

Contents

Introduction	11
1 Social, Medical, and Economic Discourses of Female Age(ing).....	23
1.1 Defining the Onset of Old Age.....	24
1.2 Medical Conceptions of Female Ageing	27
1.3 The Socio-Cultural Roles Available to Older Women	34
2 Providing Room to Grow: Intergenerational Conflict and Collaboration in the Periodical Press.....	47
2.1 Female Desexualisation at Midlife	54
2.2 A New Mode of Spinsterhood	61
2.3 Revolting Daughters and Conservative Mothers	71
2.4 New Versus Old Women.....	77
2.5 Continuity and Collaboration	82
3 Possessing a Room of One's Own: Self-Sacrifice and the Reclamation of Space in New Woman Fiction	91
3.1 Visibility in the Public Domain	94
3.2 The Appropriation of Private Space	102
3.3 Confined Spaces and Dysfunctional Mother-Daughter Relationships	107
3.3.1 "Virgin Soil" and the Motif of Entrapment	108
3.3.2 'Choos[ing] Rooms for Mother and Me': <i>Nobody's Fault</i> and the Dutiful Daughter	119
3.3.3 Spatio-Temporal Confinement in <i>The Daughters of Danaus</i>	129
3.3.4 <i>George Mandeville's Husband</i> and the Subversion of Gendered Space.....	145
3.4 Intergenerational 'Dialogue Spaces': Regeneration and Self-Determination	157
3.4.1 From Pitiable Old Maid to 'Tenderest Mother': Surrogate Motherhood in <i>Joanna Traill, Spinster</i>	158
3.4.2 Female Self-Realisation and the 'Secret Chamber' in <i>The Beth Book</i>	169

4	·	Claiming the Public Sphere: The Fight for the Vote as a Fight across Generations in (Anti-)Suffrage Fiction	187
4.1		Age, Leadership, and Political Power.....	192
4.2		Staging a Public Performance.....	202
4.3		‘Motherhood of the Nation’: Maternal Reformism and Political Activism	207
4.3.1		Maternal Responsibility and Political Commitment in <i>The Home-Breakers</i>	209
4.3.2		‘Led by the perpetual influence of the older mind’: Inadequate Mother Figures in <i>Delia Blanchflower</i>	216
4.4		Maternal Guidance and the Appropriation of Politicised Spaces	227
4.4.1		<i>The Judge</i> and the Adulation of Heroic Mothers.....	229
4.4.2		The ‘Little Old Lady’ as Political Agent in <i>Ann Veronica</i> and <i>The Call</i>	237
4.4.3		Imprisonment and the Maternal Role in <i>No Surrender</i>	254
		Conclusion.....	267
		Bibliography.....	273