

Louisa Turning. 1820 - 1912 4008 (1)

1849 - visiting poor in Clerkenwell - made first contact with the Workhouse system - she found that no visitors were permitted, no trained nurses, low class of workers employed, supervision incredibly sleek & cruel. The pauper women who were "able bodied" were the nurses

First Louisa Turning got entry to visit ^{in workhouse in Cleveland} an old woman, from Clerkenwell. Then she asked permission to take other visitors to speak with the other neglected patients. This was refused.

She placed her suggestion before President of P. L. Board & the Secretary (Rt Hon Mr Talbot Baines of Lord Courtney) who promised sanction if one Board of G. envelope would give permission - Strand Guardians said No. She herself continued to visit when otherwise she could get entry.

In 1853 - she published her experiences in a pamphlet - "A few words about the inmates of our Union Workhouses"

In 1856 - a pamphlet - "Metropolitan Workhouses and their inmates" - attention secured in H. of C. Lord Rayleigh asked for Enquiry - Mrs T. got up petition in support - Refused.

In 1857. she formed the Workhouse Visiting Society - which later assisted greatly in securing Poor Law Reform. Social Science Association conference at B'ham (1857) Mrs Turning read paper "Conditions of Workhouses"

In 1861 Mrs T. gave evidence to Education Commission on pauper schools - 1862 - got a separate home for workhouse girls sent out to domestic service -

She & her friends financed this home, taken over by a society in 1878. —

In 1866 the Sanest Commission on Workhouses was appointed - a Bill in 1867 empowered the separation of the sick & the able-bodied - This Act (Gathorne Hardy Act) has been the basis of all improvements that have since taken place in Poor Law Administration in this country.

She formed then the Workhouse Nursing Association to train nurses & matrons for the Poor Law Service. She was its first Hon. Secy, & then Vice-Pres. This society continued to function until 1900, 844 nurses having been trained by that year.

Kensington elected her to the P.L. Bd of Guardians in 1884. (This Bd. was an advanced one having elected a Mrs. Martha Merrington to its Chairmanship in 1878 - the first Poor Law Guardian)

Mrs. Twining as reformer & elected person reached the conclusion that

- Ⓐ More Women Inspectors were needed
- Ⓑ More Women Guardians were needed

In 1882 she had formed The Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians - actively connected with a more financial supporter of this society until dissolved in 1904. The Women's Local Government Society continued the work as a part of whole local government.

She advocated & worked also for Educational Opportunities for women -

Died 1912