

Tele: Leeds 3H/10.

Ar/1392
70. The Parade,
Saxton Gardens,
Leeds 9.

5th March 1963.

Ms Ramblers

Dear Miss Douie,

I am returning today under separate cover 'Josephine Butler' by E. Moberley Bell. I think I am a week later than I promised to be. I am sorry about this. Unfortunately, the burn I have is prone to what medical men describe as 'radiation flare-ups' which makes sitting quite impossible and rather heavy drugs necessary, which combined do not give the right atmosphere for work. At the moment, I am hoping I have almost reached the end of one such 'flare-up'; but it has held up my programme slightly.

I do hope my belatedness has not caused inconvenience to some other library member.

I found it interesting, but I don't think real justice is done to Josephine Butler in this book. Where Miss (Mrs?) Bell takes Mrs Butler to task rather - as on the Bruce Bell, I find myself an ardent Butlerite. Apart from raising the age of consent - a very difficult thing to enforce in organised prostitution anyway, where no legal or religious contract exists to be enforceable, and hollow, as the later Stead 'Marden Tribute' episode showed - I cannot see anything the Government gave at all. In fact, the police remained, and whilst compulsory examination was supposed to go, in fact it was entrenched, and most dangerous of all, the whole country was to be enmeshed. Nor do I feel her ability as a politician is brought out sufficiently though I am quite sure she never thought of herself in that way. But that is no reason for us not to see her as she was, and not as she thought herself to be.

I often get a feeling in the many books written on the whole Women's Movement, that there is rather a note of apology, rather like self-conscious sniggering at one's daring, in them, for which in my

view there is absolutely no necessity. It rather stands out in historians of the movement, usually the more modern the historians the rather worse they are in this regard. In the actual great leaders on all the many fronts, it is completely absent — Emily Davies, Buss and Beale, Barbara Leigh Smith and perhaps above all Nightingale and Butler, are serious but unpedantic, humorous but not sly. I don't see why we should feel apologetic even by implication.

So sorry again to have delayed returning the book. Will forward the remainder two as soon as possible.

I do hope your mother, sister and yourself are keeping well. Soon, let us hope, the Spring will revive all our rather flagging spirits after this Arctic winter in the most unprepared houses ever built to face such conditions.

Sincerely yours

Marian Lameton.

Buss Dove
Liberarian.