

U DX66

**Papers of Thomas Joseph Haslam
and Anna Maria Haslam**

c.1867-1932

Biographical Background:

Thomas Joseph Haslam was born in 1825. He was a Quaker and schoolteacher, who married Anna Maria Fisher of Cork in 1854. She became the President of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association and they shared an interest in women's issues. In 1868 he published 'The Marriage Problem' under the pseudonym of Oedipus which caused some attention in England. The pamphlet exalted the state of marriage as a way of socialising men into appropriate and pleasant sexual habits. It also decried artificial means of birth control but upheld the benefits of a natural birth control that would effectively limit the size of families. It accorded very much with ideas expressed by John Stuart Mill in the third edition of *Principles of Political Economy* and Mills sent an approving letter on 19 February 1868 which is in the collection. Both Mills and Haslam were attacked as precursors of a neo-Malthusianism the logical extension of which was punishment for people who had too many children. One critic was Professor Francis William Newman (1805-1897), brother of Cardinal Newman, and two of his letters to Haslam are in the collection. They indicate that Haslam's pamphlet made him reconsider his views briefly though not permanently (Fryer, *The birth controllers*, pp.113, 119, 185; U DX66/1).

Marie Charlotte Carmichael Stopes was born in 1880, the daughter of an independent scholar and his feminist wife. She was an undergraduate at University College London and obtained a PhD in 1904. She was the first woman to join the science faculty at Manchester University. She published books on fossil plants and geology, especially fossil fuels. In 1911 she met and married the Canadian botanist, Reginald Ruggles Gates, but the marriage was dissolved on the grounds of nonconsummation in 1916. The experience affected her life deeply and she became interested in sex education and birth control. Thomas Haslam died in 1917, the year Stopes was working on her book *Married Love* (published in 1918). At Stopes's request Anna Haslam forwarded a copy of 'The Marriage Problem' and related correspondence. Marie Stopes was to become a pioneer in birth control, publishing specifically on contraception, motherhood and marriage and setting up birth control clinics in the 1920s. After the second world war she concentrated on literary pursuits especially writing poetry. She died in 1958 (Hall, *Marie Stopes*, p.109; *Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography*, pp.520-1; *Dictionary of National Biography*).

Custodial history:

Donated by the Marie Stopes Memorial Foundation, Jun 1967

Description:

This collection consists of 15 letters to Thomas Joseph Haslam and Anna Haslam relating to their work in Ireland on birth control and women's suffrage. The letters include one from John Stuart Mill dated (1868); two from Professor Francis William Newman (1872) and letters from Irish suffragists. There are also three sent by Anna Haslam in 1918 when she forwarded the above letters to Dr Marie Stopes. She sent at the same time a copy of Thomas Haslam's pamphlet 'The Marriage Problem' which appeared in the name of Oedipus and this is in the collection with Marie Stopes's marginalia. There is also a small amount of miscellaneous printed material on marriage and contraception.

Extent: 24 items

Related material:

Letters from Dr Marie Stopes [U DSG/1/5/8]

Speech by John Stuart Mill [U DX1]

Other repositories:

Correspondence and papers of Thomas Joseph Haslam, National Library of Ireland

Correspondence and papers of Marie Stopes, Add MSS 58,447-58,770, British Library and PP/MCS, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX66/1	15 Letters to Thomas Joseph Haslam or Mrs. Anna M. Haslam Mainly relating to works by him and methods of birth control	1868-1875
	a) Adelia Eates to Mrs Haslam, thanking Mrs Haslam for a book she had sent and her thoughts on the book, 'Tuesday', b) Thor Scott to Mr Haslam, relating to different methods of birth control, 18 Feb 1868 c) John Stuart Mill to Mr Haslam, relating to birth control and married couples, 19 Feb 1868 d) J. Burns to Mr Haslam, relating to Haslam's leaflet 'The Marriage Problem' and includes a letter dated 29 Apr 1868 about birth control, 28 Mar 1868 e) Professor Francis W. Newman to Mr Haslam, relating to Haslam's leaflet 'The Marriage Problem' and Newman's thoughts on the issue, 26 Apr 1868 f) Copy of reply to (e), 29 Apr 1868 - this item is missing g) Professor Francis W. Newman to Mr Haslam, relating to family planning issues, 14 May 1868 h) J.E. George to Mr Haslam, relating to Haslam's leaflet 'The Marriage Problem' and George's thoughts on the issue, 6 Aug 1868	

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U DX66/1 continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) J.E. George to Mr Haslam, relating to the possible printing of a summary of Haslam's leaflet 'The Marriage Problem', 14 Aug 1868 j) Anna R. Varian to Mrs Haslam, relating to Mr Haslam's book, 29 Oct k) Maria J.W. Tod to Mr Haslam, relating to Mr Haslam's book, 1 Nov 1872 l) Professor Francis W. Newman to Mr Haslam, relating to Haslam's book 'The Duties of Parents' and Newman's thoughts on the issue, 10 Nov 1872 m) Professor Francis W. Newman to Mr Haslam, relating to his thoughts on marriage and the duties of parents, 15 Nov 1872 n) E.C. Wolstenholme to Mr and Mrs Haslam, relating to Haslam's book 'The Duties of Parents', 28 Jun 1873 o) Isabella M.S. Tod to Mrs Haslam, 18 May 1875, relating to Haslam's book 'The Duties of Parents' and enclosing copy of a letter from her brother in Albany, N.S. Wales of Feb 1875 <p>15 items</p>	
U DX66/2	<p>Letters to Dr. Marie Stopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mrs Anna M Haslam, relating to birth control, 12 Aug 1918 b) Mrs Anna M Haslam, relating to different methods of birth control 20 Aug 1918 c) Mrs Anna M Haslam, sends 14 letters, 'Thursday' d) John Wilks, librarian at University College London, letters of John Stuart Mill in the Library and in print, 21 Sep 1932 <p>4 items</p>	1918-1932
U DX66/3	<p>'The Marriage Problem', by Oedipus [T.J. Haslam] Relates to birth control and family planning, which is argued to be vital for a healthy society. Copy presented to Dr Marie Stopes by Mrs Haslam, 1 Sep 1918, with annotations in the margins by Dr Stopes.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1868
U DX66/4	<p>Pamphlet advertising 'Abuses of the Sexual Function' by E.P. Miller MD Contains details of the content of each chapter.</p> <p>1 item</p>	c.1867
U DX66/5	<p>Book cuttings Includes two cuttings from 'Human Nature' and one from 'The Duties of Parents'</p> <p>3 items</p>	1873