



Extract from the Old Edwardian's Newsletter, 1910.

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### A fitting typo!

King Edward VI High School for Girls proudly reports the achievements of its ex-pupil, Ida Smedley. In a fitting typographical error, its Old Edwardian's newsletter announced that Smedley in February 1910 had been the only woman to receive one of the ten inaugural 'Best' (actually Beit) Fellowships.

Immediately below, the newsletter announces a new publication by Ida's sister, Constance. Both were prolific. Constance wrote over 40 books in her lifetime, including plays, novels and children's fiction. Ida's scientific output was at least as impressive. In the *Biochemical Journal* alone, Ida published 35 articles between 1920 and 1941 – a total only one other female contributor had surpassed at this point.

News of the award travelled much further afield. A review of notable female inventors in the *Western Mail* (Perth, Australia) included a mention of Smedley's Beit Fellowship and associated Assistant Lectureship at Manchester University.<sup>1</sup> It is a mark of its assumed importance that this featured alongside the names of **Marie Curie** and **Marie Stopes**.

<sup>1</sup> 'Women as Inventors', *Western Mail* (Perth, Aus), 12 August 1911, p. 39.