

all-round capable'.¹³ In Amy's opinion marriage was fit only for 'brood hens' and Mary did not fall into that category. Mary was to have a career befitting her 'birth and genius', and early plans to marry in New Zealand were rigorously opposed.

The influence which this frustrated and intelligent late Victorian woman had on her twentieth century daughter's career is well worth study, and the letters written by Amy and Mary provide a mine of information about this complex relationship.

Probably the most distinctive part of the collection is the series of letters from Mary to Fred. The first of these was written in January 1904 when fourteen year old Mary was on her way to Europe. Shortly after Mary returned to Christchurch in 1905 Fred was transferred to Wellington and regular correspondence again took place during Mary's last year at school. Mary then joined her father in Wellington and only spasmodically had occasion to communicate with him by letter during her first years at university. However in 1909 Fred was transferred to Timaru and the correspondence began again, Mary having stayed in Wellington in order to complete her M.Sc. Mary spent the next three years living in Timaru with Fred, and so their correspondence once again was only occasional. In 1913 Mary left for England. She and Fred agreed that they would write a 'daily page' informing each other of their activities. This resolution was never abandoned, and even though sometimes Mary's daily page was neglected week after week, it was very rarely the case that a month would pass without a letter. This frequent and intimate communication continued until Fred's death in 1932, the only significant gaps being in parts of 1917 (when Mary visited New Zealand) and of 1920 and 1923-1924 (when Fred was in England). Father and daughter were very close and although it is clear that Mary was not prepared to disclose every detail of her life to her father (she refused to let him see Dr Rank's report on his psychoanalysis of her in 1922), one feels that so far as her career and political activities were concerned (and these took up most of her time), Mary was very open with her father. This impression is confirmed by her warnings that he should not discuss her medical cases or publish her opinions without her express permission. Any lapse on Fred's part in this respect resulted in threats that future letters would have to be less frank and confiding. This series, then, provides an intimate and detailed account of Mary's life between the ages of fourteen and forty-two.

In 1904 Fred was surprised by the quantity and quality of his daughter's letters. A relation whom Mary visited in England described her as 'old for her years . . . she has self control . . . and could sit and listen to her mother's exaggerations quietly, and then just as quietly and calmly contradict the statements'.¹⁴ Her self-confidence