

A Fiercely Independent Woman

STEVE AND JULIE SMITH

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A Fiercely Independent Woman



Ethel Brand
Boulogne Fish Girl

A Fiercely Independent Woman

The Life Of Ethel Mary Brand 1879-1979

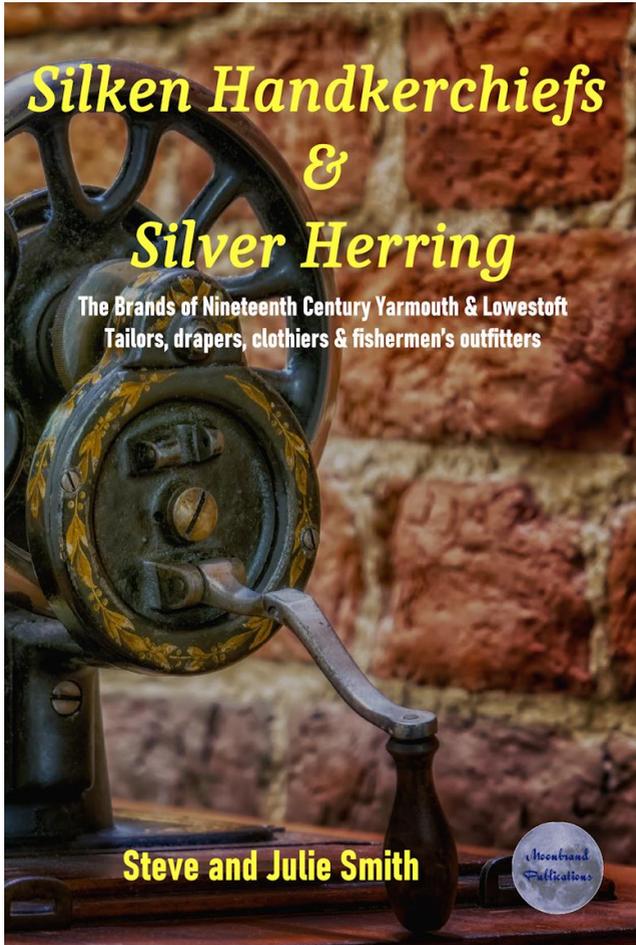


Steve and Julie Smith



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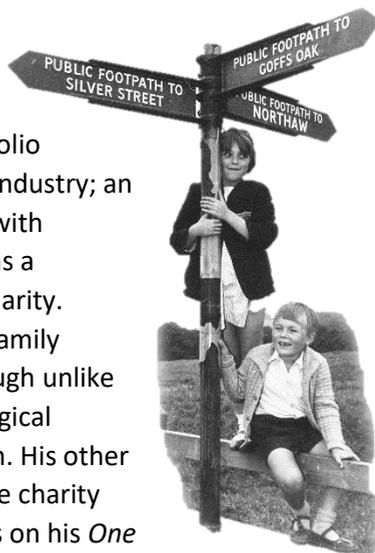
Moonbrand Publications
Docking Farm Cottage
Docking Farm
Oulton
Norwich
NR11 6QZ

www.moonbrandpublications.co.uk
moonbrand@largeinnorfolk.com

About the authors

Steve Smith

Steve has had what is often called a portfolio career having been a writer in the music industry; an IT professional; and worked with people with learning disabilities for many years both as a volunteer and as a senior manager in a charity. Now retired, he is reigniting his writing. Family history is one subject being tackled although unlike his sister who is dedicated to the genealogical cause, Steve dips in and out as is his whim. His other great research passion is the history of the charity Toc H and he publishes occasional articles on his *One Hundred Years of Toc H* blog. He lives near Aylsham with his partner Hazel and Bonnie the poodle.



Julie Smith

Julie spent a lifetime working in the bank before retiring early to look after their aging mother until her death. She has always had a passion for local and family history and has spent 30 years getting the family tree to where it is now. Most of the matriarchal side is from Norfolk so she can often be found wandering in graveyards around the county desperately seeking out another relative. She tries not to find too many previously unknown living relatives since they are not as easy to deal with. Her graveyard treks help her with her quest to visit and photograph every church in Norfolk. Julie lives in Holt with a couple of cats and rather a lot of books.

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Significant websites

Find My Past

Ancestry UK

Family Search

Internet Archive

Wellcome Library

London Metropolitan Archives

We use the National Archives Currency Converter for calculating the equivalent spending power of historical monetary values.

Mistakes

We have tried to put together an in depth story from a rag bag of sources. We have worked hard to eliminate errors but we know that many will remain. We welcome corrections, amplifications, or clarifications – after all, that's how we learn.

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Introduction

Every genealogist likes to find a person of note - or even notoriety - in their family tree and my sister and I were no exception. Ethel came to our attention because she lived to a great age (100 years old when she died in 1979) in contrast to her siblings who all died in infancy. However, when we scraped away at the surface of our four times removed cousin's life, we found much more than simple longevity. We discovered that the daughter of two successful Great Yarmouth business people (Dad – rag trade, mum - shipping and rope-making) broke away from the town famed for kippers and sandcastles and made a success of her life as a woman working in the still male-dominated field of medicine. We wanted to share that story with a wider audience.

Importantly, this is not the history of women in medicine though Ethel shares the stage with many of the main players in that story. Therefore we touch on it in many places and the biographies of some of the key women appear at the end of this book. However, it is the history of one woman, our 'cousin', and her journey through life and through medicine.

Despite living into our lifetime, we didn't know Ethel. The remaining Brands and their descendants in our lives were either still living in or near to Great Yarmouth or, like my mother, had shifted to the North London area. The Brand diaspora was largely lost to us, at least until we started the family tree.

And what a shame that was. I know the 16 year old me into music, science fiction and experimenting with alcohol, would have loved to sit at the feet of my 100 year old 'aunt' and hear her talk of her childhood and career.

It was not to be and nor have we yet found the papers that might lift this book from a factual chronology to an insight into Ethel's

motivations and aspirations. Even when we identified her cousin, Rosalie Giles, who was both in touch with Ethel and had been interested in her life, it was too late for Rosalie had herself died just a few years earlier. Enquiries into the whereabouts of her research have not yet unearthed anything. According to Rosalie's will it should end up in the Norfolk Record Office but it hasn't arrived yet.

And most bizarrely of all, at the time I write this introduction, we have not one photograph or portrait of Ethel. Sadly amongst our quite impressive collection of old family photos, this particular line is missing.

We have not found any in the records of the Schools and Universities she attended and whilst Merton College were certain they had some of her celebrating her centenary at the College in 1979 they were annoyingly missing when we visited in 2018. We haven't stopped looking and perhaps by the time this book is published we will have managed to find one and slip it in.*

However, despite these failings, we still believe this book is a worthy one because it tells the tale of a woman making her way quietly and solidly through a man's world. As best as we can tell, Ethel just got on with things and didn't make a huge fuss. She was, by all accounts, a fiercely independent woman.

Steve Smith

November 2019

**Indeed, at the eleventh hour and after much desperate research, we were able to track down the portrait of 10 year old Ethel which ordains the frontispiece of this book.*

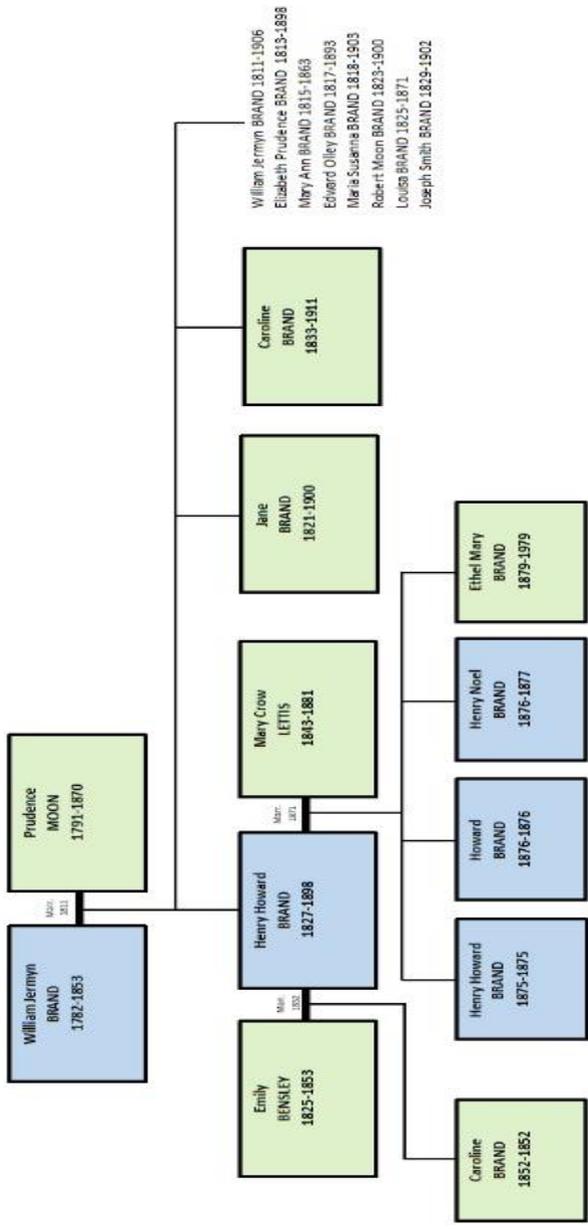


Figure 1 Ethel's immediate family

A Yarmouth Girl

A tailor's daughter begins her journey into medicine

Ethel Mary Brand's story begins in the Norfolk town of Great Yarmouth. Built on a spit of sand at the mouth of the Yare and long an important trading port, by the mid-Victorian period it was also established as a seaside holiday destination for both the working and middle classes. The Brand family had migrated there from Suffolk in the early part of the nineteenth century and by the time of Ethel's birth in 1879, the family drapery and tailoring businesses in Yarmouth and Lowestoft were doing very well. Having inherited the business from his parents, and dissolved partnerships with his brothers, Henry Howard Brand was running the show and had become a wealthy and respected man because of it. Much of his success was due to moving into the manufacture of oilskins for the bustling fishing industry in the port.

Active in town life both politically and socially, philanthropic and a supporter of the arts, he had much going for him. However, his personal life had proved somewhat heart-breaking. His first born daughter Caroline had died in December 1852 at one week old and her mother, Emily (nee Bensley) followed in the February consumed by tuberculosis. Henry remained a widower for several years but remarried in 1871 and his new wife Mary (nee Lettis), sought to bring him more children.

Sadly, the three boys born alive did not survive infancy: Henry Howard was born on 13th February 1875 and lived for just 58 hours; Howard was born on the 19th January 1876 and died 5 months later on the 16th May 1876; finally Henry Noel was born on the 25th December 1876 and survived only until the 2nd September 1877.

Additionally there were further tragic still-births and miscarriages. So, it was something of a miracle that Ethel Mary Brand, born on the 15th March 1879, the day after Albert Einstein, not only survived infancy but would go on make her centenary. She would also live a remarkable life as a fiercely independent woman. This is her story.



Figure 2: The grave of Ethel's three brothers and her mother

The wretched events in the years prior to Ethel's birth continued afterwards. Though her birth was registered on St George's Day 1879, she would not be baptised until the 11th June 1888 when she was nine years old. Was this because her parents felt she might not live any longer than her siblings?

Well, Ethel broke the mould and lived but the tragedy continued because on the 21st January 1881, Ethel's mother Mary died following a miscarriage. Her death certificate states that her cause of death was due to Phthisis for 14 days, miscarriage at 5 months and it says she was unconscious for two days. Ethel was not yet two years old. For Henry, to be widowed for the second time and left with a young daughter, it must have been a difficult time.

Ethel's grandparents had died before she was born but luckily Henry had two spinster sisters – Caroline and Jane - still living nearby who helped out. Henry and Ethel were by now living at 12 Britannia Terrace (aka 54 Marine Parade), an impressive terrace of twenty houses built 1848-1855.

At the 1881 census they had three servants, so again, Henry was not without assistance raising Ethel. Indeed, Ethel was set to have a privileged childhood thanks to Henry's wealth and would appear to be much doted on by her father.

Around 1885, Ethel began her education at the establishment of Miss Woollsey at Chatsworth House (29 Prince's Road). If the numbering hasn't changed this was a modest end of terrace house where Miss Woollsey and her certified assistant taught. Hannah Woollsey had previously been head of a small school on North Quay which she took over from her mother, Sarah Postle Woollsey.

Hannah was born in Swafeld near North Walsham in 1838 and was originally a Teacher of Music at her mother's school. This probably appealed to Ethel. The assistant was almost certainly

Annie Jane Page, Hannah's niece. Ethel remained with Miss Woolley for five years.

Ethel appeared to accompany her father to many civic occasions which he, as a prominent businessman and sometime Liberal councillor, was often at. These included mayoral 'At Homes' and other charity balls – an 'At Home' being when the new mayor invites people to his 'new residence' i.e. the Town Hall for a Civic function. One notable event was in November 1889 when Ethel attended the very first Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball which formed part of the new mayor's 'At Home'.



Figure 3 Invitation to the Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball

Ethel dressed as a Boulogne Fish Girl at this party in the Assembly Room of the then still quite new, Town Hall. The portrait in the frontispiece of this book was based on a photograph taken at the event and included in a presentation album made to the mayor, Frederick Danby Palmer.

The **Yarmouth Mercury** reported,

“The grand Assembly Room was beautifully decorated for the ball, the Mayor receiving his little guests as they entered while Commander Aldrich’s Drum and Fife Band played merry music below.

The reception was one of the prettiest events of the evening’s revelling, a wonderful variety of invention and costume. Gipsies were plentiful and lovely, adorned with bangles and gay with coloured ribbons. Little Bo-Peep was there, of course, dressed in green with silver crook.

There was a murmur of admiration when entered the Three Old Maids of Lee, followed by Coriolanus in flowing robes and a white Hussar in splendid shako. Fairies were plentiful, gossamer creatures recalling scenes in the pantomime, an illusion heightened by the presence of a neat-limbed harlequin. Primrose League, Robin Hood, Little John, Cinderella, Night, Snow, fish girl, jockey and Paddy mingled in harmonious incongruity.”

Although the costume party was based on an idea by the mayor of Norwich, the annual event became established in Great Yarmouth (and other towns) and continued well into the 20th century.

We don’t have attendance details for the 1890 or 1891 events but in October 1892 the newspaper listed an Edith Brand dressed as a Swedish Peasant. Given that most of the Yarmouth Brands of the time are our family and we know of no Ediths, we think this must be Ethel. The costume came from Arnold Brothers and consisted of a blue shirt with green velvet corsage, a white muslin blouse, an apron and sailor’s collar of different colours topped off with a pointy velvet cap!

On the 16th September 1890 Ethel started at the Norwich High School for Girls. The institute was founded in 1875 by the Girls' Public Day School Company which aimed to establish schools for girls of all classes by providing a high standard of academic, moral and religious education. It was the first of their schools outside of London. Ethel was no. 260 on the register. The school's motto was

"Do thy best and rejoice with those who do better".

NORWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
THEATRE STREET, NORWICH.
HEAD-MISTRESS: MISS L. GADESSEN.

THE AUTUMN TERM will begin on **TUESDAY,**
SEPTEMBER 16th, 1890.
Prospectuses and forms of application for admission may be obtained at the School, or from the Secretary of the Girls' Public Day School Company, Limited, 21, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.
A Preparatory Department is attached to the School. (8549)

Figure 4 An advert for the Norwich High School for Girls

In Ethel's day the school, which opened on the 22nd February 1875, was housed at the House of Assemblies (Now the Assembly House) in Theatre Street but in 1933 it moved to the Newmarket Road where it remains to this day. The headmistress during Ethel's time was Miss Lizzie Gadesden – previously at the company school in Newton Abbott - whose performance was considered excellent by the company although she was somewhat overshadowed by her sister, the legendary Florence Gadesden who ran Blackheath School.

Rather than commute between Yarmouth and Norwich, Ethel stayed with family friends, Frederick and Charlotte Steward, in The Close in the Cathedral grounds during term-time. Frederick Albert Steward was one of the partners in the business Case and Steward along with Thomas Henry Case. Frederick was married to Thomas' sister, Charlotte.

The firm, based in Duke Street, Norwich and with outlets on South Quay, Great Yarmouth and the Staithe in Loddon, were a successful Corn, Cake, Seed and Manure merchant. Thomas Case's wife, Helen Emma Towler was related to Ethel through marriage which may be how they were acquainted. The business' assets included the pleasure wherry Lorelei and one must wonder if Ethel ever sailed on her.

Ethel could hardly have asked for a nicer place to stay whilst at school. The Close was so much more than the pretty, quiet walkway it is today. Covering 44 acres, it once had five pubs, and today contains 80 listed buildings.

Ethel appeared to do well at school and she obtained Company's Scholar in 1894. The Company Council, that is the Girls' Public Day School Company, awarded one Company's Scholarship (later known as the Trust Scholarship) in each of its 19 schools. Names of the scholarship winners were recorded on an honours board in each school. In 1894 the annual value was £15 a year (£1,100 today) paid from the Trust to the pupil, for pupils aged 15-17 years. The scholarship ran for two years. Pupils had to have been in the school for at least one year and the scholarship was to not to be held concurrently with any other scholarship.

Also in 1894 we know she belonged to the Close branch of the Norwich Band of Mercy Union (A forerunner to the RSPCA aimed at children). We know this as she won a prize in the Carving section at their Annual Meeting in 1894.

The following year Ethel obtained her Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music certificates for playing piano, and in July, her singing was graded Fair. She was prepared for her piano examination by Miss E. Barrett from the school.

We also know she was asked to sing a duet at the annual prize distribution in November but it was not recorded who she sang with.

Then in 1896, again on the school's prize giving day where the guest of honour was Princess Louise, the daughter of Queen Victoria, Ethel received the fifth form Mathematics Prize. The award was a copy of John Ruskin's book, **The Queen of the Air**. Ethel's scholarly approach clearly bore fruit as in January 1897, she matriculated to the University of London to study Organic Chemistry.

Becoming a doctor

Ethel's long path to qualifying as a doctor

The University of London was a secular alternative to the still clergy dominated Oxford and Cambridge, and was founded in 1826. It received its Royal Charter a decade later and awarded its first degrees in 1839.

In 1867 it introduced the Special Examination for Women, which was the first assessment in Higher Education that women were able to take. It comprised of papers in at least six subjects.

In 1878 it became the first university to admit women to degree courses. It was massively reorganised under The University of London Act of 1898 absorbing colleges such as King's and the London School of Economics and later Goldsmith's, Imperial, Birkbeck and others. It also assimilated the London School of Medicine for Women.

The course that Ethel embarked upon was probably the necessary Preliminary course required for admission to the London School of Medicine for Women and it our first indicator that Ethel is looking to make a career in the medical profession. It is, perhaps, a good time to ponder why.

It may have been a decision influenced by the fact her mother lost so many children during pregnancy or in infancy. Even with the conditions of the day, her losses were exceptional. Perhaps more likely though was the fact that her uncle, Thomas Lettis, had spurned the family trade of rope-making to become a GP. Indeed, he was Yarmouth's town doctor and police surgeon, involved in many famous cases such as the Shoelace Beach Murder. He was also present at the death of some of Ethel's brothers.

Her own father's Liberal leanings might also have influenced her direction as that party were on the verge of founding the welfare state. Whatever her reasons, Ethel was setting out on a journey into medicine.

Two months after matriculating Ethel reached the age of 18 and qualified for her inheritance although at this point her father was still alive.

Amongst her friends would be Rachel Hicks Butler; a Booton farmer's daughter whom Ethel would have met at the Norwich High School for Girls. Rachel matriculated from the school to the University of London in June 1897, just a few months after Ethel.

Although her studies were interrupted in 1903 when she fell pregnant and had to marry the father (Frederick Farey Shelley, a chemist), she returned to her studies and qualified as a doctor in December 1908.

We presume that she and Ethel maintained a friendship as, when her daughter Ursula Shelley was born in April 1906, Ethel became her godmother.

Rachel would go on to become in 1921 the Superintendent of County Nurses for Middlesex. She may well have been at least partly responsible for Ethel knowing about or getting her post in Harrow, more of which later. Ursula too, became a doctor and made quite a name for herself. Again, we will meet up with her later.

Rachel's sister Rhoda, also became a doctor through the London School of Medicine for Women, graduating in 1910. She later became a lecturer in Midwifery in Leeds and wrote a book about Expectant Mothers in the Munition Factory. We must assume she knew Ethel and they discussed child welfare on occasion.

Shortly after beginning her second year at the university, Ethel faced great sadness when, on the 21st August 1898, her beloved father died from pleurisy and an embolism of the pulmonary artery. He was 71 years old. He was buried three days later in Yarmouth Old Cemetery.



Figure 5 Henry Brand's grave undergoing restoration in 2018

This began a traumatic time for Ethel as in December her aunt Elizabeth died, then in 1899 her cousin Mary Ann Giles, and in 1900 her Aunt Jane and Uncles Robert and Charles all passed away too.

Henry Brand had been a very wealthy man and once told his only surviving daughter that she would never have to worry about money. However when we look at how Henry provisioned for his only daughter in his will, we start to see strange complications, which would much later, make his promise untrue.

After tax Henry's estate was valued at £9,255 12s and 8d. In today's terms that would give a purchasing power of just under £725,000. He made small allowances for his surviving siblings but the bulk of his estate was left to Ethel.

The key clauses of the will are reproduced here.

I give the residue of my estate with power during her life to apply the rents, interest, dividends, and income for her benefit for the sole and absolute use of my daughter Ethel Mary during the term of her natural life without the control of any husband (if she shall marry) and after her decease to her child or children (if more than one child) in equal shares and proportions share and share alike who being a son shall attain the age of 21.

I further direct that my said trustees shall have full power in their absolute discretion at the request in writing of my said daughter at any time or times and whether she be of full age or not to advance to or for her education, marriage portion or other advancement in her life a sum or several sums not exceeding £500 out of the "coffers" of my estate.

It seems that Henry wished to avoid giving Ethel the estate in one go, rather make her apply to the trustees for sums of up to £500 (About £40,000 today) for special life events.

Whilst this may have been useful in the early days when she was getting her education, it would prove difficult in later life as she remained unmarried and childless. We will look more at this later but for now Ethel seemed well set financially.

In fact she also benefitted from the wills of other relatives. On the 20th April 1900, Aunt Jane died at the age of 79 at 12 Britannia Terrace where she had remained following Henry's death. Her net estate was valued at £722. 3s. 7d which today would be just over £62,000. Her original will was dated the 26th January 1899 and although there were several cash legacies Ethel was not a beneficiary but was left Jane's furniture, household linen and plates. Shortly before her death a codicil was added dated the 9th January 1900 and this time Ethel received a cash lump sum of £50 (£4300) as well as the personal effects in the original will.

Then on the 9th November 1902, her Uncle Joseph Smith Brand, a retired bank manager died. His wife had predeceased him and as the couple had never had children, Joseph's will left many legacies to his nieces and nephews including Ethel who would receive £100 (£8500). She was virtually swimming in money.

At the time of the 1901 census, Ethel was visiting her friends the Stewards in the Close. It may be that she lived with them still in holiday time rather than rattle about in the house in Britannia Terrace. By September that year, the contents of that family home were up for sale.



Figure 6 Britannia Terrace where Ethel lived

As well as household furniture this included two pianos, oil paintings and a complete set of **Lady's Monthly Museum** in seven volumes. This periodical was subtitled *Polite Repository of Amusement and Instruction* and was a monthly women's magazine published between 1798 and 1832. It featured articles on fashion, biographies and portraits of aristocratic persons of interest, essays, and poems. Serialised stories also appeared in the *Lady's Monthly Museum*, making the publication one of the first to publish novels before they became available as books.

It may have been one of the ways Ethel expanded her education. We imagine that it was after this sale that Ethel stopped living in Britannia Terrace although the 1902 Electoral Register shows her there still.

Having completed her Preliminary at the University of London, Ethel started at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. This school had been started by Sophie Jex-Blake, Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, Emily Blackwell, Elizabeth Blackwell and Thomas Huxley as some of the women had been constantly stymied in trying to obtain medical degrees.



Figure 7 London School of Medicine for Women

It had an informal arrangement with the Royal Free Hospital in Euston Road that allowed the women to practice there. In 1896 it officially partnered with the Royal Free Hospital becoming the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine For Women and major rebuilding works (of several campuses) took place as it became a part of the University of London.

Ethel was there during these dramatic times. When Ethel started there the Dean was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson but she retired in 1903 (Becoming the first to hold the newly created post of President) and was replaced by Julia Cock.

STUDENT'S FORM.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
TO THE
London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women.

I hereby apply to be admitted as a Student of the School, subject to the provisions of Art. 30* of the Articles of Association of the School, and I declare that I ~~intend~~^{hope} to pursue a complete course of qualifying medical study, and to present myself in due course to the Examining Boards with a view to obtaining a registrable diploma.

I undertake to conform in all respects to the regulations laid down by the Council, and in particular to abstain from presenting myself to any Examining Board until I have received from the Council of the School full permission to do so.

Signature, Ethel M. Brand

Address, 67 Southtown
Great Yarmouth.

TESTIMONIAL.

I have known Miss Ethel Brand
the last ten years, and I recommend her for admission to the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women.

Signature, J. Gadesden

Address, High School for Girls
Norwich

The Dean is authorized, in any case in which she may think it necessary, to direct that this recommendation should be countersigned by a Member of the Council.

The Council is as follows:—"The Council shall have absolute discretion as to the admission of Students to the School, and full power to dismiss any Student attending

Figure 8 Ethel's Admission Form to the LSMW

She commenced her studies on the 2nd October 1901 and registered two weeks later on the 16th as student no. 723, entered for Pr. Sc. (Preliminary Science), the combination of science subjects that must first be passed before formal medical training commences.

The undated application form shows her address as 67 Southtown Road, her Aunt Caroline's house, Caroline being Ethel's last surviving aunt on her father's side. The required testimonial comes from Lizzie Gadesden, head of Norwich High School for Girls 1884-1907 who claims to have known her for 'the last few years'. Most interesting is the printed text which states that "...I intend to pursue a complete course of qualifying medical study..." On Ethel's application the word intend has been crossed through and replaced with the handwritten word 'hope'. It is difficult to be precise about what was going on here but I suggest that Ethel was struggling with the degree course hence the substitution of the word 'hope' for 'intend'. Later events bear this out.

LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL of
**MEDICINE for WOMEN, & Hunter-street, Brunswick-square,
W.U.**
The WINTER SESSION BEGINS on TUESDAY, October 1st.
Entrance Scholarship, St. Dunstan's Medical Exhibition, value £60,
for three years' extendable to five years; School Scholarship, £30.
Fees for Lectures and Hospital Practice, £125 in one sum, or £135 in
four instalments. Fees for Preliminary Scientific Classes, £21. The
Prospectus giving full information as to entrance and other scholar-
ships, can be obtained from the Secretary.
E. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D., Dean.

Figure 9 Advert for LSMW in the term Ethel started

The fee for the course was £125 (or £135 payable in instalments). That's a little over £10,000 in today's terms. However there were further costs for examinations and also, for many, lodgings.

The course could take five years or more (Much more in Ethel's case) and some estimated that in total the cost of training could exceed £1,000 (Or nearly £80,000). Perhaps this was not a

problem for Ethel as she should have been able to apply to her trustees for these costs. It seems to be later in life that she ran into financial problems.

One thing that is not clear to us is where Ethel lived whilst she was training. Her Yarmouth homes had mostly gone (Only Caroline who would die in 1911 still lived there) but anyway, were too far away to help. By 1913 we know she is living in Hampstead (See later) but have not yet tracked her down during the time of her degree course. There was of course official accommodation but only rooms for 17 ladies at the chambers in London College. Otherwise there was a list of associated boarding houses.

Although there were still relatively few female doctors (Roughly 500 registered in 1900), it was becoming a respectable path for women to pursue. There were 38 new students who started the winter session at the School of Medicine for Women in 1901 and slightly less than 150 scholars in total.

Amongst those who Ethel was studying with at the same time were Barbara Tchaikovsky (Much more of whom later); Edith Guest who later served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was in Malta during the First World War; Sylvia Payne, who became one of the pioneers of psychoanalysis in the UK; Gladys Dunbar, who became a distinguished GP in Royston, Herts.; and Annie Hyatt, who became Deputy Medical Officer for health to her own father, Dr James Hyatt, for Shepton Mallett Urban District Council.

Ethel's training commenced on Wednesday 2nd October but the session opened with a lecture on Tuesday 1st which we must assume Ethel attended. Dr Frederick William Andrewes, Pathologist, delivered the inaugural address to Ethel and her cohorts around the value of reasonable perspective in medical education. He spoke about the need not to compartmentalise medicine and that the disciplines of chemistry, physics, and biology were the groundwork of physiology which was the groundwork of Pathology. Somewhat patronisingly given his

audience of newly signed up female doctors, Edwardes declared that “women though perhaps deficient in some of the qualities required in medicine and surgery, had in other qualities an ample justification for their entry into the medical profession, and it was these which should render them of special help and usefulness”.

He also emphasised that students could not learn their profession solely through lectures but must observe, dissect, work in the laboratories (both chemical and physiological) and use their microscopes and dissecting instruments in the same manner as men. I wonder how this must have sounded to Ethel; inspiring or enough to make a tailor’s daughter run for the door.

Well we know she didn’t run because in August 1902 Ethel took and passed her Preliminary Scientific Exam (Biology) which allowed her to continue her studies.

So what precisely were those studies? The curriculum was described by a newspaper of the time as “an admirable test of a woman’s sincerity in taking up the profession of medicine”. After matriculation to the University of London,

“the student is kept over a period of five years on a treadmill of perpetual activity, physical and mental, attending lectures, studying anatomy (and this includes two winters of dissection), experimenting in chemistry, walking hospital wards, being present at post mortems and surgical operations, discharging the functions of surgical dresser and clinical clerk, doing duty in fever and maternity wards, all the while reading hard and steadily for the several big examinations which are the passport to qualification.”

The paper goes on to note that this five years plus the time for any preliminaries can then be added to as failing any exam along the way can set a woman back three or six months.

In such a tough environment the women needed to bond together and there was an interesting quote about this from the **Cheltenham Examiner** around this time, who said,

“there is among the women students a most admirable spirit of comradeship and this the literary and athletic societies, whereby they lighten the burden of the study of disease, do much to foster”

We know Ethel pursued musical matters and may well have had a literary bent but we cannot see her being part of any athletic society!

It wasn't all about study either since on the 1st March 1902 Princess Christian, Queen Victoria's daughter and a staunch supporter of the medical profession, attended the Court of Governors at the Royal Free Hospital and was elected president. The students of the School Of Medicine for Women attended, doubtless including Ethel.

In February of 1903, Ethel passed the Special Examination in Organic Chemistry. The result was published in the British Medical Journal on 27 Feb 1904. We can no find no further results for Ethel during the rest of 1904 or 1905 so we wonder if her studies were starting to stretch her.

However in July 1906 she was successful in her Intermediate Examination in Medicine as published in **The Lancet** on 4th August. Perhaps though doubt had been sown in Ethel's mind.

Soon after the exam Ethel travelled to the Lake District to stay for the summer with the Rawes family in Myrtle Cottage at Ambleside. Also staying was her 19 year old cousin once removed, Hilda May Brand, from Birmingham. She would later become a dispensing chemist which must have given them some commonality. The third guest was Anna Caroline Hollar, who was an undergraduate at University College who obtained a second class English degree in 1907 and became a teacher spending most of the twenties and thirties travelling to and from Jamaica.

After this holiday in the Lakes, we see no evidence of Ethel returning to the University of London and must infer that she dropped out after almost 10 years of study.

We next find evidence of Ethel's whereabouts on the 1911 census when she is shown as being in Southsea visiting a relative. Adolphus Phillips had married the sister of Ethel's uncle Edward's second wife! Adolphus' daughter Ann was closer to Ethel in age and may have been the reason for the visit such a long way from home.

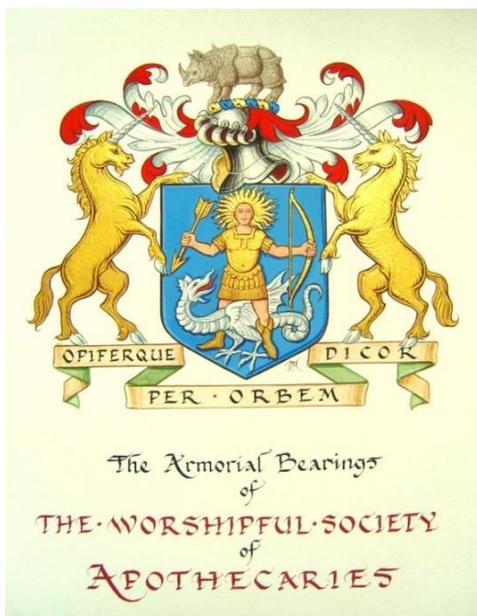


Figure 10 *The Arms of the Society of Apothecaries*

Then later in 1911 Ethel was enrolled with the Society of Apothecaries. Before Ethel's time, and before women were allowed on degree courses, getting a diploma and becoming a Licentiate of the Society – which primarily dealt with dispensing medication - was about the only way women could break into medicine.

The first British woman to qualify as a doctor in the UK was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson who attained her qualification – a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries – this way. Although a relatively low status qualification, it entitled Garrett to have her name enrolled on the Medical Register and thus to practice medicine. Now Ethel was enrolled on the same course (albeit renamed by statute in 1907 to the Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries)

The LMSSA diploma was divided into modules and Ethel seemed to make regular process through each one. The **British Medical Journal** of the 30th December 1911 listed her as being approved in Midwifery.

January 1912 was a bit of a watershed year for women's medicine. On the 7th Sophia Jex-Blake, one of the pioneering women doctors, died and later in the month the Society of Apothecaries' drug shop, attached to Apothecaries Hall, was closed after two hundred years

		Clinical Cases.	RESULT	Medicines and Therapeutics.	Pathology.	RESULT	Forensic Medicine and Hygiene.	RESULT	Midwifery.	RESULT.
Maximum	Written	70		100	50		100		100	
Minimum	"			30	15		30		30	
Maximum,	Oral	30		100	100		100		100	
Combined Marks to Pass . . .		50			175		100		100	
Grand E.M. Miss	w.	35		70	35					
	o.	20		70	80					
	T.	55		140	115					

Figure 11 Ethel's summer 1912 Results

Things were more positive for Ethel though and come summer, on June 17th and 20th she took her Forensic Medicine examinations. She scraped through the Clinical Cases section but

did well in the Medicine and Therapeutics, and Pathology theory exams. Her success was listed in the **British Medical Journal** of 3rd Aug 1912.

The following December – 16th and 19th – saw Ethel taking her exams in Surgery (Section I) which she passes, if not with flying colours. Her approval in this section being confirmed in the last BMJ of the year. Less than a month later she takes her Surgery (Section II) exams on the 13th and 16th January. These are her clinical cases and she scores 55 marks which is sufficient for her to pass.

Thus on the 16th January Ethel officially qualified as a Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries. On 31st January 1913 she was enrolled on the Medical Register. She was a few weeks shy of her 34th birthday.

One imagines the relative speed she progressed through the LMMSA was down to the years she did at the University of London between 1897 and 1907.

Somewhere to Live

A look at Ethel's living arrangements

After leaving Yarmouth around 1901 we have little clear information about where she lived. We are assuming that whilst at the University of London she lived in rooms near the college but have no evidence to suggest this.

In February 1911 Ethel's Aunt Caroline died and when probate was granted on the 24th April, Ethel's address was given as Caroline's house at 67 Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth. It seems that Ethel may have returned to Yarmouth after dropping out of her degree course unless it was just a convenient postal address of course. Incidentally Caroline left Ethel £600 (£47,000), another huge boost to her finances.

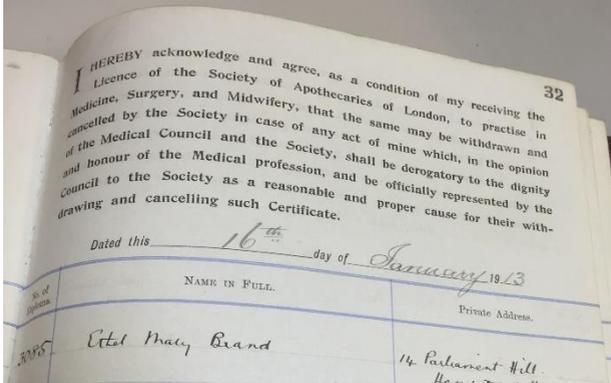


Figure 12 Ethel's Declaration entry for the Society of Apothecaries

The next permanent address we have for Ethel comes from her entry in the 1913 Candidates Declaration book for her LMSSA. This is given as 14 Parliament Hill, Hampstead. This address would have some significance for Ethel, if only because of the

incredible complement of strong and educated women she would encounter there.

Ethel doesn't appear at Parliament Hill on the Electoral Register until 1929. Her presence there is largely taken from her entries in the **Medical Directory**. Nonetheless the census and register do help us identify her fellow lodgers though.

14 Parliament Hill was (and remains) a large house in the small enclave of housing at the southern end of Hampstead Heath. Like many of the houses in the area, it had long been broken into smaller units and advertised itself as apartments. At the 1911 census, the primary occupants appear to be the Wings (John and Rebecca) and Rebecca's daughter from a previous marriage, Elizabeth Ballard and her children.

Rebecca had lived in the house with her late husband James since at least 1891 until his death in 1906 (She married John the following year) and they often took boarders. By 1911 the property has six rooms in the property divided into apartments. Living in two rooms is Rose Stern, science mistress at the North London Collegiate College for Girls. Also lodging in two rooms is another teacher at the school, Domestic Economy Mistress Charlotte Macrae. Of Macrae we shall learn more later but let us look now at Rose Stern.

Born in 1869 to German-born Jewish immigrants, she would become the first female student member of the Institute of Chemistry. After matriculating to Mason College, Birmingham from the King Edward VI High School for Girls in Birmingham in 1889, Stern got her BSc in 1894.

In 1897 she was appointed to the County School, Bangor and then in 1902 to the Collegiate School where she taught until 1930. She wrote **A Method of Teaching Chemistry in Schools** with Alice Maude Hughes in 1906 and after her retirement wrote *A Short History of Chemistry*. She died in October 1953.

In the 1921 Electoral Register residents of 14 Parliament Hill include head of the household Elizabeth Ballard and her son George; Charlotte Macrae; and Katherine Hope Coward. The daughter of a teacher, Coward studied Botany at the University of Manchester getting a Bachelor's degree in 1906 and a Master's two years later. She entered University College in 1920 to study Biochemistry and began researching Vitamin A with Jack Drummond. Her research led to her becoming a Fellow of the Chemical Society in 1923.

She went to the US in 1924 to continue her research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison but returned to the UK in 1926 to lead the vitamin testing department at the Pharmaceuticals Society's Pharmacological laboratories. In 1937 she was elected as an honorary member of Pharmaceuticals Society and retired in 1950 living until 1978 when she died aged 93.

The names on the electoral register remain unchanged – despite Coward departing to the US for two years – until 1929. In that year Ethel's name appears on the Register at 14 Parliament Hill for the first time.

The other new name appearing on the 1929 register was that of Enid Katherine Sikes (1901-1984). Yet another academic woman, Sikes held a PhD and BSc from the Department of Entomology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She married Ian Bankier in 1930. Her research on flea larvae was highly regarded!

The following year – 1930 - is we believe the last year that Ethel lived at 14 Parliament Hill. Still in the register that year are Elizabeth and George Ballard, and Charlotte Macrae. Newcomers include Hildegard Katherine Sander, Thomas Finch, and Robert and Margaret Scott. Sander (1903-1999) was another science teacher who at the time of the 1939 census was living in Harpendon.

Gaining Experience

Ethel now takes posts to learn the trade

In 1913, with her licence to practice achieved, Ethel set out to gain the experience she needed by taking 'posts' at those hospitals that would allow women to do so. In doing so she will cross paths with many more inspiring and pioneering women.

The first post we find her in during 1913 is as Clinical Assistant at the Women's Hospital for Children at 688 Harrow Road. This was opened by Louisa Garrett-Anderson and Flora Murray in 1912 to provide healthcare for local working class children. The hospital had been open less than a year when Ethel arrived and yet was already seeing some 3000 patients a year. Although primarily serving the poor area of North Kensington, children were being brought in from as far as Bisley, Acton, and Leatherhead because the opinion of many parents was "Ladies know best about children." Unfortunately the hospital was closed due to lack of funds in 1922 but Ethel had long moved on by then. The site of the hospital is now part of the Mozart estate.

The Clinical Assistant's role was pretty self-explanatory. They were there to assist the senior doctors or surgeons in clinical matters as opposed to clerical matters. It would have been an excellent way to gain experience and from people of the calibre of Garrett-Anderson and Murray.

PLAISTOW.—MEDICAL MISSION HOSPITAL, BALAAM-ST. E.—Estab. 1893. For Women & Children. 25 beds; new hospital opened, 1905. Large Dispensary in Canning Town. Convalescent Home, Danbury. 9 beds. *Cons. Staff*, Mrs. Scharlieb, F. B. Jessett, D. Grant, Mrs. Flemming; *Phys.*, R. M. Leslie, Miss Woodcock, Miss L. Hamilton; *Asst. Phys.*, Miss Fraser; *Surgs.* Miss Aldrich-Blake, A. E. Kennedy, Miss Chadburn; *Asst. Surg.*, Miss Turnbull; *Ophth. Surg.*, Miss A. Sheppard; *Anæsth.*, Miss M. A. Blair; *Pathol.*, Miss Whittingham; *Radiog.*, Miss C. C. Bernard; *Sen. Res. Med. Off.*, Miss E. B. Hollway; *Jun. Res. Med. Off.*, Miss E. Brand; *Dent. Surg.*, J. F. Turner; *Hon. Sec.*, Miss C. Spicer.

Figure 13 Canning Town Settlement Hospital

In the same year she became Junior Resident Medical Officer to Canning Town Medical Mission. We are taking this to be the hospital in Balaam Street sometimes more fully known as The Plaistow Medical Mission Hospital in connection with the Canning Town Women's Settlement. The settlement movement was a Victorian Social movement where the wealthy and privileged were encouraged to take a more active part in working with the poor rather than by just giving money.

Beginning with the still standing Toynbee Hall, students, wealthy locals, and others gave their time to helping educate and feed the poor. Whilst it might be regarded as a slightly patronising and dependence-promoting movement today, it did fit in comfortably with the social reforms of the time. Amongst these was the Women's Suffrage movement and the general drive to get women on an equal footing to men. Thus several settlements were established that were entirely run by women.

One of these was the Canning Town Women's Settlement founded in 1892 by Frederick William Newland, pastor of Canning Town Congregational church. In 1893 the Settlement took over the Invalid and Crippled Children's Mission hospital in Balaam Street as a hospital for Women and Children. Ethel became Junior Resident Medical Doctor in 1913 and probably remained for about a year.

A Medical Officer is a fairly generic term for qualified doctor, surgeon or consultant and is normally a paid role. The exact duties would depend greatly on the particular appointment. A Junior Resident Medical Officer was a permanent, fixed-term position and normally came with lodgings and rations found. This could explain where Ethel lived at this time though we do not know where she had been lodging since university.

The pioneering Louise Aldrich-Blake was a surgeon at the settlement hospital and was also surgeon at the New Hospital for Women so may have helped Ethel get her next post. Ethel would also have known Mary Ann Scharlieb, who was on the consulting staff whilst Ethel was here.



Figure 14 Advert for New Hospital for Women 1915

Ethel next became House Surgeon and House Physician at the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road. This hospital was founded in 1872 by Elizabeth Garrett Anderson in Seymour Place, finally – after a spell on the Marylebone Road - getting its purpose built premises in 1889. It was renamed after Garrett's death in December 1917 as the Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women and Children and survives today as a wing of University College Hospital.

House Surgeon and House Physician were residential posts and given that there were still few hospitals offering such posts for women, the competition for these places must have been tough. As was the work! Although the South London Hospital for Women had opened on Newington Causeway, Southwark to take some of the strain, demand for women led services for women was increasing rapidly.

During 1915, Ethel became House Physician at the Children's Hospital in Paddington Green. Founded as the North West London Free Dispensary for Sick Children in 1862, it moved to Paddington Green in 1883 and was completely rebuilt in 1895. It had 45 beds in Ethel's day. It joined the NHS in 1948 and the building closed after the hospital merged with St Mary's Paddington in 1987. It is now flats.

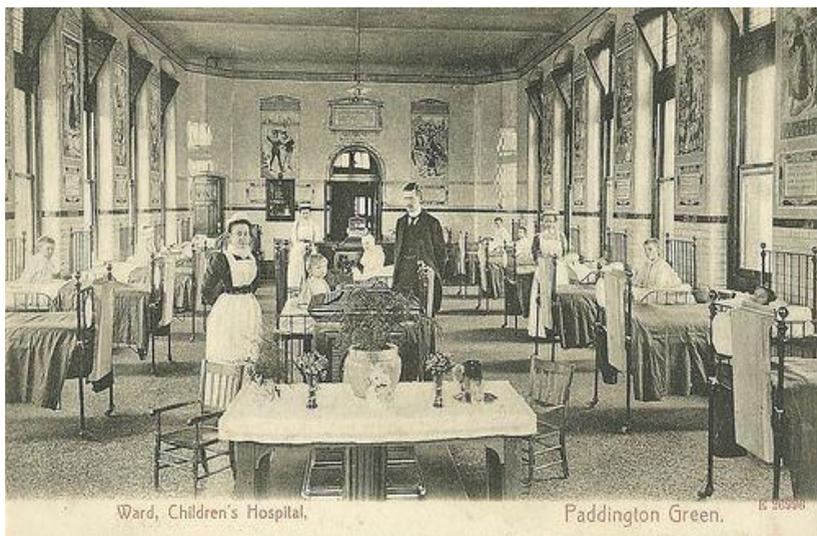


Figure 15 The Children's Ward at Paddington Green

In 1916 Ethel returned to the Canning Town Women's Settlement Hospital to become Senior Resident Medical Officer where she remained for a couple of years. This was obviously her most prominent role to date and shows that she was respected for her work.



Figure 16 Canning Town Settlement Hospital

We cannot really pass through the period without mentioning the impact of the Great War. I think that given Ethel only qualified in 1913 and was undertaking her clinical experience, she was too 'green' to travel to France and take an active war role.

Nonetheless, the need for qualified doctors of both genders back home was quite pressing. Like all civilians, the war would have had a great bearing on Ethel. She lost several relatives, most notably her cousin, Robert Moon Brand, who died on the first day of the Somme (1st July 1916) and is memorialised on the Thiepval Memorial. Another Brand cousin, Geoffrey Jermyn Brand died the same day, whilst a third Sydney Avril Brand, died in France on 27th September 1916. There were others too and one wonders how Ethel, or anyone else similarly affected, coped with it all.

The end of the war brought some difficulties for women doctors as men returned to take up posts and Ethel is not listed as working in the 1919 Medical register. However, the following year she is listed as Resident Medical Officer at the Alexandra Hospital for Children in Brighton, a position she will remain in for almost three years according to the Register. As a Resident she may well have been staying in hospital property for this period.



Figure 27 Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton

Interestingly, the Alexandra Hospital was the only hospital Ethel worked at that was not specifically a women's hospital. Opened as the Brighton Hospital for Sick Children on Western Road in 1868 by Dr Richard Patrick Burke Taaffe, it expanded into an adjacent building in 1870. Later that year it relocated to the disused Church Hill School in Dyke Road where it was reopened with twenty beds until a new hospital was built on the site and opened in 1881 by Princess Alexandra. It was later enlarged in 1904 and is now incorporated in the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Ethel would have still been on the south coast in the spring of 1921, when her uncle Thomas Lettis, the police surgeon and well-known GP in Yarmouth, was killed in a motorcar accident. He had crossed Northgate Street to board a tramcar just as a motor-car approached. The motor-car slowed down and swerved to avoid him but after hesitating he stepped back and was struck by the radiator and knocked down, one wheel passing over him. The funeral was on the 15th April and Ethel sent flowers bearing the simple message "*From Ethel. With love*". We don't know why she didn't attend in person.



Figure 18 New Sussex Hospital for Women, Hove

Although the Medical Register only lists Ethel at the New Sussex Hospital from its 1923 edition, she is listed as the Visiting Assistant Physician to Outpatients at the New Sussex Hospital for Women and Children in Brighton in Louisa Martindale's book *The Woman Doctor and her Future* which was published in 1922 so Ethel probably started there as early as 1921.

Martindale was the leading proponent of women doctors on the South coast and the first in Brighton. She played a huge role in developing the New Sussex Hospital (See below). In October 1921 she gave the opening speech at the beginning of the Winter Session for the School of Medicine for Women in October. In her address she touched on the very issues that Ethel would be dealing with such as the shocking fact that mortality amongst women in childbirth had not improved since 1894. Many died from puerperal fever which was a preventable condition. It was this, amongst other situations, which was driving Martindale to expand the services she provided to women in Brighton.

Although a dispensary run by women had been operating since 1889, and opened a 12 bed hospital in 1912, it wasn't until December 1921 that a fully-fledged New Sussex Hospital opened in Windlesham House, on the corner of Windlesham Road and Temple Gardens. Principally dealing with the treatment of gynaecological disorders, it was staffed entirely by women. We don't know precisely when Ethel moved across from the Alexandra but she was probably amongst the first of the medical staff to arrive at the newly built hospital.

We also know that in October 1921, Ethel began a new permanent job for Harrow Urban District Council which is covered in some detail in the next chapter. However she doesn't stop working in Brighton and from 1922 shows up in the Electoral register living at 25 Holland Road, Hove aka Croissey House. We believe she retained digs at 14 Parliament Hill and think that she was commuting between the two addresses and the two jobs spending Friday to Monday in Brighton and running her Harrow Clinics Tuesday to Thursday.

A New Job in Harrow

Ethel commutes between homes

Although there is no evidence of Ethel working at the New Sussex Hospital beyond 1923, we do know that she continued to live in Brighton until 1931. She was working in Harrow for this period and still gave her address as 14 Parliament Hill in certain records. Thus it seems she continued to split here week between North London and the South Coast. From 1931, she is joined at Croysey House in Holland Road (Now renumbered as 57) by her old fellow lodger from Hampstead, Charlotte Macrae. Charlotte and Ethel will continue to live together until Charlotte's death so it is worth taking a few moments to look at just who she is.

It would be wrong to assume they were partners or lovers as despite moving in circles where lesbianism was comparatively rife we have nothing to support this view. They may well have chosen, as two spinsters, to simply live as companions. Nonetheless, it was the most significant relationship outside of family that we are aware of Ethel having.

Charlotte was born on the 6th March 1869 to Donald and Sarah Macrae (From Wexford, Ireland) and baptised at the Camden Road Presbyterian Church in Holloway. Donald was a successful Land Agent and the family lived comfortably at 28 Hungerford Road. Sadly Charlotte was not quite two years old when her father died in his early forties leaving Sarah to bring up Charlotte alongside her older sister Mary Ann.

At the 1871 census taken shortly after Donald died, Sarah had no occupation but ten years later they had moved to 103 Hungerford Road and Sarah was listed as a Coal Agent. Significantly, in 1878 Charlotte started attending the Camden School for Girls, one of the first schools aimed at advancing the education of women. It

was founded in 1871 by Frances Mary Buss who also started the North London Collegiate School. Charlotte was a pupil there until 1885 and, as we will see, later returned as a teacher. She obtained the 3rd Class College of Preceptors and took the Junior Cambridge Examination. Founded in Britain in 1846 to standardize the teaching profession, the College of Preceptors is little known today. The College was closely linked to the **Educational Times**, a journal of “Education, Science and Literature” launched in 1847.



Figure 19 Charlotte Macrae from the NLCS publication

By 1891 Charlotte's big sister Mary Ann – who had attended the North London Collegiate School – was teaching in Warwickshire but Charlotte was working as a Telephone Operator, a position she took up when she was 16. Given that Lord Kelvin had only introduced the UK to concept of the telephone from America in 1877, Charlotte must have been one of the early workers in the field. The first telephone operator in the US was a woman, Emma Nutt, and it was quickly discovered that people preferred the calm female voice thus the profession was dominated by women on both sides of the Atlantic.

In December 1894, aged 25, Charlotte became one of the candidates of the London Technical Education Board Scholars and was trained in the Domestic Economy Teacher Training Department of Battersea Polytechnic during 1896 and 1897. Prior to her training she only had experience in a 'little home cooking and dressmaking' and 'now for the first time possible to spare time for training'. She was recommended to the board by Mrs Bryant, the second headmistress at the North London Collegiate School following Mrs Buss.

At the Battersea polytechnic, she obtained 1st Class Diplomas in Cookery, Laundry, Dressmaking and Needlework and a 2nd Class Diploma in Housewifery in 1897, then added a High Class Cookery Diploma in 1899. She further obtained a 1st Class City & Guilds Certificate in Millinery in 1905.

Her teaching career began in 1897 at her own former school, the Camden School for Girls where she taught cookery. She continued to teach here as a Visiting Mistress receiving £30 a year until 1916. She also taught in several other schools such as the Deaf & Dumb School, Fitzroy Square in 1898, St. Mary's College, Paddington, during 1889 and 1900, and in various classes under the London County Council.

On the 14th January 1904 she was appointed to teach Domestic Arts at the North London Collegiate School for Girls. According to the Staff Register, Miss Macrae was expected to teach Cookery,

Laundrywork, Dressmaking, Millinery and Housewifery to Technical Classes. Her salary was £100 p.a. part-time. She was a popular teacher described as having “bright eyes and white hair”.

The Domestic Arts course first appeared in the NLCS Prospectus of 1906-07. Charlotte was listed among the NLCS staff as having ‘1st Class Certificate for Domestic Economy, Battersea’. Then, under Section III, ‘Extra Classes’ and Section IV, ‘Curriculum of Studies’, details of the Course were given. Girls over seventeen years of age were allowed to join the ‘Technical Class’ in which the first half of the school morning were given to ordinary lessons, and the second half to the study and practice of Domestic Arts. However, old girls were also able to join the course as taking either the ‘half-time Technical Class for Cookery or the full course’.

From today's vantage point, the teaching of Domestic Arts to girls in the late Victorian and early Edwardian age may seem to enforce gender roles and be damaging to the growing women's movement of the time. However, it must be remembered that it was rare that girls should get any sort of worthy education in those days so the work of the North London Collegiate School and others like it was in fact invaluable to the expansion of women's independence and ultimately equality.

Charlotte continued to live at home and is shown there on the 1901 census and in electoral registers of 1904 through 1909. However by the 1911 census Charlotte is living at 14 Parliament Hill with – amongst others – Rose Stern, who worked closely with Charlotte. This address was looked at earlier. We had a brief look at Miss Stern's biography but now we see how they worked together.

In Cookery, Housewifery and Laundry, Miss Stern, the Science Mistress, taught the Laboratory work and Miss Macrae the Kitchen work. Dressmaking and Millinery were taught by Miss Macrae only.

Charlotte quit teaching at the age of 60 and she was said to be infirm through rheumatism. She moved in with Ethel in Hove and later they moved to High Road, Harrow together where they lived until Charlotte died on the 23rd October 1960 (Although her obituary in the Collegiate School magazine as the 23rd November) aged 91. Mary Ann, Charlotte's sister, also spent the last years of her life as a spinster at 507 High Street, Harrow Weald, dying in 1951.

Child Welfare in Harrow

How Maternity and Child Welfare developed in Harrow

Before we look at Ethel's particular role in Harrow, let us begin with a little history. Harrow itself (and its districts Harrow-on-the-Hill, Harrow Weald, Roxeth, and Greenhill) were changing rapidly from Middlesex villages on the outskirts of London to part of the Greater London Suburban sprawl. From 1891 - for the next 125 years - it was home to the Kodak factory which, in its heyday, supported 6,000 workers on its 55 acre site. The population of Harrow and Pinner rose from 25,321 in 1901 to 59,006 in 1921 when Ethel arrived to work here. It rose further to 135,970 in 1931, and to 277,615 by 1951 after Ethel's retirement. With this population explosion came a lot of babies and children.

Child Welfare really began in the district with the establishment of a Voluntary Dental Clinic for children in Wealdstone in 1913 by Dr Barbara Tchaykovsky. This was soon closed by the outbreak of war but on 18th September 1915 Dr Tchaykovsky organised the opening of Wealdstone Babies' House at Homewood on the High Road in Wealdstone. Dr Margaret Brady was appointed as Medical Officer. In June 1917 the Wealdstone Infant Clinic moved to the Wesleyan School in Locket Road on Tuesday afternoons.

The neighbouring Harrow Maternity and Infant Welfare Clinic started in March 1916 at the Harrow Cottage Hospital on Roxeth Hill - later Harrow Hospital - with Dr Tchaykovsky both organiser and first Medical Officer. Dr Brady later took over as Medical Officer. The clinic moved to Bessborough Road Sunday School and in 1917 Brady resigned and the clinic was taken over by Dr Doherty, a Canadian doctor who had trained in the same circles as Ethel and had most recently been at the Queen Charlotte Hospital in Hammersmith.

The 1918 Maternity and Child Welfare Act was an important milestone in the state responsibility for welfare for pregnant women and children. With hindsight it is seen as the pathfinder for the later NHS Maternity and Child welfare provisions. It certainly put pressure on local authorities and forced them to rethink the way they provided services. Dr Tchaykovsky was well placed to assist.

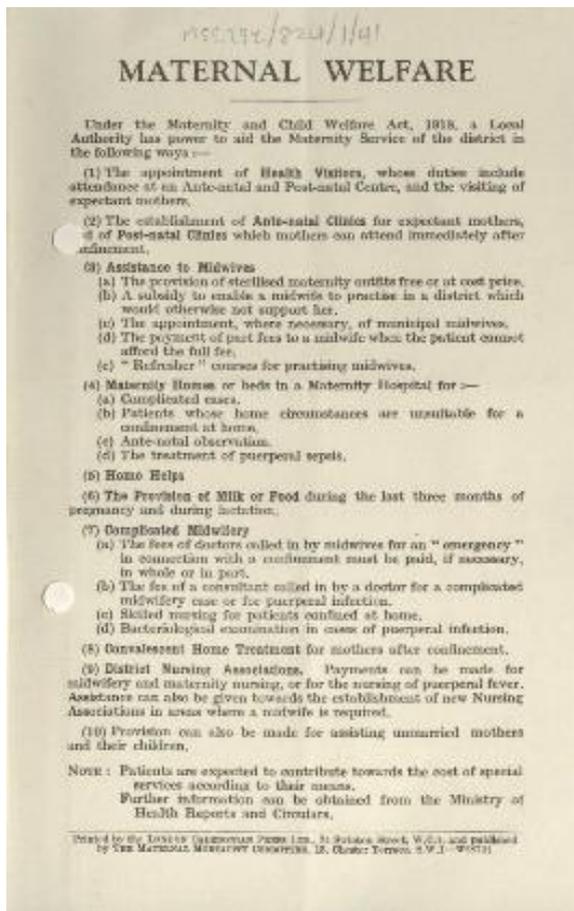


Figure 20 Leaflet re the 1918 Maternity and Child Welfare Act

In January 1919 Wealdstone Local Government Board wished to close the Wealdstone Baby Clinic as they felt they could not continue under the then current financial arrangements. Dr Tchaykovsky stepped up and agreed to run it with a grant from the council on the condition that they set up a Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-committee. This was the catalyst for Dr Tchaykovsky to set up an organisation called the Harrow Council of Child Welfare to try and unify all the voluntary organisations providing services.



Figure 21 Holmleigh (whilst still a VAD hospital during WWI

It established its headquarters at 8 College Road aka Holmleigh (which was previously used as a Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital during the war). The Tchaykovskys already lived in College Road.

The College Road premises opened in July 1919. At the same time the house next door at 10 College became the Harrow, Wealdstone and District War Memorial Maternity Hostel with 8 beds.

The Council of Child Welfare ran several joint (Harrow and Wealdstone) Specialist Clinics on behalf of the local councils. However the Harrow on the Hill Urban District Council took full control of the now bi-weekly Harrow Maternity and Infant Clinic in March 1920 and established it in College Road as the Greenhill Clinic. They retained Dr Doherty as its Medical Officer. At the same time the UDC began a second clinic in Roxeth on Friday mornings at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on Lower Road with Dr Doherty also running it. This replaced a Voluntary crèche being run there.

The separate Wealdstone Clinic had still been running as a voluntary organisation but this closed in March 1920 and reopened in May 1920 run by Wealdstone District Council under Dr Nora Beaumont at the YMCA hut on the High Street. By 1925 it was back at the Wesleyan School on Lockett Road.

In 1921 Dr Doherty decided to get married and therefore retire, as was the norm for women in those days. In its 12th August 1921 edition, the Harrow Observer reported on the meeting of the Harrow on the Hill UDC's Public Health Committee. A letter was read from Dr E. M. Brand thanking the Council for her appointing her as Medical Officer at the Roxeth clinic in succession to Dr Doherty. She also asked that temporary change from Friday to Thursday at the clinic be made permanent, as she was unable to attend on the day fixed at present. This was agreed and Ethel ran this clinic on Thursday afternoons. This supports our view that Ethel was commuting to the South Coast at the weekends to work at the New Sussex Hospital.

Ethel was later appointed to also run the clinic in College Road, which actually operated from a hut in the garden of Holmleigh, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. This was sometimes known

as Greenhill. The hut was funded by the Harrow Council of Child Welfare with a starting donation by its chairman, local MP Oswald Moseley. Moseley had much to do with Council of Child Welfare in its formative years, somewhat at odds to his later work with the British Union and fascism.

The 1923 Harrow Medical Officers Report (Published April 1924) confirms that Ethel was running two baby clinics in the Harrow area in 1923 as Medical Officer in a part-time capacity. Her own report for that year ran as follows:

“The Clinic shows a satisfactory record for the year. The average number of attendances increased.

The enlarged accommodation in the New Hut at Greenhill has been much appreciated by the Mothers.

Cases of diarrhoea noted in the summer have been few in comparison with those arising in autumn and early winter; the latter often run a less acute course, but leave a more marked effect on the general condition of the infants, particularly in the absence of sun as at this period of the year.

We would once again express our thanks to the helpers, voluntary and otherwise, who give such whole-hearted interest to the work.

I might add that it is understood that this is not a treatment centre, but a Clinic where the inexperienced mother can obtain information as to the child’s progress in health, and receive advice as to the clothing, feeding, and general care of the infant, especially those mothers who have been attended by a midwife.

In this Clinic it sometimes happens that ailments have been discovered that have previously been unnoticed by the parents, in which cases the parents are referred to the usual medical attendant.”

GREENHILL CLINIC.

Summary of Attendance

	Quarter ending				Year.
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	
Consultations A. ...	320	239	235	414	1238
New Cases (under one year) ...	21	26	27	31	105
Consultations B. ...	260	262	213	236	991
New Cases (over one year) ...	4	5	3	2	14
Weighing only ...	97	42	51	114	307
Home Visits (under one year) ...	509	390	561	363	1823
1st Visits ...	26	34	42	33	135
Home visits (over one year) ...	264	338	221	428	1231
Feeding, Breast New	13	12	17	19	61
" Bottle cases.	8	10	9	12	39
" Mixed	—	4	1	1	6
No. of New Cases during Quarter ...	25	31	30	34	120
Attendance of New Cases ...	88	104	103	99	394
Attendance of Old Cases ...	589	432	419	655	2135
Total attendance ...	677	536	522	754	2529
No. of Sessions ...	34	20	17	24	85
Individual attendance Cases attended but once ...	194	181	183	220	778
Average attendance per session ...	60	31	57	62	210
Average attendance per session ...	28	27	30	33	
NEEDLEWORK CLINIC.					
No of Clinics ...	11	10	8	12	41
Total attendance ...	56	63	45	35	219
Average attendance ...	5	6	5	4.5	

Figure 22 Summary of Greenhill Clinic work in 1923

The 1925 Report (Published 1926) continues to list Ethel as Medical Officer to the Maternity and Welfare Clinics in a part-time capacity. The report on her work reads:

“The Infant Welfare Department, under the care of Dr Brand, showed a satisfactory year’s work during 1925, both in Greenhill and Roxeth. Marasmic babies have responded to diet and supervision of hygiene, except one case which was referred to the London Hospital, and improved at once under a course of artificial sunlight.”

In 1929 the local child welfare clinics faced a funding crisis and over the next few years a number of changes occurred. Firstly, in March 1932, the lease on College Road expired and the hostel and its related services were forced to close.

Then, in 1934, Harrow Urban District council was formed with the merger of Harrow on the Hill Urban District Council, Wealdstone Urban District Council and Hendon Rural District Council.

Ethel’s position as Maternity and Child Medical Officer does not appear to have been significantly affected and whilst in 1934 she was one of three such MOs attached to the council, it rose briefly to four in 1935 & 1936 before going back down to three in 1937.

We don’t know how much Ethel was actually paid but the accounts show she invoiced the following during 1934-35.

	£	s	d
Nov 34	31	10	0
Dec 34	28	7	0
Feb 35	20	9	6
Mar 35	29	18	6

£30 in 1935 equates to about £1,500 today and if she was drawing roughly this amount monthly it was the equivalent of £18,000 p.a. but remember she was only running three afternoon clinics!

Another huge change in 1934 was the purchase of Tyneholme, a house in South Harrow originally bought by Dr Tchaykovsky for the Council of Child Welfare, to be the new Harrow Council Child Welfare centre. The Council of Child Welfare then built their own nursery in the garden of the house and also ran several services as contractors to the council. It's not known if Ethel ran any clinics there but it is likely she would have known the building.

Tyneholme remained a child welfare centre and nursery for many years with the council only selling it off in 2007 and building the Caryl Thomas Clinic on the site (Caryl Thomas was Medical Officer of Health for Harrow in the thirties). Amongst the many children who used the services at Tyneholme were the poet Michael Rosen and his brother.

As the 1930s drew to a close the biggest upheaval of all would hit the country including of course Maternity and Child Welfare Services. In September 1939, on the outbreak of war, over 12,000 pregnant women left their homes nationwide to be billeted in rural areas to await the arrival of their baby in Ministry of Health temporary hostels, then remain in the countryside for the duration. How many of these 12,000 women left the Harrow area is not clear but there must have been a marked effect on Ethel's clinics. As the evacuation continued there was a shortage of trained staff at these hostels but we have no evidence to suggest Ethel was shipped out to the countryside to help. In fact on the evidence we have, we can only assume that Ethel calmly and laboriously worked her clinics week in week out through the war and afterwards for over 25 years, firstly for Harrow on the Hill UDC then for Harrow UDC. For much of this time she worked with or alongside the Harrow Council for Child Welfare. This epoch came to an end when Ethel was 68 years old. It was reported in the minutes of the Public Health Committee for the 23rd December 1947 as Item 1785:

1785. Resignation of Part-time Medical Officer of Health: The Medical Officer of Health reported the resignation of Dr. Brand, as a part-time assistant medical officer.

RESOLVED: That the report be received; and that the Medical Officer of Health be instructed to convey to Dr. Brand the Committee's thanks for the services rendered by her to the Council, since 1934.

The date obviously refers to her service to Harrow UDC which took over from Harrow on the Hill UDC in 1934.

Ethel had resigned just six months before the introduction of the National Health Service and one wonders if there was some connection. Certainly the responsibility for Child Welfare passed to the National Health Service in 1948. At the very least there would have been some upheaval so perhaps it just seemed the right time to step down. For instance, in July 1948, the Public Health Committee on Harrow UDC thanked a Mrs Jones and a Mrs Webb for their service on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. It noted that the transfer of maternity and child welfare services to the County Council severed the association of the two ladies with Harrow Council.

Ethel remained on the Medical register until at least 1959.

Whilst we don't know for sure the state of Ethel's finance as she entered retirement – it would be a few more years before we see evidence of financial difficulties – we do know that she received a small inheritance when on 19 December 1946 her cousin Mary Jane Brand who had was the daughter of her Uncle Edward Olley Brand, left *“Ethel Brand of 243 High Road, Harrow my large wardrobe and bow chest of drawers, exclusive of their contents”*. In addition she left Ethel £500 cash which today would have be worth £14,600. Mary had worked as a school matron and her estate was valued at £4,909, (£14,350).

Living in Harrow

A look at where Ethel and Charlotte lived

As we saw earlier Ethel was moving between Hove and London for part of the week whilst she and Charlotte continued to live on the South Coast Friday to Monday and Ethel worked in Harrow Tuesday through to Thursday. Even though there is no evidence that Ethel continued working at the New Sussex Hospital beyond 1923, this living arrangement remained the case until about 1931.

At this point Ethel and Charlotte moved into 243 High Road, Harrow Weald; a large house about three-quarters of a mile north west of Harrow and Wealdstone stations. Also known as Elmleigh, the house had for a long time at the beginning of the 20th century been owned by the Catesby's, wealthy furniture dealers with shops in Tottenham Court Road and Kilburn. By the time Ethel and Charlotte moved in it was broken into two flats and they had 243a. This was presumably the top floor as later the other flat would be used as a dentist's surgery and it makes more sense that this was on the ground floor.

In the early years their downstairs neighbours were George and Doris Panzetta, who add little to this story except that on Trafalgar Day 1937, Doris gave birth to twins. It must have been a comfort to her knowing that an expert in child welfare lived just above them. By 1939 the Panzettas, including Jack and Jill, had moved out to Watford.

However it was Ethel's next door neighbours of the time who are of more interest. 245 High Road aka Dronfield was owned by Dr Lucy Parker, who with her brother John had run a family GP practice there since 1930. Born in New South Wales, Australia, the Parkers were living in the UK (Lancashire) by the time of the 1911 census. The practice was joined by Dr Myrtle Lee Williams

in 1954 when she married Lucy and John's brother George. By 1942 John and his wife Athel Sayce, also a GP, had moved down the road to 235 High Road (aka Stockholm) and established their own practice with Myrtle (Parker, Parker & Sayce). John and Ethel met when they were both on the staff of the London County Council hospital in Paddington.

Myrtle would move out to her own surgery in 1977 when John retired (He died in 1992) but Lucy remained in the original house until at least 1980 when she was the last resident fighting the developers who wanted to pull down 243, 245 and other properties to build new flats. Lucy clearly defeated them in her lifetime as she was still living at 245 Road when she died on 13th August 1983. She never married and received a bequeathal of £50 from Ethel's will. We can only imagine that these two medical ladies living next door to each other got on well.

And yet we have few clues about Ethel's social life during this period. We know that back in Yarmouth she attended many civic events with her father but we see no evidence for similar attendance in Harrow. Indeed, her name is curiously absent from the list of attendees at the annual meetings of the Harrow Council for Child Welfare for instance. She also doesn't seem to judge any of the baby shows to raise funds for the organisation even though her fellow Medical Officers in neighbouring districts do.

However, we do find a rare social outing for Charlotte listed as in 1938 she attends the Braemar Gathering and Highland Games, one of the most famous Highland Games in the world.

At the 1939 register Ethel is listed as Part Time MO Child Welfare HUDC whilst Charlotte is Retired School Mistress Incapacitated. Below them at 243 are William and Florence Narbey, who are both practising dentists.

The Narbeys would live, and practice, at 243 for the next 14 or so years until Florence died in 1951 followed by William two years later.

Major William Francois Narbey (born 1888) served in the Taranaki Rifles (a Territorial Force). He was commissioned in July 1912 and joined the Wellington Regiment on the 17th August 1914.

Wounded three times in Gallipoli and twice in France, Major Narbey was mentioned in despatches by Field Marshall Douglas Haig on the 7th November 1917. In 1918 he was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant Colonel and appointed the Commanding Officer of the Wellington Regiment. So quite a war hero!

And speaking of wars, we must now look at the Second World War which Ethel and Charlotte lived through in their London suburb. Whilst we are used to images of the City of London being razed to the ground during the Blitz, we must remember that the suburbs took one hell of a beating too.

In fact, many sources agree that the first bombs to drop in the London Civil Defence Area landed in the early hours of the 22nd August 1940, in Harrow and Wealdstone. They damaged two cinemas, a dance hall, and a bank as well as houses but nobody was killed.

The bomb map, shows how close bombs fell to the house (Marked with a red x) during the period 7th October 1940 to 6 June 1941.

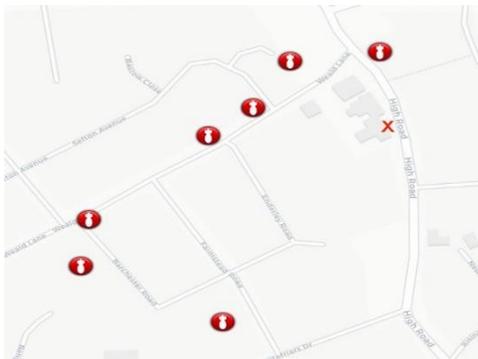


Figure 23 Bomb map

By the fifties the Narbeys were joined as dentists by the Maclachlans, William and Vera. After the Narbeys died, the Maclachlans took over the surgery in 1954 and moved in from nearby Montrose Road. They would be here until 1977 with Rose Colley (Vera's widowed mother) also in residence for some of that time.

William Donald Maclachlan, known to all as Mac, was born about 1910 and married Vera Gladys Winchcombe in Harrow in 1946. They originally practiced in Willesden Green with Vera acting as his qualified nurse. As well as having a private practice Maclachlan may well have been the dentist of that name at the nearby Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. If so, his claim to fame was looking after the teeth of the 1970 England World Cup Squad.

He was also involved in civic matters and was a Past President and Trustee of the Harrow Weald Memorial Club amongst other positions. William died in Northwick Park Hospital in March 1977 after a short illness. He was still living with Vera at 243 High Road with Ethel still as their upstairs neighbour. Vera died in 1990.

However, it would be another death that would have most affected Ethel during the time the Maclachlans were her neighbours. On 23rd October 1960, her long-time companion Charlotte Macrae died at the age of 91. Described as a Spinster she left just over £4,000 (About £84,000 in today's terms).

Charlotte's death must have been a blow to Ethel but she would continue living in what one relation described as 'that dreary flat' for over ten more years.

The Move to Morden

A look at the circumstances around Ethel's move into care

Several times in this narrative we have mentioned Ethel's considerable income from her father and the estates of other relatives. We also know that she would have received a reasonable salary during her working years. Yet we have also indicated that at the end of her life Ethel was comparatively poor. Trying to get to the bottom of this conundrum is tricky but the following explains it in part. In a letter written in 1974, Rosalie Giles, Ethel's cousin twice removed, writes as follows:

Dr Brand's father was very wealthy and always told her that she would have more money than she would know what to do with. As none of his first six children* had lived to be more than nine months old I imagine that he had never anticipated Dr Brand reaching the age of 95 when he tied the money up in a trust for her. My father was one of her trustees when she inherited at the age of eighteen and he was always so distressed, that, the restrictions of the Trustee Act prevented him from changing her investments to better advantage. Nothing could be done about this until Dr Brand's last surviving cousin died about twelve years ago and the will became impossible to administer. At this time Dr Brand took Council's opinion and was allowed to set the will aside and gained control of the capital – some of which she had to use to because by then there was so little she could do to improve it.

*There are only records for four children having been born live before Ethel. The others were miscarriages or perhaps still-born children.

Ethel was over 90 years old when those around her persuaded her to give up the flat she had lived in for some 40 years. This was not easy as one of her cousins described her as a fiercely

independent woman. Nonetheless, given the type of accommodation she ended up in, she was clearly in need of quite a bit of support by then.

The chosen care home was not a run of the mill residential home. In fact application was made to Morden College in Blackheath, London, a very unique establishment. The college was founded by philanthropist Sir John Morden in 1695 as a home for 'poor Merchants... and such as have lost their Estates by accidents, dangers and perils of the seas or by any other accidents ways or means in their honest endeavours to get their living by means of Merchandizing'. The word college was used in the sense of a group of professional people with particular aims rather than any form of educational establishment.

It was, and is, a quite magnificent building with several outbuildings in the grounds, overlooking Blackheath Common in South London.

Significantly, there were strict conditions for entry to this prestigious retirement home. One was to be a merchant down on their luck but it was via the other condition that Ethel qualified. In 1662 John Morden had married Susan Brand, daughter of Joseph Brand of Edwardstone. The Brands of Edwardstone and surrounding areas of Suffolk were wealthy clothiers. Ethel's father's family also made their wealth in the trade and had originated from Barrow in Suffolk. Ethel claimed a right to enter Morden College through way of being a collateral descendant of Lady Susan Morden nee Brand.

Infuriatingly neither my sister and I, even with the aid of Sir Gerald Hodgson's private research for his Lady Morden Story in the sixties, have been able to prove this claim though we have not yet given up. The descendency is collateral, a legal term for a relative descended from a brother or sister of an ancestor, as Sir Joseph and Lady Morden had no children of their own.

Nonetheless, the trustees of the college were satisfied that the condition of entry was met and at on the 29th November 1971, Ethel Brand, collateral descendant of Lady Susan Morden nee Brand, was elected to the college. On the 7th December she was admitted to the newly built Cullum Welch Court which stood in the grounds of the main college building and was a nursing home with all the necessary care Ethel obviously required. And she had been there less than two years when her care needs increased as in 1973 Ethel – now 94 – had a fall and broke her femur. She was hospitalised and away from Morden for a while. Her cousin (twice removed) Mrs Peggy Doughty nee Giles, tried to get her into rehabilitation in St Anthony's Nursing Home but Ethel was not keen to go. Also, the costs were proving prohibitive since she would have to continue paying fees to Morden College. On her return to Morden she required a wheelchair to maintain her mobility. At that time she signs Power of Attorney over to Geoffrey Wilkins and the aforementioned Rosalie Giles, two of her 'cousins'.

Then in 1974 she had to leave Morden from April to July when Cullum Welch Court had a second storey added. On that occasion she was moved to Thames Ditton Cottage Hospital which was near to Andrew and Peggy Doughty. Andrew Doughty incidentally was a highly respected anaesthetist who is remembered most for the Doughty Gag, a piece of apparatus he invented that bears his name.

In 1976 Dr Ursula Shelley, Ethel's Goddaughter wrote to Morden enquiring about Ethel but also asking how she herself can get into the college. We don't know what reply she received but do know that she wasn't admitted.

However, the next landmark event arrived in March 1979 when Ethel, whose siblings all died in infancy, reached the grand old age of 100. The college ensured that celebrations were held and a telegram from the Queen duly arrived.

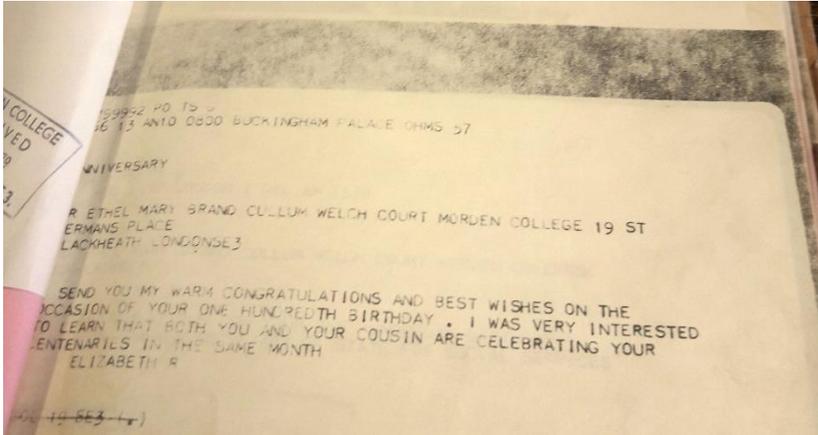


Figure 24 Telemessgae from HM the Queen

There was also a telegram from the Royal Free Hospital (where at the School of Medicine for Women Ethel had begun her journey through medicine all those years ago). Lady Perring (the wife of chair of trustees) visited and presented flowers.

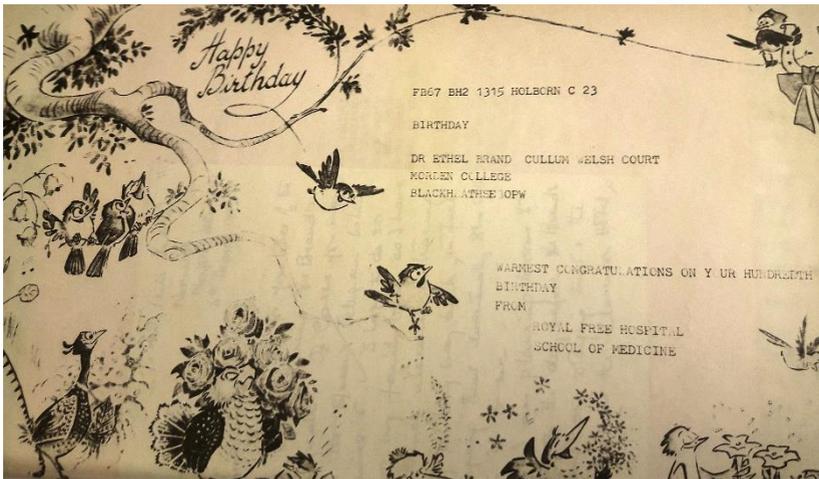


Figure 25 Telegram from Royal Free Hospital

It was Ethel's swansong as on the 17th September 1979 she died quietly at Morden College aged 100 years and six months. She was cremated on the 24th September at Eltham Crematorium

The college obituary was simple, it read:

Ethel entered Morden College Nursing Home, Cullum Welch Court in December 1971 where she lived until her death on 17 September 1979 at the age of 100.

According to her death certificate the cause of death was pneumonia and her occupation was given as Medical Practitioner, Hospital – Retired.

Application Number 7176987-3  QBDA 035680
CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY

DEATH		Entry No. 131
Registration district	GREENWICH	Address alone area
Sub-district	GREENWICH	London Borough of Greenwich
1. Date and place of death Seventeenth September 1979 Morden College, St. Germans Place Blockhead		
2. Name and surname Ethel Mary BRAND		3. Sex Female
5. Date and place of birth 17th March 1879 Great Yarmouth Suffolk		4. Maiden surname of woman when last married —
6. Occupation and usual address Medical Practitioner, Hospital Lecturer, Morden College, St. Germans Place, S.E.2		
7 (a) Name and surname of informant Thomas Eyre Maxwell ASHTON		7 (b) Qualification of informant he is cremated
8 (a) Usual address Morden College, St. Germans Place, S.E.2		
9. Cause of death in Pneumonia		
Certified by J. A. Lee M.B.		
9. I certify that the particulars given for me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.		T. E. M. Ashton Signature of informant
10. Date of registration Eighteenth September 1979		11. Signature of registrar P. Walker Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy* of a register of Births, Still-births or Deaths in the District above mentioned. Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office on 1st March 2016

*This certificate is given free of charge to the next of kin, the next of kin, or the next of kin of an applicant.
 CAUTION: THESE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE: IT CARRIES COPYRIGHT
 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.
 THIS IS A TRUE COPY.



Figure 6 Ethel's Death certificate

Probate records reveal that at the time of her death Ethel's estate was valued at £11,913 which today would be worth about £46,500. So not entirely broke!

A plaque was later erected in Morden College Chapel. It reads

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ETHEL MARY BRAND (L.M.S.S.A. (LOND)
COLLATERAL DESCENDENT OF LADY MORDEN
WHO DIED AT MORDEN COLLEGE
17TH SEPTEMBER 1979
AGED 100 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS.**

And that is the lasting physical memorial to an incredible woman who not only survived where her siblings didn't but through determination and perseverance became a successful woman in what was still a man's world. She followed her heart and with a quiet but solid determination, gave much back to the community. Despite her failing health as she lived to a great age, she remained a fiercely independent woman.

The Pioneers

Throughout this book we encountered a number of pioneering women in the fields of medicine and social care. They appear in this volume because they moved in the same circles as Ethel at largely the same time. Whilst having no direct evidence (Written or photographic) that Ethel met with these women, it is inconceivable that she didn't as she even worked in the same, small hospitals as some of them at the same time. As I said in the introduction, this book is not the history of women in medicine and yet it doesn't feel right to close without a brief look at those important women who fought the system and improved the lives of thousands of women and children (and men) both then, and in the years after their great work. I'm very happy to include Dr Barbara Tchaykovsky amongst these biographies as she is often overlooked but would have particular impact in the areas – both geographically and career wise – that Ethel worked in.

Firstly though, a very brief summary of the beginnings of how women 'broke' into medicine during the Victorian age.

Whilst women had long been at the heart of medicine and health in every family and settlement, they were barred from formalising their skills at every step of the way as the profession developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Most significantly, they were stopped from taking the examinations that would allow them to obtain the qualification that would allow them to be registered. One woman, Margaret Bulkley, lived her entire life as a man - James Barry - so she could become a surgeon (Although there may have been more to her choosing to live that way than just a career).

In 1849, the barriers started to fall when Elizabeth Blackwell became the first British woman to get a degree. She had to go to the United States to do it though. Another British woman, Sophia Jex-Blake, also travelled to the US where she worked for a time

as an – unqualified – assistant at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Boston. This was when she decided she wanted to become a doctor. On returning to the UK she attempted to gain entry to a university to study. She was stymied at every turn until, after much campaigning, she was admitted in to the University of Edinburgh. Over time she was joined by other women wishing to study, namely Isabel Thorne, Edith Pechey, Matilda Chaplin, Helen Evans, Mary Anderson, and Emily Bovell. Together they were known as Edinburgh Seven and they faced fierce opposition, including a riot at Surgeon’s Hall when they tried to sit an examination.



*Figure 27 Lecturers at the LSMW: Back: Aldrich-Blake, McDonald, Webb
Front: Boyd, Scharlieb, Ellarby, Cock, Walker*

Their struggles were worthwhile though, and even though they themselves had to travel abroad to get their degrees, their actions helped usher in the UK Medical Act of 1876 which ensured women could train as doctors in British Universities. The floodgates were not yet open but at last a trickle of women could enter the profession. In among the trickle were the following formidable women.

Louisa Aldrich-Blake

Louisa Aldrich-Blake worked at both the Canning Town Settlement and the New Hospital for Women contemporaneously with Ethel. We wonder if she may even have used her contacts to help Ethel to move from the former to the latter in 1914.

Louisa was born in Chingford in Essex on the 15th August 1865 to the Reverend Frederick Blake and his wife Louisa. Her father's calling took them to Herefordshire where Louisa grew up, being home-schooled before attending Cheltenham Ladies College. She graduated as a doctor, from the London School of Medicine for Women in 1893 achieving a Master's degree in 1895.

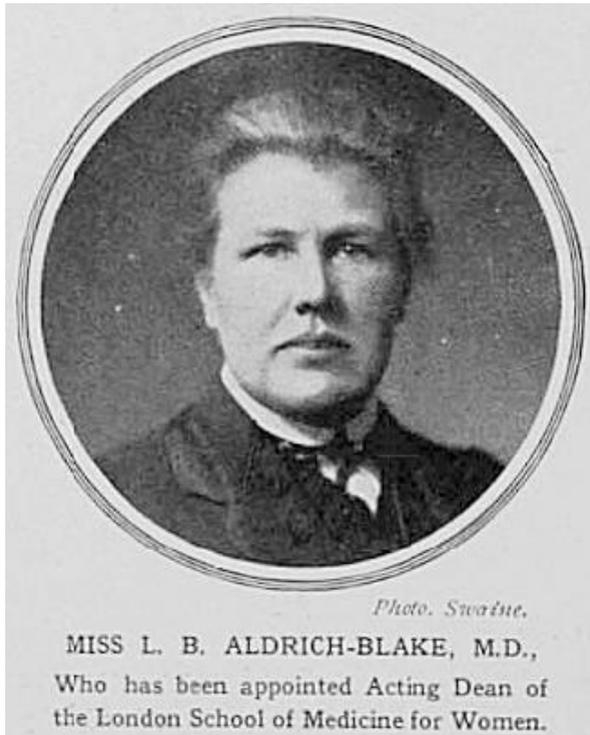


Figure 38 Louisa Aldrich-Blake

Louisa initially worked at the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road and from 1914 she was also Dean of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. She set up a team of women doctors and nurses to work in Cherbourg soon after the outbreak of war and spent her own holidays in 1915 and 1916 in France at the hospitals treating wounded soldiers. In the spring of 1916 she contacted every female doctor she could asking them to volunteer their services overseas for the war effort.

During her time working at the Canning Town Women's Settlement she became a specialist in cervical and rectal cancers devising many innovative treatments.

She also became Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women in 1914 and the school's population almost doubled during her tenure. She became a Dame of the British Empire in January 1925 but died of cancer shortly after the following Christmas even though she had been operating at the Royal Free a month before her death. There is a statue commemorating her in Tavistock Square

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Ethel would mostly have known Elizabeth Garrett Anderson as the Dean, and later President, of the London School of Medicine for Women when she was in attendance. However, she might likely have also bumped into her at various places and events because Anderson was probably the leading figure in opening up medicine to women in the late Victorian age.

Born in Whitechapel to a successful Suffolk ironworker, in 1851 when she was five, the family returned to Suffolk where her father had Snape Maltings built for his new barley and coal merchant business. They lived in or near Aldeburgh for the next few years and Elizabeth was home-schooled until she was 13 when she was sent to a boarding school in Blackheath.

After school there were two significant events that helped shape her future. Firstly, at 18 whilst visiting friends in Gateshead, she met Emily Davies, the feminist and suffragist future founder of Girton College; secondly she read about then travelled to see in London, Elizabeth Blackwell, the first British woman to become a qualified doctor. Soon after this she joined the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women (Yes SPEW, we know!). Elizabeth battled to gain entry to several medical schools without success although she started to learn her trade through private lessons and by virtually sneaking into dissecting rooms and lecture halls. Eventually, she found that she could be admitted to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries simply by virtue of the fact their charter stated they were open to any person rather than any man. And so in 1865 she attained the LSA (Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries) and was legally able to practice as a doctor in the UK, the first woman to do so. Unable to find a hospital willing to offer a woman a position she first opened her own practice then established the St Mary's Dispensary for Women and Children in London. This became the New London Hospital for Women and Children in 1872. Two years later she started the London School of Medicine for Women with Sophia

Jex-Blake where Ethel would later study. Elizabeth was Dean of the School from 1883 to 1903 and President thereafter. She was married to James Anderson from 1871 (until his death in 1907) and they retired to Aldeburgh in 1902. After his death in 1907 Elizabeth became mayor of Aldeburgh, the first female mayor in England. She died in 1917 and the following year The New Hospital for Women was renamed the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital as just one lasting part of the legacy she left.

Louisa Garrett Anderson

Ethel is most likely to have known Louisa Garrett Anderson from the Women's Hospital for Children on the Harrow Road where she worked in 1913. The hospital was one of several founded by Louisa Garrett-Anderson and Flora Murray who were believed to be lovers as well as business associates.

Louisa was the daughter of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and was born in July 1873. Educated at St Leonard's School, St Andrews she obtained her medical qualification in 1897 at the London School of Medicine for Women, which was founded by her mother. A Suffragette, she was jailed briefly for breaking a window with a brick, and later joined the United Suffragists.

In 1912 she started the Women's Hospital for Children in Harrow Road but when war broke out she joined the Women's Hospital Corps and with Dr Flora Murray started hospitals in France for the French army. Later they started the Military Hospital in Endell Street near Covent Garden which was a military hospital entirely staffed by women.

In later life Louisa became less radical and joined the Conservatives. She became a JP and later mayor of Aldeburgh, like her mother. She never married but was only separated from her companion Flora Murray, when Flora died in 1923. Louisa died of cancer in a Brighton nursing home in 1943.

Louisa Martindale

Louisa Martindale was one of the driving forces at the New Sussex Hospital for Women where Ethel worked as a Visiting Physician in the early 1920s.

Louisa was born in Leytonstone in 1872. Her mother, also Louisa, was an ardent feminist and a great strength behind Louisa's rise. After moving around the world following her father William's death, the family settled in Brighton where Louisa attended Brighton High School for Girls. Her future career as a doctor preordained and 1892 entered the London School of Medicine for Women the following year. She qualified as a doctor in 1899. After a spell in Hull working for Dr Mary Murdoch, she eventually opened her own practice in Brighton and soon joined the Lewes Road Dispensary. This became the Lady Chichester Hospital, Brighton Branch) in 1911 and inspired Louisa to start the New Sussex Hospital which opened in new premises December 1921 having previously existed as the smaller Lady Chichester Hospital and Dispensary in Ditchling Road.

Amongst the many notable people Louise met in Brighton Society whilst campaigning and fundraising for the hospital was the Honourable Ismay Fitzgerald, daughter of Lord Fitzgerald of Kilmarnock. After inviting Ismay to stay for a fortnight, they ended up living together for 35 years. Whilst it was not uncommon for women to share their lives as companions, Louisa wrote fondly of Ismay in her autobiography and it is widely believed they were lovers.

In 1922 Louisa moved to London as a Consulting Surgeon but continued to return to the New Sussex weekly. She had several medical interests including sexually transmitted diseases and the use of X-Rays in treating cervical cancer. Highly regarded, she was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians in 1933 and was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine.

She died in 1966 aged 93.

Flora Murray

As with Louisa Garrett Anderson, Ethel may well have met Flora Murray at the Women's Hospital for Children on the Harrow Road.

Flora was born in Murraythwaite, Dumfries in 1869, daughter of a Royal Navy Captain and his wife. Unlike many of her contemporaries, Flora started out as a Probationer Nurse at the London Hospital in the East End. She entered the London School of Medicine for Women in 1897 and then worked as a Medical Officer at an asylum back home in Dumfriesshire. She then went back into education receiving her MB and MD at Durham University in 1903 and 1905 respectively. After this she became a Medical Officer at the Belgrave Hospital for Children. An ardent Suffragette, which may be how she met Louisa Garrett Anderson, she looked after Emmeline Pankhurst and other Suffragettes when they were released from prison.

In 1912 she founded the aforementioned Hospital for Children and later the military hospital in Endell Street, both with Louisa Garrett Anderson. When the Hospital for Children closed due to lack of funds in 1922, both Flora and Louisa retired to Penn in Buckinghamshire. Flora had developed bowel cancer and died the following year at the age of 54.

Mary Ann Scharlieb

Dr Scharlieb was a consultant at the Canning Town Women's Settlement hospital at the same time Ethel worked there.

Born in 1845 and raised by her grandparents, Mary Bird was only 19 when first met and later married William Scharlieb, a trainee barrister. They travelled almost immediately to India where William practiced and Mary became one of the first four female students at the Madras Medical College. With an Indian Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery under her belt Mary returned to the UK with her children and enrolled at the London School of Medicine for Women. In 1882 she received a degree and after a spell in Vienna, returned to India to lecture in gynaecology and midwifery. Unfortunately her strong religious convictions meant she was anti-contraception.

By 1887 she was back in London working as a surgeon at the New Hospital for Women and achieved a doctorate and began to lecture at the Royal Free Hospital. In 1902 she became Chief Gynaecologist. She retired in 1909 and devoted herself to public service and became Chairman of the Midwifery Committee of the Council of War Relief during the Great War. She also formed the Women's medical Service for India during the war and it was at this time she also worked at Canning Town.

In 1920 she became one of the first British women to earn a judgeship and was made a Dame in 1926, dying four years later in November 1930.

Ursula Shelley

Ursula Shelley was from a different generation but was known to Ethel as her Goddaughter, her mother Rachel being an old school and university friend of Ethel.

Ursula was born on the 11th April 1906 in Hammersmith and educated at St Paul's Girls School in London before going on to the London School for Medicine for Women, qualifying on the 14th June 1930. At that time her address was given as 79 Harley Street.



Figure 29 Ursula Shelley by Elliott & Fry

Ursula was later a children's Physician at the Royal Free Hospital (1940 – 1971), and also held positions at the Princes Louise Hospital for Children (1944 – 1971) and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children (1946 – 1971). She was an expert on cerebral palsy in children. She was also a Registrar at The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (formerly the New Hospital for Women).

During the forties Ursula met a lady by the name of Ruby Harper who was (born in Bath in 1915) and they would be companions for 45 years, until Ursula's death in 1993. Originally living in Chiswick, from 1952 until at least 1971 they set up home in 15 Hyde Park Gate. Today the property is valued in excess of £10 million!

Ursula appears to have retired in 1971, however, she continued to work as a Locum Consultant paediatrician at St Peter's Hospital Chertsey until 1975. Shortly after this she enquired about entry to Morden College where her Godmother, Ethel was living but this never came about. She suffered for many years with Alzheimer's disease and died a spinster on the 6th December 1993 at Halebourne House Nursing Home, Chobholm.

Barbara Tchaykovsky

Ethel and Barbara Tchaykovsky worked in the same field in the same area at the same time; Ethel for the council and Barbara for her own private organisation. It is inconceivable that they didn't know each other and would have worked with the same families and trying to meet the same ends.

Barbara was born in New York on 26th September 1875, the daughter of a distinguished Russian professor who suffered under the Czarist regime for his liberal opinion. She was educated in London, firstly at the North London Collegiate School for Girls then Bedford College in 1894, where she later worked as an assistant lecturer in chemistry. At the start of the 20th Century she decided to study at the London School of Medicine for Women graduating in 1906.

After qualification she held the posts of House Physician and Assistant Anaesthetist at the Royal Free Hospital, and in 1909 she joined the school medical service of the London County Council as part-time Medical Officer under Dr James Kerr.

Outside her official work she devoted herself to the furtherance of child welfare, and with the late Miss Margaret McMillan she was a pioneer in the establishment of nursery schools and school clinics.

In her home town of Harrow she founded the Harrow Council of Child Welfare, and to the end of her working career she continued her voluntary services in maternity and child welfare centres, in nursery schools, and in school clinics.

She died at Watford on 5th February 1956.

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ENGLAND.



Ethel Brand was the only child of wealthy Great Yarmouth tailor Henry Brand and his wife Mary to survive infancy. And survive it she did! After being educated at the Norwich High School for Girls she matriculated to the University of London in 1897. Then following a lengthy degree course without a result, she switched to the Society of Apothecaries and achieved her LMSSA diploma in 1913.

As a registered doctor she gained her experience alongside several of the most prominent women in medicine at London's leading female hospitals. After a spell on the South coast, Ethel settled into a role as a Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer for Harrow council, a position she held until her retirement in 1947.

Despite her father's wealth, bad investments meant she ended her life in relative poverty at Morden College 100 when she died in 1979 aged 100.

In this book her cousins (4 times removed) Steve and Julie Smith explore her life and that of some of the amazing people she shared it with.

