

MRS. TODD

Mrs. Todd who died recently was connected with the Park School through many years and will be remembered by many who read the magazine. I knew her intimately when I was in Preston and kept up our friendship by meetings and correspondence till the end. Mrs. Todd was one of the first to call on me, having herself been recently married to Mr. James Todd, after she had taught for some years at the Preston High School, then at Winckley Square. She held a B.A. degree of London University and was widely read and cultured. As time passed, she sent all her three daughters in succession to the Park School before they went on to Boarding School, and later she herself was made a Governor of the School.

Her home was full of beauty and charm, but she filled many public offices; her husband was a leading Liberal and she ably supported him in all political matters. But it was as a pioneer that Mrs. Todd deserves best to be remembered. In the fight for Women's Franchise she identified herself with the law-abiding section led by Mrs. Fawcett and was one of the founders of the Preston Branch of the N.U.W.S.S., and at the success of the cause and the enfranchisement of women she helped to merge its members into Preston Women's Citizens' Association in 1919, which remains as a memorial of her.

During the 1914-18 war Mrs. Todd initiated various activities, such as the canteen on the Railway Station for troops changing trains at Preston, which was a crowded junction for those years, and for months the inscription stood "Beatrice Todd, licensed to sell tobacco," over the door to the canteen where volunteers gave the soldiers refreshment and a chance of rest. Another need was met by the establishment through her efforts of a centre where mothers could obtain milk and other comforts for their babies, a forerunner of Infant Welfare work now so thoroughly organised and supported, but then dependent almost entirely on voluntary effort and meagre grants.

Mrs. Todd was raised to the Bench and did good work as a J.P., and indeed, in any good cause where her help was of use. After her husband's death she settled in Hertfordshire, with her youngest daughter Damaris until the latter's marriage, and for the last few years she found a home with her in Dublin.

Mrs. Todd's name deserves to be kept in memory in the town and school, as she not only served both but inspired others in their service.

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