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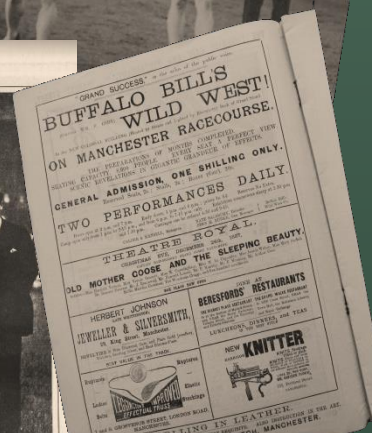
Female Employees and the Victorian Public Baths: Post-1878

Dave Day

MMU SpLeisH - #spleishcol16

Twitter: @SpLeisH @natationist

<http://www.cheshire.mmu.ac.uk/sport-history/>



Separate Spheres in Victorian Period

- Compartmentalized view of the world
- Postulates a dichotomy between feminine home and male workplace
- Sphere boundaries full of fissures



August, Andrew. How separate a sphere? Poor women and paid work in late-Victorian London. *Journal of Family History*, 1994, 19(3), 285-310

St. George's-in-the-East, London, 1887	
Occupation	Percent of Wives Employed
General Labourers	27.2
Dock Labourers	25.0
Shoe Makers	23.8
Bricklayers	21.7
Railway Porters	15.4
Carpenters	13.2
Butchers	12.3
Bakers	11.3
All Employed Men	20.1

However, the *Spectator* maintained in 1893 that women's labour lowered men's wages and degraded women

Early/Mid Victorian Bathing



1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act

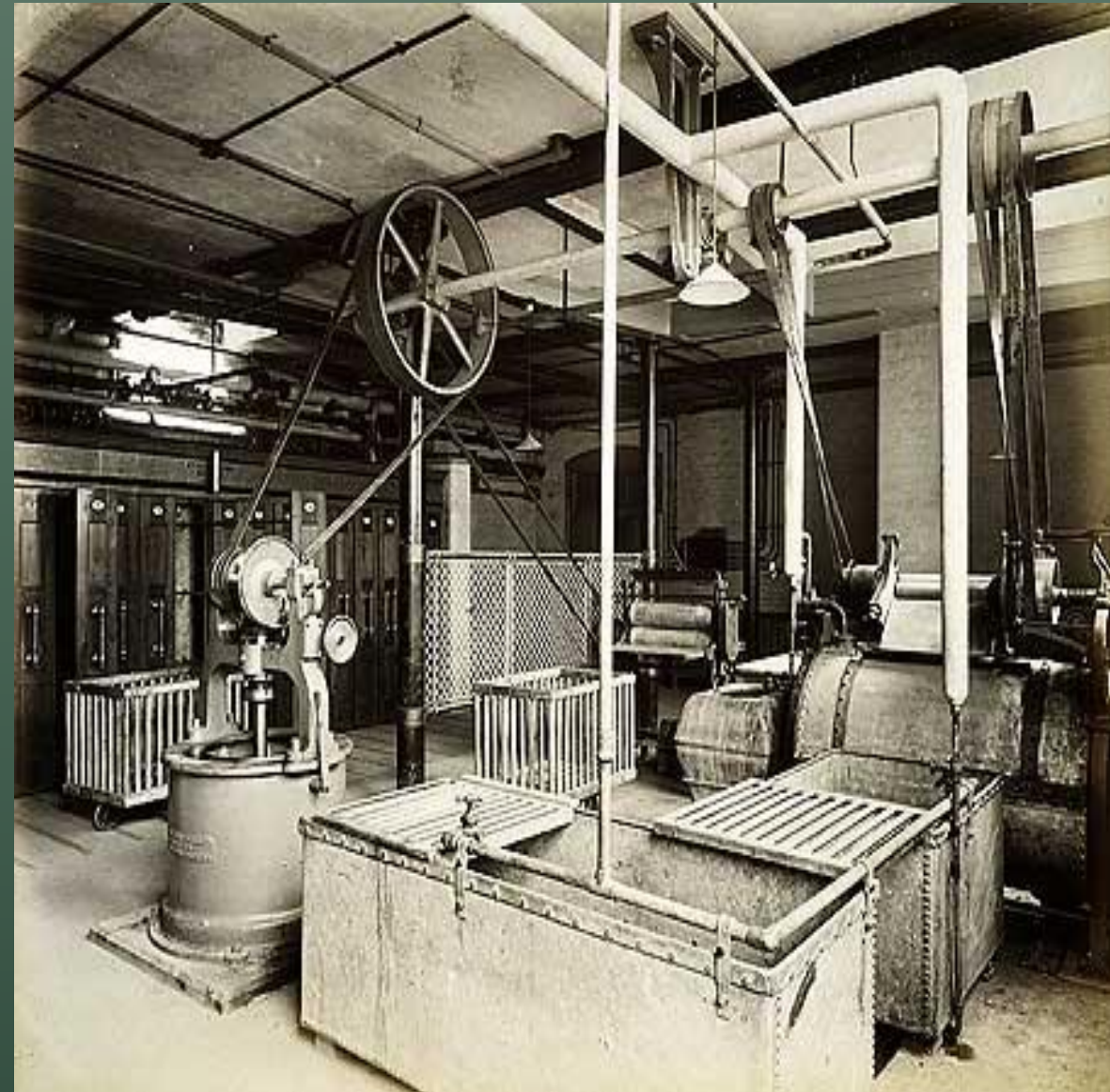
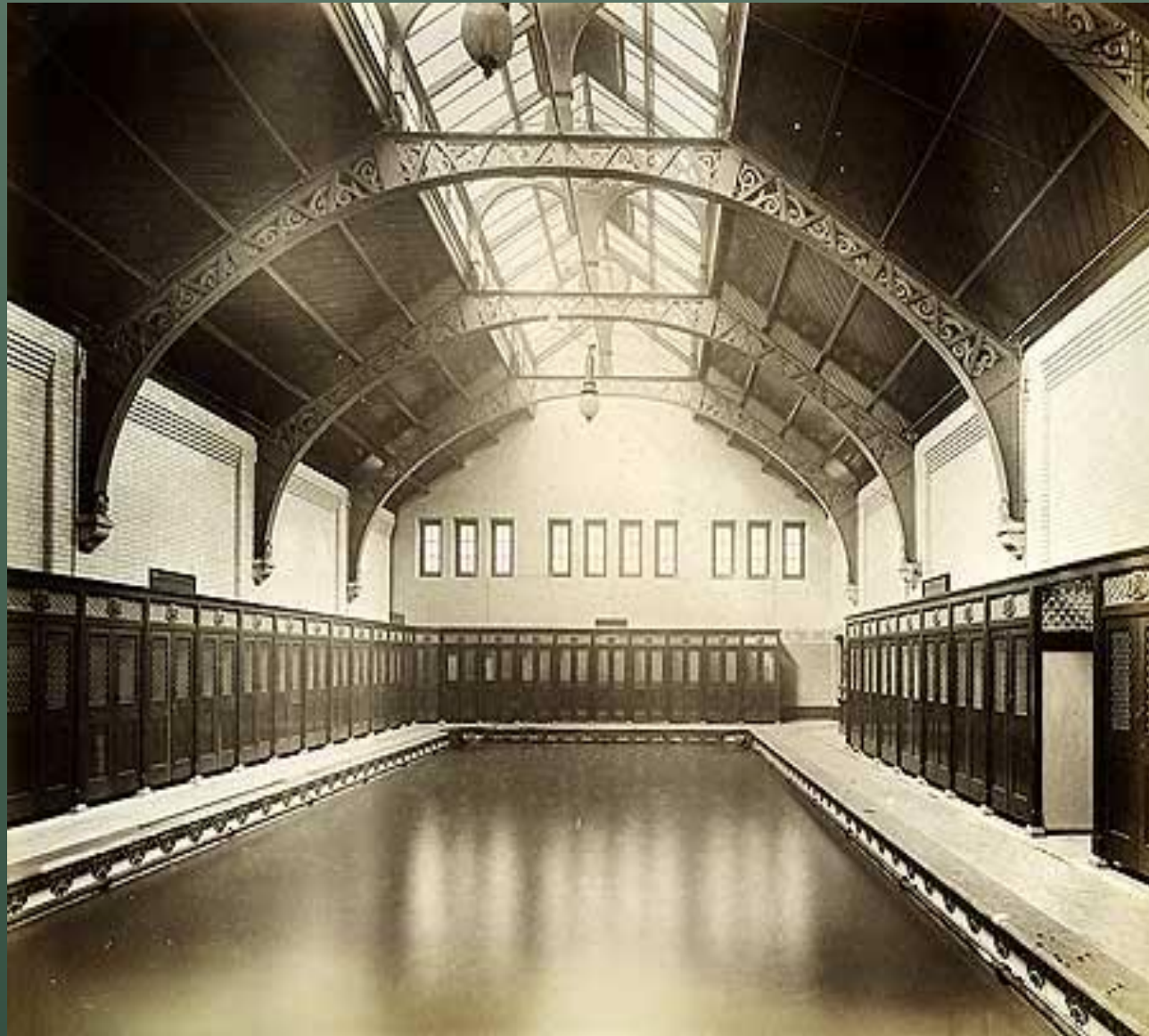
Empowered Local Authorities to Provide Covered Swimming Baths



Table 1. From Sea to Baths

Census	Bathers	Swimming Mistresses
1871	26	9
1881	9	21
1891	4	37
1901	1	49
1911	2	110

Newington Ladies Bath and Laundry Room 1898



Arthur Ashpitel. *Observations on baths and wash-houses, with an account of their history: an abstract of the acts of parliament relating thereto, etc.* LSE Selected Pamphlets (1852), 15, 19.

Staff at Baths	£	s	d
Superintendent and matron (living in the house)	2	2	0
Engineer and two stokers	4	5	0
Eight Bath Attendants	7	4	0
Washers, Money Takers and Scourers	4	0	0
Total	17	11	0

Table 2. Female Baths Employees (1871-1911) (N) = 1,793

Census	Bath Attendants	Matrons	Clerks and Cashiers
1871	75	17	4
1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act			
1881	130	31	19
1891	174	35	28
1901	288	62	106
1911	455	114	120

Table 3. Marital Status

Census	Clerks and Cashiers	Single (Widowed)	Matrons	Single (Widowed)
1871	4	100%	17	29%
1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act				
1881	19	89%	31	23%
1891	28	96%	35	9%
1901	106	97%	62	15%
1911	120	96%	114	10%

Table 4. Matrons' Family Connections

Surname	First Name	Husband's Occupation	1881	1891	1901	1911
Baker	Jane	Baths Superintendent and Engineer			√	√
Billings	Frances	Superintendent of Public Baths			√	√
Fey	Lucy	Superintendent of Public Baths			√	√
Inkster	Elizabeth	Superintendent of Public Baths	√	√	√	
Lloyd	Ann	Superintendent of Public Baths	√	√		
Newman	Catherine	Superintendent of Public Baths		√		√
Newton	Mary	Public Baths Superintendent			√	√
Potter	Martha	Baths Superintendent		√	√	√
Prior	Esther	Superintendent of Baths	√	√		
Whitehead	Annie	Superintendent of Baths		√	√	
Wilkinson	Hannah	Public Baths Superintendent			√	√

Leeds Times, March 30, 1895.

CITY OF LEEDS.

The Baths Committee invite applications for the following appointments at the Kirkstall-road Baths:—

MANAGER AND WIFE at a joint salary of 30s. per week, with house, coals and gas. Applicants to state the number of family (if any) and their ages.

ENGINEER, to attend to engine, boiler and laundry machinery, and to be able to do general repairs. Wages 28s. per week.

SWIMMING BATHS ATTENDANT, who must be able to swim. Wages 24s. per week.

Particulars of the duties and hours may be obtained on application at my office.

Applications stating age, with copies of two recent testimonials and endorsed "Manager," "Engineer," or "Baths Attendant," as the case may be to be addressed The Baths Committee, Town Hall, Leeds, and delivered not later than noon on Thursday the 4th April.

JNO. HARRISON, Town Clerk.

29th March, 1895.

Liverpool Mercury, April 20, 1899.

PUBLIC BATHS.—FEMALE ATTENDANT AND CLERK.—The Markets and Baths Committee of the Corporation of Birkenhead invite applications for the post of Female Attendant and Ticket Clerk at the Public Baths, Argyle-street South, at a salary of 20s. per week. The person to be appointed must be between 30 and 40 years of age, and able to swim.—Applications in the candidate's own handwriting, stating age and qualifications and previous experience, together with not more than three testimonials, to be sent in to me, endorsed "Public Baths Attendant," not later than 12 at noon on Monday, the 24th April, 1899.—By order.

ALFRED GILL, Town-clerk
Town Hall, Birkenhead, 17th April, 1899.



Table 5. Bath Attendants

Census	Bath Attendants	Single (Widowed)	Family Connection
1871	75	64%	39%
1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act			
1881	130	73%	34%
1891	174	69%	26%
1901	288	83%	18%
1911	455	76%	15%

Table 6. Class Origins

Surname	First	Job Title	Father's/Husband's Occupation	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Barber	Annie	Baths Assistant	Naval Pensioner		✓	✓		
Chudley	Elizabeth	Bath Attendant	Restaurant Waiter				✓	✓
Clark	Lucy	Bath Attendant	Firewood Cutter			✓	✓	✓
Crawford	Mary	Bath Attendant	Shoe Salesman		✓	✓		
King	Fanny	Bath Attendant	Pump Maker		✓	✓		
Knowles	Mary	Bath Attendant	Coachman and Gardener			✓	✓	
Melvin	Charlotte	Bath Attendant	Mechanical Engineer				✓	✓
Moss	Sarah	Bath Attendant	Railway Engine Driver				✓	✓
Packham	Alice	Bath Attendant	Night Watchman				✓	✓
Smith	Susan	Bath Attendant	Carpenter	✓	✓	✓		

Ladies Morning at the Bath Club



Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine, July 1, 1881.

WOMEN'S UNION SWIMMING CLUB.

Office : 36, Great Queen Street, W.C.

Formed November 6th, 1878.

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Hawkins. Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Paterson.

Entrance Fee, One Shilling, subscription, Three Shillings a year, payable by instalments, monthly during winter and weekly during summer.

The Club has the use of a Large

TEPID SWIMMING BATH

at the

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD BATHS,

During the Summer, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PRICE OF ADMISSION, TWOPENCE.

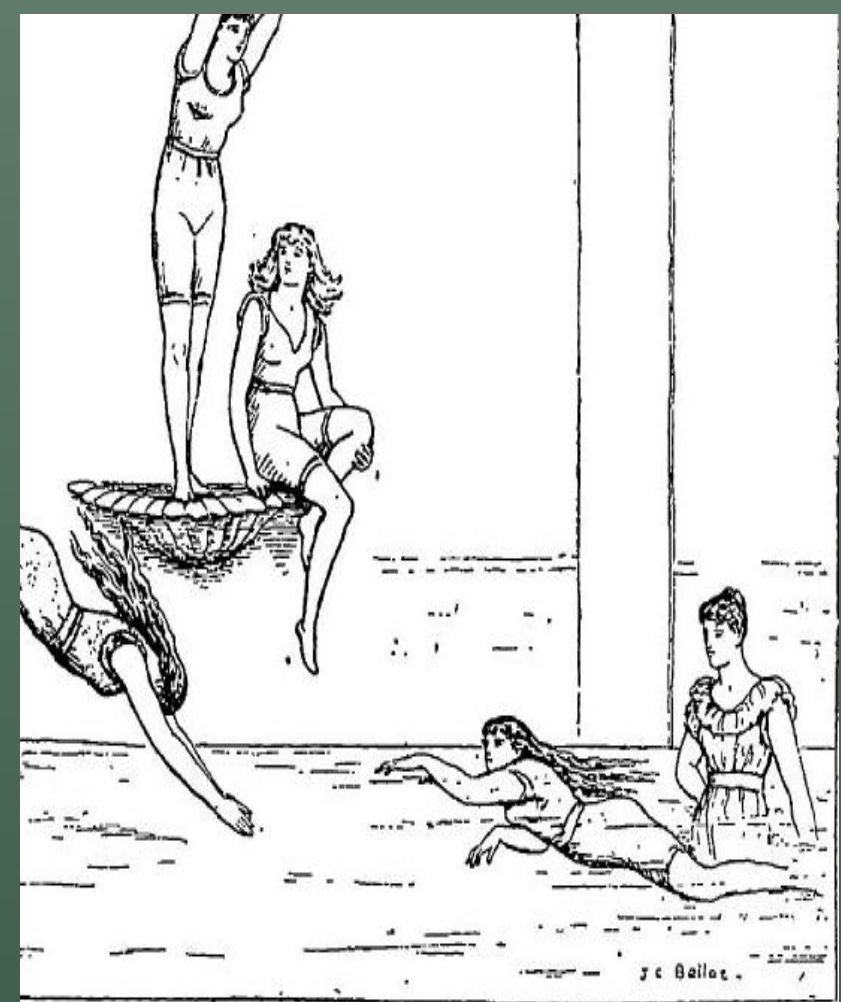
Members may receive Lessons in Swimming, from Miss Young, the Professional Teacher engaged by the Club, between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30 p.m.



Nellie Easton



Natationists and Teaching



LADIES: SWIMMING, UNDER MISS SINCLAIR'S TUITION, AT THE CHELSEA BATHS.

Penny Illustrated Paper,
July 15, 1893.



Table 7. Family Connections

Surname	First Name	Job Title	Father's Occupation	1881	1891	1901	1911
Howarth	Frances	Swimming Teacher	Baths Manager	√	√		
Howarth	Edith	Teacher of Swimming	Baths Manager		√		
Leahy	Honora	Swimming Teacher	Swimming Teacher		√		
Leahy	Amy	Swimming Teacher	Swimming Teacher		√	√	
McGarrick	Annie	Swimming Instructor	Baths Superintendant		√	√	
Leadbetter	Margaret	Teacher of Swimming	Baths Manager			√	
Leadbetter	Edna	Swimming Instructress	Baths Manager				√
Leadbetter	Elsie	Swimming Instructress	Baths Manager				√
Davey	Jessie	Swimming Mistress	Baths Superintendant			√	√
Hall	Gertrude	Swimming Instructress	Baths Superintendant		√	√	√

Table 8. Class Origins

Surname	First Name	Job Title	Father's Occupation	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Buckingham	Charlotte	Swimming Teacher	Coachbuilder			√	√	
Classey	Eleanor	Swimming Mistress	Boat maker		√	√	√	
Daly	Agnes	Swimming Instructress	Shoemaker			√	√	√
Easton	Fanny	Swimming Mistress	Bootmaker/cordwainer		√	√	√	√
Hodge	Edith	Swimming Instructress	Fitter engineer					√
Humphrey	Charlotte	Teacher of Swimming	Shoemaker/Boat builder	√	√	√	√	√
Humphrey	Jane	Teacher of Swimming	Shoemaker/Boat builder		√	√	√	√
Parkes	Lillian	Swimming Mistress	Plasterer				√	
Purcell	Mary	Swimming Mistress	Leather shoe maker				√	√
Watt	Mary	Teacher of Swimming	Pilot			√	√	√

Future Directions

- 'Separate Spheres'
- Specific baths' communities

Dave Day

@SpLeisH

#spleishcol16

