

(*Cambridge Daily News*, Friday 16 January 1914)

Miss MARION GRACE KENNEDY

An Educational Pioneer.

ONE OF NEWNHAM'S FOUNDERS.

It is with deep regret we announce the death of Miss Marion G. Kennedy, well known in Cambridge as one of the pioneers of the higher education of women, which occurred at Torquay on Sunday. Miss Kennedy had been spending Christmas with her sister, Mrs. Kitson, at Torquay, and fell ill with a bronchial attack about a week ago. She died of heart failure on Sunday.

Miss Kennedy was the daughter of Dr. Kennedy, formerly headmaster of Shrewsbury, Canon of Ely, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, and Fellow of St. John's College. She spent the early years of her life at Shrewsbury, afterwards living at Ely, and on coming to Cambridge the family lived at "The Elms" Bateman Street, and after Dr. Kennedy's death the Misses Kennedy made their home at "Shenstone," Selwyn-gardens. Miss Kennedy was from the first active in obtaining for women educational facilities at Cambridge. She gave great help in the early days of the "Lectures for Women" movement, which was started with the object of getting the professors of the University to admit women to their lectures. At that time there was no college or special lodging of any sort for the women, and endless trouble was taken by Miss Kennedy in finding suitable quarters for the students, and making them feel at home in Cambridge. She and Miss Julia Kennedy were always ready to extend a hearty welcome to these women students at "The Elms," and the house became a social centre for them and all connected with the women's educational movement. Among those who took part in the movement were Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Bateson and Dr. Henry Sidgwick. Miss Kennedy became a member of the Executive Committee for the Lectures for Women in 1870 and her name was in the earliest subscription list.

The movement was constituted as the Association for the Promotion of Higher Education to Women in Cambridge in 1873, when Miss Kennedy was placed on the Provisional Committee, and then on the Committee of Management. She appears as the donor of £100, the largest sum on the list with the exception of the Aikin Fund of £1,000, which was contributed by Mrs. Bateson's father, Mr. James Aikin, of Liverpool. In 1877, Miss Kennedy became the joint secretary to the Association, with Mrs. Bateson, in place of Mr. R. T. Wright, and she continued in this office until the amalgamation of the Association with the Newnham Hall Company, which later became Newnham College. Miss Kennedy then held the assistant secretaryship to the Newnham Hall Company, and soon after accepted the post of hon. sec., which she held from the foundation of the college until 1904. She continued to hold the post of hon. secretary to the Council of the College until 1910, and at the time of her death was still a member of the Council, and also of the General Committee.

The great admiration in which Miss Kennedy was held was expressed in the founding of the Marion Kennedy Studentship, for the sum of £2,000 was subscribed by many of the students of the college and friends of Miss Kennedy. This endowment is awarded yearly to a student of the college who has completed her course there, and can give evidence that she is qualified to carry on advanced independent work. The late Miss Mary Bateson was the first student to receive the award, and the second was Miss Philippa Fawcett. The history of the foundation of Newnham College and its development was told almost every year at the Commemoration by Miss Kennedy, and this has been looked upon as one of the most interesting events of the day. A tribute to her work is the naming of certain buildings in the college, "Kennedy Buildings," and these are occupied as a rule by women Fellows of Newnham, and those who are doing post-graduate work. The portrait of Miss Kennedy by Mr. J. J. Shannon, R.A., hangs over the high table in the college hall.

Miss Kennedy took an active and wise part in the agitation for the granting of degrees to women in 1897, though the effort was at that time unsuccessful. She was greatly interested in the women's suffrage movement, and was a vice-president of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, and drove in the Suffrage Pilgrimage procession that year. She took an active part in the formation of the Cambridge Women's Local Government Association, which later became a committee of the Cambridge branch of the National Union of Women Workers. Her beautiful qualities of character and disposition have endeared her to all whom she knew in Cambridge and elsewhere, and her death will be much mourned by many people.

SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION'S SYMPATHY.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association (National Union) on Monday, before proceeding to other business, the following resolution was moved by the Chairman (Mrs. Heitland), seconded by the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. James Ward), and carried in silence, all standing: "The Executive Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association desire to express to Miss J. E. Kennedy and Mrs. Kitson their deep personal sympathy, and at the same time to record their sense of the splendid service rendered by their beloved sister, the late Miss Marion G. Kennedy, to the cause of women's enfranchisement—political, intellectual and social—by her beautiful life and work."

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The funeral takes place to-day (Friday). The first part of the burial service will be held at St. John's College Chapel at 2.30. Friends intending to be present are requested to be in their places not later than 2.20.

The interment will take place at the Cemetery, Mill-road.
