

“As to his suggestion that the thing is a hysteria due to women being unmarried, I may say that one of the keenest suffragists is my own wife, who, like Mrs. W. W. Jacobs, is an ideal wife and mother.

“The doctor is tremendously afraid of what he calls the physiological emergencies of women, but, after all, they do not so interfere with their lives that they could not give a vote once in four or five years.”

Sir Victor Horsley, in his reply to Sir Almroth Wright, states: “The thousands of non-militant suffragists, married and unmarried, whose existence he foolishly ‘doubts,’ do not share his declaration that they are incompetent to adjudicate upon political issues, for they are doing it every day. And so far from hesitating to use the vote to shut up public houses, which are dragging down their husbands to a premature grave, and their families to misery and poverty, the leading and thoughtful women of this country long to possess that vote so that they may at once strike the blow which shall emancipate the nation from the slavery of the drink custom.

“Sir Almroth Wright’s ideals of life and of womanhood are far too degraded for national progress. Those of us who are demanding equal civic rights for both sexes intend to secure for the welfare of the nation a co-operation by men and women, both in public and private life, of which no anti-suffragist has apparently yet formed any intelligent conception. Among the frustrations put in the path of this reform Sir Almroth Wright’s outburst constitutes but a trifling mudheap, which time and truth will speedily clear away.”

The following statement from Miss Elana Acland’s letter is to the point: “It may be gratifying to masculine vanity to assert that it is only sexually thwarted women who claim or desire the vote. But, before making such an assertion it would be wise for a man to run through a few lists of women who are devoting themselves to this cause, and to make sure that no wives and mothers are among them. The truth is that it is the force of realized, just as much as unrealized, motherhood that is actuating us.”

Many other strong replies to Sir A. Wright could be quoted. It may be accepted that he is wrong when he contends that the suffragist is one that has undergone atrophy in one portion of her nature, that they are sexually embittered women, and that they are persons with instincts long suppressed and that have at last broken out. The weight of sound physiology and psychology will not hold with these views.

It is only as a medical study that we deal with the subject, and we are bound to differ from Sir A. Wright. We think his analysis of the psychological side of women is quite inadequate and misleading.