough)

Our third scheme, which practically dropped itself was a Handicraft centre. I did, as you know, run the "Sew for You" shop in Gloucester Road which just didn't pay, we raised about £1,000 and spent £1,100. Then our rent was raised from £400 to £100 so that finished our "Sew for You." Such a pity, because two very well known Dressmakers started in Gloucester Road just a little further up and are doing very well, but they, of course, charged more than we did.

1949 Then came the old people which I took up next. I wanted to do something for elderly gentlepeople with very small monies and very slender means and so we started our Residential Clubs for elderly people and opened up the Alice Waddilove Club at Clapham Common in 1951. It was officially opened in 1952 after we had paid off our initial debts by H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester. This was such a success from the first that it encouraged me to look around for a Nursing Home because we had to refuse so many people who could neither feed themselves or couldn't dress themselves or who needed to be taken care of, which we could not do at 21, West Side, so that in 1949 I started looking for an ancient house as there was talk of a Government scheme for helping Historic houses. The Act was passed in 1953 and I pushed through for Gosfield Hall which I had seen in 1949 and just saved it from being demolished. We ^{have} raised £30,000 to enable us to get the Government grant of £17,000. I have just heard from the Architect that the structural repair which is the Government's part will be £20,000, which means that we have to pay £3,000

extra and how I am going to get it, I am not quite sure, but that is the position today, my dear. We have got all the piping from the bathrooms and lavatories, the first lavatory basins were being put in the last time I was down there. We are on to water and we are on to gas, but the house is to be wired for Electricity and is going to cost over £4,000 alone, without anything but the wires. Central Heating is going to cost us another large sum. Bathrooms and Lavatories are going to cost us somewhere between £2,000 and £3,000 and at the moment I have not the money to pay for these fittings, so that you can see how I am in need of money and if you can think of any way of drawing attention to the fact that we are going to relieve the hospitals of 44 old infirm people who are bed cases, I shall be delighted. It is very sad, my dear, that in hospitals they do not want these old people, they don't want them and they don't look after them properly and when the old things wet their beds which I should do if I couldn't get up, they grumble.

So there you are, my dear, if you can make anything of this, do so if it will be of service to anybody. One thing I would like you to say is that if everybody would fill their lives with work of some kind to help somebody, they would never be old, or ill and would certainly never be bored or feel lonely!

My love to you

Mrs. J. C. B. C.

Delune Bournne

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Mrs. Billington Greig,
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Wimbledon. S.W.19.

August 16th. 1956.

Dear Mrs Greig

I quite forgot that the whole pivot of my life, of course, was that in 1907 Winifred Mayo routed me out on my return from America, (I remember that year there was a line in one of the papers that I had returned from America,) and she took me to a political and social Union meeting at the Queen's Hall. I was a natural Suffragist, Mrs. Humphrey Ward and others had well prepared the ground and I enrolled as a member. The following year Winifred again came to me and said Sime Seruya had asked her to found an Actresses' League, the Women's Journalists had just been formed and she had been asked to do the Actresses League, but she told me she was doing such important work with the Pankhursts and the Pethwick Lawrence's that she could not possibly undertake it, would I do so and then, my dear, I founded the Actresses' League, but not before I took a month to consider it. She gave me a list of people, who I considered as being only Committee people and I went to the Heads like Ellen Terry, Dame Madge Kendal, the Vanburghs and Lilah McCarthey and got them all as Vice Presidents. Our first President was Madge Kendal and that, of course, was the turning point of my life, because all my work for women derived from that, it was a really spiritual awakening, it was the first time that women of all ranks of life met, through Suffrage, on an equal footing and it is that note that still dominates, after all why should I bother with the Women's Adjustment Board or Gosfield Hall etc, if it wasn't for my firm belief that women must ~~progress~~ ^{do the things - demonstrate} ~~that~~ ^{or in their 83rd year} they say they are capable of doing things as well as men. even at 83

I don't know what I said in the notes I enclose, but it was in 1906 that I joined the Masonic Order (mostly of women who had broken off from the other Masonic Order)

- Over.

X

founded by Annie Besant, she was a really great person in the Lecturing World of the day and Head of our Masonic as well as Head of the Theosophist movement. I still belong, of course, though I am a very bad *mason* Member and never attend my Lodge, the 'Mercury Lodge' which I helped to found and the Planet Mercury is one of my good influences according to Astrologers!!! Saturn also comes into my horoscope as I am an Organizer and he is ~~the~~ great Organiser.

My love to you and I hope you will be able to make something of this.

Yours sincerely
Adeline Bourse

PT
X Men mind our invading their Masonic world more than anything else - it will be our last strong hold to break down. AD

3934

MISS ADELINE BOURNE From the SUNDAY REFEREE.....
June 9th. 1935.

£136,000, for Charity Adeline Bourne's Genius.

*Copy to
T.B.G.*

SUNDAY REFEREE SPECIAL

Sitting day by day in a simply furnished room near the heart of London is a grey-haired, sparkling-eyed woman with an astonishing achievement to her credit - the achievement of having raised something like £136000 for Charity during the past ten years.

She is Miss Adeline Bourne, who has a flair for the organisation of Society Charity functions. During the last few years London has seen some very brilliant events of this character. Miss Bourne has been the figure behind them.

Miss Bourne's efforts have been devoted purely to London charitable causes. The balance sheets which are her records contain some very remarkable figures.

This in one year alone - 1928 - she raised £19,000.

A ROSE DAY EFFORT

That was her best year, though the following year, she raised by way of St. James's Palace Garden Party, and a Rose Day Collection in London no less than £12,700.

For the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital she was able to raise over £37,500 in eighteen months.

Society is talking about the brightness of and appeal of the functions arranged by Miss Bourne, and especially about the many brilliant balls with which her name has in recent years been associated.

Over

ON THE STAGE

This woman with the sparkling blue eyes and tireless energy and purpose has had a most interesting career.

For twenty-two years she was on the stage, being indeed a notable Shakespearean actress. Forbes Robertson, Tree, Maude, and Frohman were among the famous figures whose work she was associated with in those days.

She was the first English Woman to play "Salmoe". That was in 1910 in the Court Theatre.

Miss Bourne was also ~~the~~ a founder of the Actresses Franchise League.

first world

During the war she became an acting paymaster in the war office where she had the accounts of 22,000 grenadiers to look after. Afterwards she was an Administrator with Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corp. When the armistice came she took on the job of organising entertainments for a quarter of a million troops in Cologne.

FOR THE DISABLED

One notable War-time achievement of Miss Bourne's was to initiate the idea of the BRITISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL - as a result of which the old STAR & GARTER HOTEL in Richmond Park was converted into a hospital for the totally disabled. In a period of thirteen months no less a sum than £150,000 was collected for this purpose, that sum being handed to the Queen who was Patron of the great endeavour.

W. J. Moore Adeline Bourne
3934

WOMENS' ADJUSTMENT BOARD

(TO RE-ABSORB WOMEN INTO EMPLOYMENT)

OBJECTS

1. To explore and make effective ways and means to promote the employment of women thrown out of work by the war.
2. To prepare work for the women who will be thrown out of the Services and other war work at the end of the war and to prepare the women for the time when their war work shall cease.
3. To secure the adequate participation of women in post-war-planning.

OFFICERS

Vice-Presidents :

The Lady Cynthia Colville, * The Lady Violet Bonham Carter *Resigned*
D.C.V.O. Mrs. Corbett Ashby *Resigned*
* Mrs. Gordon Moore Lady Waddilove
Lady (Albert) Levy

Honorary Treasurer :

* Mrs. Gordon Moore

Honorary Solicitors :

Messrs Large & Co.

Honorary Secretary :

* Miss Adeline Bourne,
Flat 4, 19, Palace Gate, Kensington, W.8.

Bankers :

Barclays Bank Limited,
74, Kensington High Street, W.8.

Head-quarters

Flat 4, 19 Palace Gate, Kensington, W.8.
(Telephone : Western 5630)

* Founding Member

THE Womens' Adjustment Board was formed to help to adjust the change-over from war to peace-time work for women when victory is won.

To plan and to help forward any plans for re-absorbing women back into civil life which will help the women war workers to resume their former occupations, or to enter new occupations, is the first work of the Board. Those who remember the hardship and distress suffered by the women war workers of 1914-18 owing to the lack of foresight and to the post-war economic conditions, feel that a strong group of women deeply interested in the welfare of women, should plan ahead so that the valuable contributions made by the women in the years of crises since September, 1939, should not be repaid by being overlooked or undervalued, when the years of crises are over.

Though it is difficult to foretell post-war problems with certainty, many avenues of post-war reconstruction may reasonably be expected to be opened to women.

The warnings and grave dangers by submarine in 1914-18, and again from September, 1939 (dangers which are still not overcome), surely cannot be set aside by any sane nation or government. Agriculture therefore stands in the forefront as an industry which will continue to be given the greatest encouragement and support to continue to expand. Though all our Land Army girls will not desire to remain on the land, large numbers should find ample room as women dairy farmers and workers, women poultry farmers and workers, intensive market gardeners and fruit farmers and kindred work after the war is over.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union has thrown its ranks open to women and no doubt other Trade Union leaders will persuade their members to follow their example.

The great rebuilding of the devastated areas and the immense increase required in the building industry will make it possible, perhaps, for women to be drafted into the paper-hanging, the painting and light carpentry branches of the building industry.

The Ministry of Labour is legislating for the Catering Trade and is also in process of forming an Emergency Domestic Service to help the women war workers. The much greater demand for the private house and for "house assistants" (qualified women) will have to be met after the war. The whole question of raising the status of the domestic workers and of placing them on an equal footing with other trained occupations, is a vital necessity. Also an intensive education in the various branches of domestic science should be included by the Board of Education in the ordinary curriculum for all girls and boys before school leaving age.

The question of the large numbers of unemployed women to be re-instated in their old occupations—shops, offices, trades, factories, banks and other undertakings, has been met by the National Service Act, 1941, Section 10, which makes it compulsory for all employers to re-employ their workers. Owing to the war so many trades, small shops, and other organisations have ceased to exist that a large number of women will require fresh employment, so that planning on a large scale for the re-absorption of women is necessary.

These are some of the major problems that need attention, and women of goodwill are asked to join the Board and help to plan ahead so as to make the Government's demobilisation of the Women's Army as free from unemployment and distress as is humanly possible.

Should world economic conditions paralyse industry, steps should be taken to provide temporary work, with a living wage, for women as well as for men who only ask for honourable employment and the right "to live" in the country of their birth.

The Adjustment Board at its inaugural Meeting in June, 1940, agreed to the formation of the following Committees :—

Domestic Committee

(or Home Assistants)

The Theatre Committee

(to help unemployment through Repertory Companies)

In process of formation in 1942

The Finance Committee

The Ways and Means Committee

The Women's Agricultural Committee

(The Adjustment Board was initiated by the Actresses' Franchise League, 1939)

THE PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN EACH MONTH IN THE BALLROOM OF THE GROSVENOR HOUSE, PARK LANE, ARE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE BOARD'S POLICY

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD

The National Union of Women Teachers

Miss PIEROTTI, General Secretary.

The Head Mistresses' Association

Miss E. A. JONES

The National Women Citizens' Association

Mrs. GREEN, Chairman.

The National Spinsters Pensions Association

Miss FLORENCE WHITE, Founder and Hon. Organiser.

The Married Women's Association

JUANITA FRANCES

The Women's Freedom League

Dr. OCTAVIA LEWIN

The Women's Legion

Mrs. ROBERTS, Commandant.

The Actresses' Franchise League

Miss ADELINE BOURNE

Women's Advisory Housing Council

(Observer for) **Dr. MEREDITH CLEMENTS**, Hon. Secretary

Individual members include a large number of distinguished and well-known service and professional women with expert knowledge.

* I desire to become a Member at £1 1s. per annum.

I desire to become an Associate at 5s. per annum.

Name

Address

* Please cross out whichever does not apply.