

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 1925



Anita Pollitzer

Secretary of the National Woman's Party and one of the outstanding figures in the Feminist Movement in America. Miss Pollitzer plans to spend a considerable part of the winter in Washington, D. C., where she will work for the passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

Feminist Notes

British Women Scientists

NINETEEN women contributed papers to the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which concluded its meetings at Southampton on September 2. Only one woman, Lynda Grier, head of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, had charge of a section. Miss Grier presided over the Economics Section, and read a paper on "The Meaning of Wages." Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan opened a discussion on "Deviations from the Normal Course of Sexual Reproduction in Plants." Two other women were the principal speakers in this discussion. Botany, food preservation, heredity, land economics, anthropology and psychology were subjects on which women contributed papers resulting from their own researches.

Woman Appointed Customs Collector

EDDIE McCALL PRIEST of Huntingdon, Tennessee, has been appointed Collector of Customs for Tennessee and Arkansas at the port of Memphis. President Coolidge issued the commission on September 23 to Mrs. Priest, the first woman ever to hold this position. It is also regarded as the most important public position ever held by a woman in Tennessee.

Mrs. Priest is the daughter of Mrs. John E. McCall of Memphis. Mrs. McCall was one of the few Tennessee women who, during the dark days of 1917-18-19, supported the National Woman's Party campaign for suffrage by Federal Amendment. Mrs. Priest was herself a valiant suffrage worker before the disorganization of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association, and she has always been one of the more steadfast of the progressive women of the State. Her father was United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee for years until his death in 1920.

In politics Mrs. Priest is a Republican, married to a Democrat, and with Democratic antecedents on her mother's side. She was one of the first women from Tennessee to attend a national convention as a delegate, and is now vice-chairman of the Republican State Committee of Tennessee.

In her contest for the appointment she was supported by Congressman J. Will Taylor over Charles E. Hinkle, who had held the post for four years. Congressman Taylor is a Republican National committeeman. He took the position that some of the major appointments should go to women, and he made a valiant fight for Mrs. Priest on this ground.

To League Assembly

MRS. R. B. MACKINNON of Sydney, New South Wales, has been appointed substitute delegate in the Australian delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva. Mrs. Mackinnon is editor of the *Red Cross Record* and a member of the Senate of the University of New South Wales.

Questions Asked Office Seekers

AMONG the questions asked candidates for the Assembly by the New York League of Women Voters are:

Are you in favor of amending the law so as to enable women to serve on juries on the same terms as men?

Are you in favor of revision of the law so that (a) married women may choose their voting residence? (b) Men and women shall be equally liable in cases of commercialized vice?

Are you in favor of a 48-hour week for women in factories and mercantile establishments?

If, as the question implies, the women want the answers to be "Yes" to all these questions, they have put themselves in the position of favoring equality in three fields and inequality in industry.

For Woman Suffrage in Argentina

SUFFRAGE for native or naturalized Argentine women over 22 years of age is advocated in a bill recently introduced into the parliament by the Radical deputy, Leopold Bard.

Egyptian Feminist Here

HODA CHARAOUI, leading feminist of Egypt, spent the month of September visiting her daughter, who is wife of the Egyptian Minister to the United States in Washington. Ceza Nabarawi, editor of *La Revue Egyptienne*, leading feminist magazine of Egypt, accompanied her. Mme. Charaoui said that women will ask for limited suffrage in Egypt in about five years. They are now working for laws to prevent polygamy among the lower classes. They already have laws providing for equal education for men and women, and prohibiting the marriage of girls under sixteen.

Bengal Women Enfranchised

WOMEN of Bengal have been granted the right to vote by the Bengal Legislative Council. The women of Madras, Bombay, United Provinces, Assam and Burma are also enfranchised.

Miss Bondfield Appointed

MARGARET G. BONDFIELD, J.P., who held a position in the Labour Government, has been appointed a member of the Oversea Settlement Committee by the British Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs. Miss Bondfield was in Canada as leader of a deputation making a special investigation on emigration when the last general election was announced. It was thought that this caused her to lose her seat in the Government.

Belgian Woman Burgomaster

ME. DE BROWN DE TIEGE is the first woman burgomaster in Belgium. She is burgomaster of Waillet, a parish near Dinant.

Bryan's Daughter to Run for Congress

RUTH BRYAN OWEN, daughter of the late William Jennings Bryan, has announced her intention of entering the Democratic primaries in Florida for a legislative seat from the Miami district.

Women's Industrial and Art Exhibit

MORE than one thousand women exhibited their work in the fourth annual Exposition of Women's Arts and Industries in New York City September 21-26. Women painters, black-and-white artists, writers, dancers, social workers, home economists, importers, designers, lace manufacturers, haberdashers, tea-room managers, beauty experts, interior decorators, printers, clothiers, librarians, gas plant managers, criminologists, engravers, musicians, cooks, Oriental rug experts, renting service directors, sales instructors, textile experts, advertising managers, inventors, furriers, actresses, florists, shoppers, candy manufacturers, silver fox raisers, and others were represented in the 200 exhibits.

This exhibition is designed not only to publicize women's achievements, but to help girls still in college and high school choose their occupations and plan training for their business, trade, profession, art, or industry. Prizes are offered to high school girls, who were admitted free. The *New Yorker*, a weekly magazine, gave a bronze medal for the best work done by a woman in black and white during the past year.

The New York City Committee of the National Woman's Party was among the exhibitors, showing the work being done for Equal Rights. The New York League of Women Voters demonstrated the operation of a voting machine.

To Advance Women's Health and Happiness

THE establishment and forthcoming award of the Agamede Medal, in gold "to be awarded to that woman citizen of the American republic, who is adjudged to have performed during the past year the most distinguished service in advancing the health and happiness of American women generally," is announced by the Women's Foundation for Health.

The Agamede Gold Medal may be conferred upon any woman, whether she is a scientist or not. The winner may be a housewife, an actress, a business woman, or a woman of wealth and social position. The only requisite is that she shall have performed some signal service in aiding the health and happiness of other American women and girls.

The name "Agamede" was chosen because it is that of the first woman in classic literature (other than goddesses of mythology) who brought health and happiness to fellow human beings. Agamede was a Grecian woman mentioned by Homer in the "Iliad." She lived perhaps 4,000 years ago.

No honor similar to the Agamede Gold Medal has heretofore been established. The Gold Medal of the American Medical Association, not awarded in recent years, is limited in its conferment to scientists. So also is the Lister Medal, a British award; so is the Alvarenga Prize of the Philadelphia College of Physicians. The decorations conferred by the leading scientific bodies of France, the Academie de Medecine, the Academie des Sciences, and the Faculte de Medecine de Paris, are similarly restricted to scientific researchers. The Fothergillian Gold Medal awarded by the Medical Society of London, the prizes awarded by the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal Academy of Sciences are all bestowed upon scientists only, and a similar limitation applies to the various awards for service in medicine or public hygiene which are awarded by Harvard, Columbia, and other American institutions.

In addition to the gold medal, the Agamede Bronze Medal struck from the same die, is to be awarded by the Women's Foundation for Health to one woman, "who has signally aided the health and happiness of other women and girls" in each of the forty-eight States and the District of Columbia. The winner of the Agamede Gold Medal is to be chosen from among the winners of the Agamede Bronze Medal in the various States. Any one may send in the name of a woman deserving the Agamede Bronze Medal. The replies are to be sent to the Dean of Women of a leading college or university in each State.

The Women's Foundation for Health

is an associate member of the National Health Council, of which the United States Public Health Service is an advisory member. The American Medical Association, through its Council on Health and Public Instruction, has for-

and maintaining healthy minds and bodies, not primarily of fighting against disease."

The President of the Women's Foundation for Health is Dr. Martha Tracy, dean of the Women's Medical College, Philadelphia. The first vice-president is Mary E. Wooley, president of Mt. Holyoke College for Women, South Hadley, Massachusetts. The second vice-president is Mrs. J. R. Schermerhorn of East Orange, New Jersey, a former vice-president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The secretary is Mrs. Drury W. Cooper of Montclair, New Jersey, who is president of the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers. The treasurer is Eleanor Clarke Slagle of New York City, who is secretary-treasurer of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

The Executive Committee is composed of these officers and Mrs. Milton L'Ecluse of Huntington, Long Island, who is a former president of the New York branch of the American Association of University Women; and Anna E. Pierce, dean of the New York State College for Teachers, Albany.

The Board of Directors is composed of the members of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Anne T. Bingham of New York City, psychiatrist, Girl's Service League of America; Dr. Eva Blake of Philadelphia, lecturer, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; Dr. P. S. Bordeaux of Baltimore, National Superintendent of Health, Woman's Christian Temperance Union; Dr. Valeria Parker of New York City, Director, Department of Protective Measures, American Social Hygiene Association; Dr. Ellen C. Potter of Harrisburg, Secretary of Welfare, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Marie Sellers of New York City, and Martha Westfall, director of Home Making of the Public Schools, New York City.

The present twenty-eight members of the foundation are those already named, and the following:

Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Rogers H. Bacon, Mrs. Coffin Van Rensselaer, Fannie M. Pollak, National League of Girl's Clubs, Estelle M. Sternberger, Josephine Petts, Teachers' College, Columbia University, Jean Moehle and Katharine S. Anthony, all of New York City; Dr. Mae Hall Habenicht, Des Moines, Iowa; Gertrude D. King, Y. W. C. A., Atlantic City, New Jersey; Mrs. Henry Wallace, Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Sarah Sweet Windsor, Boston, Massachusetts; Dr. Lenna L. Means, Medical Director, Esse V. Hathaway, executive secretary of the Foundation, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

What Women Are Thinking

A WIVES' TRADE UNION?

In The Vote.

TRADE UNIONS for work outside the home are very popular with men, who have found them of inestimable value in regulating wages and hours. We wonder if a Wives' Trade Union would be equally popular with them? Last week a wife's application for a separation on the grounds that her husband failed to provide reasonable maintenance for herself and their five children, because out of a wage of 50s. he allowed her only 35s. housekeeping allowance, was dismissed by the Bath Bench of magistrates. The magistrates' clerk said that "a lot of people can manage on that," when the woman explained that the allowance had to cover food for seven people, boots, clothing and rent.

There is no trade union to support a wife in a claim to an adequate proportion of her husband's wages, salary, or income. Yet the Government and local governing bodies do everything in their power to prevent a married woman taking outside paid employment! Alderman Ben Turner, a trade union leader, recently told a representative of "The Leeds Mercury" that "no married woman should be employed in textile factories unless there is a legitimate reason—for instance, a sick or out-of-work husband." We think the expression of such a view is sheer impertinence on the part of any man.

mally recommended the general adoption of the program of the Women's Foundation for Health as a means of improving health standards and has urged all physicians to assist it wherever possible.

"Better health for women" is the general aim of the Women's Foundation for Health. In line with this, the Foundation has been working "to secure among all women the recognition of the principle that health, mental and physical, is a positive fact in life, not a mere absence of disease; that it consists of developing

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 13, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

The Bar Sinister

TO the unprejudiced mind there would seem to be one unalienable right surpassing all others—the right to work for a living. The Constitution of the United States has been interpreted, times over, as guaranteeing this right to men, under the guise of protecting the most essential kind of property. Yet to one class of women, married women, this right is frequently denied.

Marriage thus becomes a sort of bar sinister, a matter of shame and inconvenience to the married woman. With the passage of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment it may be anticipated that this unjust and subversive attitude on the part of society will become altered so that the married woman may enter into fair competition with other men and women in honestly earning her livelihood.

Alimony and Equal Rights

THE recent declaration by Supreme Court Justice Strong that, "In these days of equal rights there is no reason why a woman should receive alimony except where there are children," cannot but evoke mingled feelings in the hearts of feminists. In the first place it is interesting to learn that so wise a man as Justice Strong recognizes that the day of Equal Rights has dawned, and in the second place it is charming to be assured that in his measured opinion women not only can, but ought to stand on their own feet. At the same time there is something disconcerting in the agile way in which he takes at a leap the chasm separating present conditions from conditions as they ought to be. What, for example, would Justice Strong say to the plight of the woman in those States where her services and earnings belong to her husband? Or that of the woman living in such commonwealths as legally endow the husband alone with the control of the joint property of his wife and himself? And again, what of the unequal inheritance and divorce laws?

In the past alimony has been conceived of as a sort of compensation for the innumerable disabilities put upon women in consequence of marriage. While we like neither the disabilities nor the compensation, and would gladly see them both cast into the uttermost limbo, still we realize that eliminating alimony without the simultaneous institution of equal rights may subject a considerable number of women to a severe, if wholesome, discipline.

A community which denies married women equal opportunities in the gainful occupations, which restricts their power of contract, and presents their services and earnings to their husbands, must of necessity make some provision for the painful day when the erstwhile means to a livelihood goes shipwreck. There is no justice in demanding that women regard sex in marriage as a dignified means to earning a living and then all of a sudden cut the props out from under. We enthusiastically commend Justice Strong's attitude, but at the same time we commend to his practical attention the following demands of the National Woman's Party as embodied in the Declaration of Principles:

THAT the wife shall no longer be considered as supported by the husband, but their mutual contribution to the family maintenance shall be recognized.

THAT the husband shall no longer own his wife's services, but these shall belong to her alone as in the case of any other free person.

THAT the husband shall no longer own or control his wife's property, but it shall belong to her and be controlled by her alone.

THAT the husband shall no longer control the joint property of his wife and himself, but the husband and wife shall have equal control of their joint property.

THAT the husband shall no longer obtain divorce more easily than the wife, but the wife shall have the right to obtain divorce on the same grounds as the husband.

Equality for Women of All Nations

WOMEN delegates to the Interparliamentary Union are offering a resolution in the meeting of that body October 1-6 calling for complete equality for men and women in all nations.

The resolution will come up appropriately in connection with the discussion already on the agenda of the declaration of the rights of men, which it is proposed that the Interparliamentary Union will adopt and submit to all nations having members in the Union, as well as to the League of Nations. It is proposed to include in this declaration, according to the agenda, complete equality for all people regardless of race, religion, or sex. The statement of the declaration as already announced is in very general terms and is not regarded by feminist leaders as sufficiently specific in regard to the equality of women.

A committee of eminent women organized by the National Woman's Party, under the direction of Alice Paul, is attending sessions of the Union, talking with the delegates, notably women delegates, in regard to the passage of a very definite resolution urging the removal of all dis-

criminations against women in all countries.

Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence of England, whose husband is a member of the Union, is one of the Woman's Party committee. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence is already a member of the International Committee of the National Woman's Party organized by Miss Paul and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont in Europe during the last year.

Mrs. Jacob Riis of New York is also attending the conference at the invitation of Miss Paul to talk in particular with the delegates from the Scandinavian countries.

Mrs. John Jay White of New York, Lelia Enders, the New Jersey chairman of the Woman's Party; Lina Direkktor, former Connecticut chairman of the Woman's Party, are among the others who are speaking during the week in Washington, working in the interests of the resolution.

On Sunday, October 4, at 3 P. M., the Woman's Party will give a reception at its Headquarters, opposite the Capitol, for all the women delegates and the wives and daughters of the delegates attending the Union. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will

speak at this reception and will also speak in Baltimore and in other cities on her way to Washington.

The importance of international conferences from the viewpoint of women's rights is emphasized by Alice Paul.

"Men are already thinking in international terms," Miss Paul said. "They recognize that the interdependence of the world is such that nations must move together if the backwardness of one is not to nullify the progressive efforts of another. Women also must think internationally. The rights of the women of no country will be secure until women have obtained equality in all parts of the world. It is for this reason that we are particularly anxious to secure the passage of the resolution we propose by the Interparliamentary Union, which represents so large a portion of the nations of the world."

Anita Pollitzer, secretary of the National Woman's Party; Edith Houghton Hooker, chairman of the National Council; Mabel Vernon, executive secretary, and other Woman's Party leaders are taking part in the presentation of the Equal Rights program to the Interparliamentary Union.

Protective Legislation in England

By Crystal Eastman

THERE is in England a marked cleavage in opinion among women on the matter of special "protective" laws for women, just as there is in America, but the line seems to be drawn quite differently. In America there are two great women's organizations which, while agreeing on most points in the equality program, disagree emphatically, even violently, on the question of whether women should have special restrictions put upon their industrial activities. And I should say that there are women of all shades of political opinion in both groups. In England, on the other hand, all three feminist groups (Women's Freedom League, National Union, and Six Point Group) are as one man in their opposition to "protective" laws applying only to women, while the women who find their public expression through the Labour Party seem to speak with corresponding unanimity in favor of such laws. And of course the feminist opposition to these laws is disposed of by such labor women as Marion Phillips and Margaret Bondfield as a "bourgeois" attitude due to the feminist's complete ignorance of industrial conditions. Indeed, Dr. Phillips, who is chief woman officer of the Labour Party, has assured me more than once with complete statistical finality that I would not be

able to find one single Labour or Socialist woman in all England, or any woman who has had an opportunity to study industrial conditions, who was opposed to the law prohibiting night-work for women.

Well, I have found one. Her name is Mary J. Bell-Richards. She lives in Liechester, and is head of the Women's Section of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives. She was a delegate to the Conference of Labour and Socialist Women at Marseilles, and one of the most extraordinary women I met there.

It would be difficult to find a labor leader with a more genuinely proletarian background than Mrs. Mary Bell-Richards. Her "opportunity" to study industrial conditions commenced when she was ten years old and first went to work in a shoe factory in Liechester. It continued for twenty-five years during which she became an expert in skill and speed and familiar with every step in the process of making a pair of shoes. When she was twenty her mother died and she was left with an invalid father and five younger brothers and sisters to look after. This meant a "double" life—cooking, sewing, washing for a family after her day's work at the

factory was done. For years she had no recreation except to go to chapel and sing one evening a week. But she was gifted with extraordinary health and ability. She was always the "smartest" girl at the factory and could make the highest wages. Her strength and courage for life held through all those years; and she managed to launch the five children on their own working lives. Meanwhile she herself had become a leader in the union, and at thirty-five was elected head of the Women's Section of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, a position which she has held for fourteen years.

Here she is at fifty—vigorous, well-dressed, thirty-five in appearance and carriage, without a gray hair in her head—a responsible trade-union executive, no longer working in the factory but representing all the women in this great trade, individually and collectively, in their relations with their employers. What does she say about these laws which "protect" and at the same time "restrict" women in their working lives?

We had been discussing feminism in various phases as we dined together at the close of the conference, and finally, because she seemed so very decidedly my kind of a feminist, I decided to broach

the question of special protection. I more than half expected to be put in my place as a bourgeois meddler.

"Mrs. Richards," I said, "you've been in industry all your life. Do you think women workers want special protective legislation?"

"No, we don't want it!" she exclaimed. "You can't protect women without handicapping them in competition with men. If you demand equality you must accept

equality. Women can't have it both ways."

"Then, you don't believe in the no-night-work law for women?"

"No. Why should I? If men work at night there is no reason why women should not work at night. Let's have better laws for both. I know men who are stronger than women and I know women who are stronger than men. Of course we must protect children and I think we must protect women when chil-

dren are born. But we ought to have no laws for women in general unless they also apply to men in general. That's what I say."

"If you demand equality you must accept equality." It will be on the basis of some such hard practical logic as that that this question of protective-restrictive laws will eventually be settled, I think, and I think it will be settled by women like Mary Bell-Richards.

Justice for Married Government Employees

IN the first week of her incumbency of the office of Civil Service Commissioner, Jessie Dell expressed herself as opposed to the penalizing of Government employees merely because they are married, thus arraying herself on the side of justice and Equal Rights.

Proposals have been laid before the Personnel Classification Board providing that husbands and wives, when both work in the Government service, should be penalized. The plan, the sponsors of which have not been made public, would give "discredits" to the efficiency ratings of married persons, thus bring down the married employee whose spouse is also in Government service in the list of ratings, and giving those who are not married or whose spouses are in other occupations an advantage.

The press reported Luther A. Steward, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, as saying of the proposal:

"When all is said and done, the reason why any person should enter or leave the Government service depends primarily upon the worth of that employee — his efficiency.

"Such a proposition might easily be carried to an extreme and become as absurd as making politics, religion, or the color of the hair the factor in determining who shall keep the job."

Immediately after the proposal was made, the *Washington Herald* published the following leading editorial against such a plan to discourage marriage.

"IT is not surprising that a clamor has arisen against the employment of husbands and wives in the Government service. What is surprising is that any serious attention is given to it by those in authority.

"If any more nonsensical, unfair or incredible proposal has been advanced as a means of promoting 'efficiency' in the Government service than that which would penalize married men and women employed by Uncle Sam, it has not come to the *Herald's* attention.

"Some years ago, it is true, a similar agitation arose, and the wives of some Government employes were dismissed from the service, particularly in the

Bureau of Engraving and Printing. A number of these women had been employed there before they were married, and had the same right to their jobs that any other worker possesses so long as he gives faithful and efficient service. There have been proposals, often, it would appear, sponsored by unmarried employes and prompted by jealousy, to make the employment of husbands and wives impossible. But until now there has been little disposition in the Government service, as a whole, to pay any heed to them.

"In the first place, this proposal to penalize the employment of married women is distinctly counter to public policy, since it would clearly tend to prevent marriage and might very likely tend toward immoral conduct. A girl employed in the Government service is more than likely to marry some young man she meets there, if she marries at all, for her work is likely to give her most of her social contacts.

"If she marries—assuming the scheme now proposed goes through—she must give up her job, or very likely be forced out of it through no fault of her own, or reconcile herself to a future in which she and her husband will stay exactly where they are at the time they are married.

"It is an intolerable, disgraceful, incredible proposal—a penalization of matrimony, a closing of the door of hope to all ambitious and aspiring young people who marry! It is an obvious invitation to enter into unions unsanctioned by State or church. It is an abomination to all who care for the American home.

"There is grave doubt, indeed, as to its constitutionality. The law adopts as a general policy the view that matrimony is to be encouraged. Wherever reasonable doubt exists as to the legality of a marriage ceremony, for example, the law ordinarily assumes that it is legal. This ill-advised proposal does violence to practically every legal precedent.

"The only real argument that has been adduced in favor of this monstrous plan is the allegation that the married man whose wife does not work is more valuable to the State than the married man whose wife is employed, because the first couple is more likely to have children. That con-

clusion is, to begin with, at least open to doubt. Many unemployed married women in these days of delicatessens and kitchenette apartments are practically idle, and do not relish the thought of being tied down to household cares by children. They prefer to continue their easy lives as long as they can. As a matter of fact, single men and women would be the chief beneficiaries under this scheme.

"On the other hand, many young people who marry while they are employed in the Government service remain at work for a few years until the family funds are sufficient to purchase a home. Then the wife gives up her work in order to make a home and rear children. Such women certainly would not want to close the door of home ownership to others. And there is no reason to believe that employed women are any more anxious to evade the duties and responsibilities of motherhood than anyone else. Indeed, it is a fair chance that on the average they are less so, for their willingness to remain at work shows clearly that they are energetic and ambitious, and those are surely desirable qualities.

"ECONOMICS, the course of social progress and the growing force of womanhood are all against the scheme to penalize marriage.

"Marriage has always been, to some extent, a property relation. It was originally designed to assure the legitimacy of heirs and the descent and distribution of property to lawful heirs. Its form has changed as manners and customs have changed. Love and romance have come more and more to enter into it. But in a world where economic problems are so important there will always be a property side to matrimony.

"Now, as it happens, we are living in an age of ill-adjusted wages and living costs. Two generations ago, when our population was mainly agricultural, matrimony meant something quite different from what it means now, then, the wife was an active partner in the matrimonial enterprise; she did as much work, if not more, than her husband. Children, on the farm, were an economic asset, and large families were the rule.

"Today children have become a liability rather than an asset, and families are generally smaller. Some claim this is desirable, making the point that a small family can be reared on a better standard of living than the large one. Perhaps too much emphasis is placed on the small family idea, but perhaps it is just as prevalent in the families where the wife does not work as it is in those where she is employed.

"It is not so easy for young people to 'get a start' in these days as it was once. More capital is needed to launch out in business. So long as wives can work, earlier marriages are possible than otherwise. In fact, statistics show that in recent years, since it has become more customary for women to work after they are married, men and women are marrying earlier. The husband and wife work, save for a home, achieve some measure of independence, and in general proceed on a sound economic basis.

"FINALLY women have become anxious, on their own part, to achieve. Throughout the course of history most women have held a relation of partnership with their husbands, and today most women prefer something to occupy their hands and minds. Even the wives of wealthy men find charitable or other interests to which they give lavishly of their time and strength.

"The wife who aspires to a career of motherhood is doing the greatest work in the world, and deserves vastly more than the world is, as yet, ready to give her. For example, the world would be much better off if it employed more married women, with children, as school teachers, for mothers are more interested in children than anyone else in the world.

"Most women do aspire to a career of motherhood. But the woman who is unfitted for it—and it may as well be accepted that some are, as a part of their nature, very badly adapted to it—should not become a parasite on the community, nor barred from matrimony. Still less should the opportunity for efficient motherhood be denied the young woman who wants to work until she has helped achieve some sort of independence for her family, in order to give her children a decent chance in life.

"There is practically nothing to justify offering so infamous a scheme to the Personnel Classification Board, and that organization should give it exactly the attention it merits—namely, none at all.

"Uncle Sam is entitled to some consideration. He is entitled to capable and efficient service. If he can get it better from married men and women than from single persons, he ought to have it. Certainly the Government service ought not to be turned into a charitable institution to protect those who have neither

gumption enough to do their work satisfactorily nor common decency enough to 'play the game' without squealing."

THIS editorial admirably summarizes most of the arguments against the proposal. It might further be mentioned that perhaps the family, one member of which is employed in the Government service and one outside, may be earning more than is the family, both members of which are employed in Government service. Thus some woman—or man—might be discharged because of marriage to a Government employee, while some other woman—or man—might be retained in Government service, though her husband—or his wife—is earning more in other employment than was the spouse of the discharged employee. The measure would thus defeat its own purported ends.

In an interview given shortly after she took the oath of office, Miss Dell declared herself against the proposal to penalize marriage in the Government service. Out of her twenty-five years' experience in the Government service, Miss Dell said:

"Efficiency alone should be the factor on which we weigh and value the workers of the Government. Only by taking this standard can we expect to gain the maximum of service from our employees."

EQUAL RIGHTS feels that the prophecy it uttered in its editorial on Miss Dell's appointment has already begun to be fulfilled.

"The Fruit of Her Hands"

A Review of Rebekah Kohut's
Autobiography
By Florence Loeb Fleisher

REBEKAH KOHUT, now in her sixties, looks back on a crowded life as daughter, wife, and stepmother; as volunteer welfare worker and wage-earner; as friend of scholars, philanthropists, authors, civic-minded men and women, and, permeating all, as Jewess.* She looks ahead to further usefulness. Her autobiography concludes: "Life, above all, is a going on, a never resting. And I see myself always going on, never pausing in the present, always restless, always straining forward for something that has not been but should be."

Mrs. Kohut belongs to the generation, or, better, to the type of woman which has as its ideal service rather than self-expression. She was the daughter of an intellectual, a Hungarian rabbi who migrated to the United States in the 60's. His guidance and his library of Hebrew, German, English, Sanskrit, Persian, and Arabic books on all subjects were her cultural heritage. She was ambitious; she questioned her religion and its social inconveniences. Yet she grew to take great pride in her faith, and, having married an older man, a rabbi and a great Jewish

*"My Portion." An Autobiography by Rebekah Kohut. Introduction by Henrietta Szold. Thomas Seltzer.

scholar, with eight children, she became a self-sacrificing wife and mother, with little opportunity for employing her particular ability. It was only after her husband's death that she made use of her own talents as educator, lecturer, and social worker. Mrs. Kohut shows herself in both spheres as a woman content with her measure. Not that she was unaware of self denial; on the occasion of the Congress of Religions at the Chicago World's Fair, when she was invited to read a paper before the conference of Jewish women of the country, she gives the outcome humanly enough:

She was to leave for Chicago at midnight. "At the dinner table Dr. Kohut looked unusually pale, and as the meal progressed seemed less and less able to bear up. Finally he said, almost with tears in his voice: 'How shall we manage without you for a whole week?'

"My heart gripped me at his absolute dependence, and his sadness. 'I didn't really intend to go,' I cried impulsively. 'Isn't it nonsense to travel twenty-four

hours in order to read a fifteen-minute paper?'

"He always took me literally, never questioning anything I said to him. It was his blind faith, his absolute certainty that whatever I told him was true, that always made me try to live up to the high standards he set for me. 'Why, then,' he said happily, but in a quiet tone, 'did you allow me to be unhappy all day?'

"An hour later my sister left for Chicago without me. She was to read my paper before the congress. I went to my room and wept. The disappointment was keen. * * * But in later years I felt it was one of the finest sacrifices I had ever made for Alexander Kohut."

IT was "a period in American history when women's careers were looked upon askance." And Dr. Kohut, preoccupied with his congregational and educational duties and spending, besides, ten to twelve hours daily—over a period of twenty years—upon a monumental Talmudic lexicon, made many demands upon her time. So did the eight stepchildren, the oldest only a few years younger than the girlish stepmother. After Mrs. Kohut had made her first public speech, at a mass

meeting of the Women's Health Protective Association, she relates:

"Next morning my remarks * * * were the only ones reported in the newspapers. My husband, while rather proud that what I had said seemed worthy of quotation, was dubious of the wisdom of a public career for me. He felt that I had much to do at home, and was more or less jealous of any time I gave to others."

Apparently with much sweetness and modesty Mrs. Kohut took the place allotted to her. She was an untried young woman; her husband, the friend of Kosuth, representative-elect to the Hungarian parliament, active in the emancipation of the Jews in his homeland, had come to this country already a famous man. He was twenty years her senior; he was hailed in America as the spokesman of conservative Judaism. In her fresh enthusiasm for her religion, his work was all-important and the best service she could render was to make his private life pleasant. Her marriage had to her no drawbacks. She extended her devotion to her stepchildren. She deliberately made the choice between maternity and an undivided allegiance to them. Even when, forced by necessity after her husband's death, she launched a successful girls' school and found after five prosperous years that she was losing touch with her foster family, she abandoned her enterprise without hesitation.

The best of her adult years were now before her. She used them not only for work among Jewish women but for general civic and social welfare movements. She felt it her duty to take every opportunity to appear to speak as a Jew before the non-Jew. This responsibility she had learned from her father. Each year at the Passover he had the children invite their friends and teachers to their home for the Seder services. Usually there were forty or fifty guests.

"I once asked my father why he invited Christians. 'To let them see that we have no secrets,' was his reply. 'You can be made to believe fantastic things about people when you do not know them. But when you know, you cannot be misled. * * * Throw open the doors and let people view us as we are.'"

So does Mrs. Kohut throw open the doors. She gives full recognition to her many happy contacts with well-known Christians, but her story is essentially that of a Jew among Jews. One of the most interesting points of her history is that much of it coincides with the development of American Judaism. She describes the rise of the reform movement—a natural outcome of the period's readjustment to new scientific conclusions—and the conflict between reform and orthodoxy. Her account of the funeral of Herzl, the founder of Zionism, her intimate sketches of some of the greatest

Jewish teachers and leaders and philanthropists here and in Europe add great color to her own story. By reason of her connection with the National Council of Jewish Women from its origin, she gives a vital statement of the growth and work of that large body of women.

SHE was accustomed to deprivations from childhood; the material comforts of these later years are the result of her own achievements. She shows herself a many-sided woman and always a capable one.

Her industry, her unselfishness, her religious devotion are best summed up by quoting that magnificent Jewish tribute to woman, which, despite its antiquity, still gives scope to the ambitions of the woman of today. I give it in its entirety, in spite of its length, because of the beauty of the little-known English translation according to the Masoretic text:

A woman of valour who can find?
For her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband doth safely
trust in her,
And he hath no lack of gain.
She doeth him good and not evil
All the days of her life.

She seeketh wool and flax,
And worketh willingly with her hands.
She is like the merchant-ships;
She bringeth her food from afar.
She riseth also while it is yet night,
And giveth food to her household,
And a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it;
With the fruit of her hands she planteth
a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength,
And maketh strong her arms.
She perceiveth that her merchandise is
good;

Her lamp goeth not out by night.
She layeth her hands to the distaff,
And her hands hold the spindle.
She stretcheth out her hands to the poor;
Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the
needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her
household;

For all her household are clothed with
scarlet.

She maketh for herself coverlets;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sitteth among the elders of the
land.

She maketh linen garments and selleth
them;

And delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and dignity are her clothing;
And she laugheth at the time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
And the law of kindness is on her tongue.
She looketh well to the ways of her house-
hold,

And eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up, and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praiseth her:
"Many daughters have done valiantly,
But thou excellest them all."

Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain;
But a woman that feareth the Lord, she
shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands;
And let her works praise her in the gates.

News From the Field

Banquet in Honor of Miss Dell

THE Government Workers' Council of the National Woman's Party will sponsor a banquet in honor of Jessie Dell, newly appointed Civil Service Commissioner on October 10, probably at the Mayflower Hotel. Miss Dell has been chairman of the Government Workers' Council for the last year.

Iowa Branch to Complete Room

LELA GRAY, former State officer of the Iowa Branch of the National Woman's Party, and her daughter, Gladys Gray, visited National Woman's Party Headquarters last week, and completed arrangements for the finishing of the Iowa Room at National Headquarters. Mrs. Gray is cashier of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Des Moines, and Miss Gray is in the same company.

Mrs. Gray reports that the Iowa State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs is solidly for Equal Rights, and that it annually sends its resolutions in favor of equality, particularly in industry, in business, and in the professions, to the National Federation. Mrs. Gray was for several years legisla-

tive chairman of the Iowa State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Gray and Miss Gray returned to Des Moines in their car, in which they had been touring the East on their vacation.

Colorado Branch Holds Rummage Sale

THE Colorado Branch of the National Woman's Party held a rummage sale in Colorado Springs on September 19. This branch is furnishing a room at National Headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Kansas Branch to Have Luncheon

AT a luncheon in Kansas City, Kansas, on October 22, Lilla Day Monroe will speak on the Equal Rights Amendment. Mrs. Monroe is editor of the *Kansas Woman's Journal*. Mrs. E. A. Enright will preside at this meeting.

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