

# PERSONALITY PARADE

MISS MARY McLARTY was born of Scottish parents in the small West Cumberland town of Harrington and was educated at the local school, Keswick School, St. George's School, Harpenden, and at Durham University. She was a scholar of the University in Classics, took an Honours degree in Classics and Philosophy and subsequently an M.A.

Miss McLarty's career as an educationalist and worker for women's rights has been so crowded and

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successful that she has almost forgotten that she was once proficient in games, having played hockey, lacrosse, cricket and tennis in her school and university days. She found swimming difficult until she first plunged into the large salt-water bath at Durban in 1914 and then this sport too was added to her list of accomplishments. Of herself, Miss McLarty says: "I belong to the generation that agitated for votes for women. All, or most, University women of my time were suffragettes. I wrote articles, made speeches, carried banners in processions—all a good training for the Black Sash!"

Her teaching career in the Transvaal has been long and distinguished. From 1915 to 1918, she was Junior Latin mistress at the Johannesburg High School for Girls, which, this year, is celebrating its seventieth birthday. From 1919-1946 she guided the destinies of hundreds of pupils at the Jeppe High School for Girls, for twelve years as Senior Latin mistress and for fifteen years as Headmistress.

On her retirement, this indefatigable woman turned her attention to politics and was returned unopposed as M.P.C. for Kensington in 1949 and again in 1954. She has been associated at executive level with the High School Teachers' Association, the Classical Association, the Association of University women and the National Council of Women, for which on two occasions she acted as International Standing Committee member for Education. She has been a member of the Regional Committee of the Johannesburg Teachers' Training College for two periods of office and is the present Chairman.

Apart from educational interests, Miss McLarty has for many years been associated with the Institute of Race Relations and is at the moment a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Southern Transvaal Regional Committee. She also serves as Chairman of the Transvaal Girl Guides' Association. One of the most pleasant duties she performs is as a member of the Scholarship Committee of Barclays Bank, an office which each year brings her into touch with an outstanding cross-section of boys and girls from all parts of the country.



To the average Black Sash member, finding difficulty very often in coping with only her Sash duties, this impressive record of achievement must be little short of phenomenal. It is a record of service—service to the country of her adoption, to her fellow women and, above all, to the youth of South Africa. It is hardly surprising that Miss McLarty confesses: "I have no leisure. One day I hope to have time to read and possess my soul." Perhaps it is some consolation to her that her example serves as an inspiration, not only to every member of the Black Sash, but to all with whom she comes in contact.

"Humanity" is an ennobling concept; to think of "humanity" and to think for "humanity" however narrowly the bounds are drawn, is an achievement for the limited mind of the individual man, the greatest achievement which civilisation has to its credit and the object, in the end, of all civilisation.

—C. V. Wedgwood.