

## Rhoda Anstey (1865 – 1936)

Rhoda was born on a farm in Devon and, before entering Madame's college, was the manager of the family dairy farm. Rhoda entered the Hampstead Physical Training College in 1893. After completing the course in 1895, she started a health centre called the Hygienic Home for Ladies at New Cross Farm in Somerset. She then moved her establishment to The Leasowes, Halesowen from where, in 1879, she launched the Anstey Physical Training College.

Rhoda was a founder member of the Ling Association and by 1907 she had relocated her college to Chester Road, in Erdington. Rhoda was a keen supporter of the women's suffrage movement and in 1909 was a founder member of the Gymnastics Teachers' Suffrage Society. She and some of her students took part in suffrage marches. In 1911 Rhoda gave no answers to the census recorders and wrote on the form:

*No Vote No Census! I protest against the injustice done to women rate-payers by the continued refusal of the government to give them the vote, and hereby refuse to fill in the census forms for my household.' Rhoda Anstey, Principal of Anstey College.*

Rhoda was a member of the Women's Temperance Association, the Food and Dress Reform League and the Women's Social and Political Union.

<https://www.search.connectinghistories.org.uk/details.aspx>

*Women and her Sphere. 1911 census stories Suffrage Stories* by Elizabeth Crawford