

are placed at the head of some of the largest public schools, and in Great Britain women school inspectors are employed for both primary and technical school work, we have nothing of the kind in New Zealand. The New Council of Education, with its women representatives, will give an opportunity to women teachers to make their demands felt. The raising of the age of consent is urgently needed, and it is a matter for satisfaction that so many protests were sent to the Minister of Justice against a time limit being set to the laying of an information against men charged with criminal assault. Women Justices of the Peace in some fair proportion to the female population should be appointed,* and as the appointment of women police in American cities has resulted so successfully in saving young girls from an evil life, and in rendering aid to women generally, no time should be lost in appointing such officers in New Zealand, especially where military camps are established, such women are urgently needed. We also await the appearance of women jurors, and although women are allowed to visit the prisons, they have no executive power, and until women are established in all public positions, especially Parliament, we have no guarantee that crimes of personal violence will not be treated more leniently than crimes against property.

Solving the Problem.

As examples of advanced social development you have in Christchurch your own city trams, your drainage system, and your streets, lit by electricity. In your public hospital you have an example of efficiency and economy in the hospital steam laundry. Imagine the convenience to the women of the city if there were such laundries under municipal control. Now try to imagine the reverse of this, imagine the waste and confusion resulting if each of those hundred nurses did the washing for her own patients, yet that is just how we manage, or rather mismanage, in our homes today. The work accomplished by the Roman Association of Good Building in improving large tenement houses, and by Dr Montessori in establishing schools in those houses, shows that the comforts of a real home, good education, medical advice, expert care of the

children, both of mind and body, may be within the reach of the poorest. These women, too, are not economically dependent on their husbands. They too are wage-earners, so by a similar rearrangement of the work in the homes, to be made possible by the establishment of co-operative laundries, and co-operative kitchens, why may not women of the more prosperous class engage in work outside their own homes, either for their own profit, or to consider questions of public health and morality. As Mrs Gilman says, "A mother economically free, a world servant instead of a house servant, a mother knowing the world, and living in it can be to her children far more than has ever been possible before." And again, "a dependent and servile womanhood is an immovable obstacle to race development . . . the major defects of our civilisation are clearly traceable to the degradation of the female, and the unbalanced predominance of the male, which unnatural relation is responsible for the social evil, for the predatory and combative elements in our economic processes, and for that colossal mingling of folly, waste and horror—that wholly masculine phenomenon—war."

—(These extracts are taken from Mrs Gilman's contribution to "Great Suffragists and Why," but the position is made clear in her book, "Women and Economics.")

The Women's Charter.

I feel I cannot close this paper without a brief reference to the Women's Charter of Rights, and Liberties, by Lady McLaren. This charter, published in 1909, gives reasons for the demands made by the women of the mother country—their legal and economic disabilities—but perhaps the most significant section is that dealing with the marriage service of the Church of England. Section 10 of the Charter demands that, "The House of Commons shall request the Bishops of the Church of England in Convocation to draw up a new marriage service in accordance both with womanly dignity and legal truth."

When the women get the vote we may hope to see the removal of the absurdity, "With all my worldly goods, I thee endow," said by the man in plighting his troth, and the word "obey" said by the woman.

Everywhere are signs of an awakened womanhood, of a generous and en-

lightened manhood, without either of which we can make little progress, but we shall get none of the things we seek for without earnest effort, and I hope it will be considered by Convention, if the time has not arrived for a movement akin to the Franchise Movement of a quarter of a century ago, and whether it would not be advisable to circulate petitions for the removal of the disabilities, especially that which debars their entrance into Parliament.

GENERAL FRENCH A CONVERT TO WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

An American exchange says:—"A friend writes to me from England that General French recently returned to England to visit his sister, Mrs Despard (President of Women's Freedom League of England) for a day, in order that he might tell her personally of his absolute conversion to woman suffrage, his former attitude having been overborne by the heroism, endurance, and organising ability of the women on the battlefields of France and Belgium. The General thought he ought to bring this message to his sister himself, because he had turned his British back upon her and her opinions very emphatically a few years ago."

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES.

Tune: "Auld Lang Syne."
Now, ladies, we a song will sing—
And hope you won't refuse,
When you have heard this simple rhyme,
To come and pay your dues.

Chorus.

Pay up your dues, pay up your dues,
Pay up, pay up your dues;
No matter what you leave undone,
Be sure and pay your dues.

We cannot run our temperance work
On promises to pay.
We have to have our ready cash
To speed us on our way.

Our Treasurer is a lady brave,
She's steadfast, good and true;
And if you treat her as you should,
She'll do the same by you.

So if you want to help us work,
And always be of use,
Be ever ready with your cash,
And kindly pay your dues.

*The question of women police is receiving consideration in Australia