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S Dr. Anna H. Shaw
NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

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BIOGRAPHICAL SERVICE

DR. ANNA HOWARD SHAW

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw is a clergyman. She was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, February 14, 1847, daughter of Thomas and Nicholas Stott Shaw. When she was four years old the family emigrated to Massachusetts, and subsequently removed to Big Rapids, Michigan, where she received a common school education. She began teaching at fifteen and taught for five years. Her eloquence as a public speaker led the district conference of the Methodist Church, of which she was a member, to grant her a local preacher's license, which was annually renewed for eight years.

In 1872, she entered Albion College, Michigan, and in 1875, the theological department of Boston University, from which she was graduated with honors in 1878. During the last year of her course she was pastor of the Methodist Church of Bingham, Massachusetts. Her second pastorate was the Methodist Church of East Dennis on Cape Cod, where she remained seven years, and for six years of that time supplied also the Congregational Church of Dennis.

Although she passed the best examination of any candidate, she was refused ordination on account of her sex by the New England Methodist Episcopal Conference. Her case was again refused when appealed to the General Conference in Cincinnati in 1880, and she then applied to the New York Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, being the first woman ordained in that denomination.

She supplemented her theological degree by a Doctor of Medicine degree at Boston University.

Becoming deeply interested in practical reform, she finally resigned her pastorate to lecture for the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association, and was also National Superintendent of Franchise for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In 1892, she was elected vice-president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and in 1904 became its president, which office she resigned in 1915.

Since 1915, Dr. Shaw has been Honorary President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and is giving her time to lecturing on the Suffrage movement in the various States.