

'A SOCIALIST WOMAN HAS EX-COUNCILLOR.

DEATH OF MRS. MAUD DIGHTAM, OF LEEDS.

Ashes to be Scattered On Ilkley Moor.

The death has taken place, at her home, of Mrs. Maud Dightam, the wife of Mr. A. E. Dightam, of 216 York Road, Leeds.

Mrs. Dightam was one of the first women councillors in Leeds. She was elected for the old East Ward (now the Osmondthorpe and Richmond Hill Ward) in 1921, at the same time that Mrs. Gertrude Dennison was elected for the West Ward.

Mrs. Dightam had a majority of 1,200 over two opponents, but she did not stand again



Mrs. Dightam.

at the end of her three years' term. She was an ardent worker for the Socialist party in Leeds, and that, combined with her private duties, placed a strain upon her time and energies. On the City Council, she was a member of the Cleansing, Health and Education Committees.

Mrs. Dightam, who was 57, had been ill for over a year. She married a Leeds man and had one

daughter. She was a niece of the late Mr. Thomas Winn, the well-known Leeds architect. Her family went to Wales when she was a child, but she remained in Leeds with an uncle and aunt. Her people afterwards moved to Lancashire, and her brother came to Leeds to work. He was a Socialist, and unsuccessfully tried to convert his sister. After he went back to Lancashire she began to read books he had left behind, and became a Socialist.

She was instrumental in forming the Leeds Women's Labour League, and was one of the founders of the East Leeds Socialist Sunday School. She was one of the first members of a Labour Church, held in a mission room in Victoria Road, Meadow Lane, to which many well-known Leeds Socialists have belonged.

A Popular Speaker.

Mrs. Dightam was a forceful and popular speaker. She addressed hundreds of meetings in the industrial areas of the West Riding. During her last illness she still worked for the Socialist cause. She practically got out of bed to vote at the municipal elections of 1931.

The largest meeting she ever addressed was a miners' demonstration on the moors outside Wakefield, during the General Strike, which thousands of people attended. At different times she had been president, vice-president, and secretary of the Women's Central Committee of the Leeds Labour party. She spoke many times in Leeds Town Hall, and was invited to speak at nearly every May Day demonstration of the Leeds Labour party.

Mrs. Dightam was cremated, to-day, at Lawnwood. Her ashes, in accordance with a request she made ten days before she died, will be scattered on Ilkley Moor.