

women which they had never had before. More and more hospitals began to open up posts for women students and doctors. Mary's first job was at Bethlem, an exclusive private mental hospital. The position was at first temporary, but was later extended indefinitely. In August 1919 Mary left Bethlem in order to continue her studies. That year she obtained the Certificate in Psychological Medicine of the Medico-Psychological Association, and passed the examination for the M.B. degree of the University of London. However the War was now well over and finding another job was to prove difficult. At the end of 1919 she confided in her father, 'the prospects in Medecine [*sic*] are extremely depressing, there being at least 20 candidates, and often more, for every job, and there are yet some thousands of medical people to be demobilised.'¹⁸ Moreover priority was being given to returned soldiers. In January 1920 Mary was appointed house physician at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic; but the position was temporary. A colleague on the staff said that the appointment had been made for three months only because of anti-feminist prejudice. He felt that the board were trying to put off the time when they would have to appoint a woman permanently. Despite the temporary nature of her appointment Mary was able to stay at the National Hospital until about March 1921. After several months of unemployment she was appointed to another temporary position, this time at Hellesdon Hospital, a public mental hospital in Norwich. At the end of 1921 Mary left England in order to continue her studies of psychoanalysis in Europe. She spent two months in Germany gathering material for her M.D. thesis and then went to Austria where she spent five months mostly in Vienna.

One of Mary's primary objectives in visiting Europe was to undergo psychoanalysis herself. She felt that this was desirable for its therapeutic benefits and necessary if she was ever to truly understand how the process worked and be able to practise it herself. There was nobody in England who she believed had the necessary experience and ability to teach her, so she turned to the master—she wrote to Freud. However, Freud had a ten month waiting list and charged an exorbitant fee. He recommended that if Mary did not want to wait she should approach one of his pupils, Dr Rank of Vienna. Mary did so and was very satisfied with her choice. By May 1922 she had encountered Freud in person several times and felt

heartily glad Freud couldn't take me and sent me on to Rank; for apart from the fact that the double fee would have run me into some financial shortness . . . the more I see of Freud the less I like him, not that he isn't a marvellous man and has done extraordinary work; but he is so worshipped by his pupils that he adopts rather a