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EDITORIAL

WOMEN PSYCHOLOGICALLY CONSIDERED.

The mental and psychical make-up of women has long been a subject of close study. One of the latest to express himself in definite language is Sir Almroth Wright. This distinguished medical savant took occasion to write to the London *Times* of the attitude of the suffragettes, and to advance arguments why women should not be granted votes. Among other things he said:—

“For man the physiology and psychology of women is full of difficulties. He is not a little mystified when he encounters in her periodically recurring phases of hypersensitiveness, unreasonableness, and loss of the sense of proportion. He is frankly perplexed when confronted with a complete alteration of character in a woman who is child-bearing. When he is a witness of the tendency of woman to morally warp when nervously ill and of the terrible physical havoc which the pangs of a disappointed love may work, he is appalled. These upsets of her mental equilibrium are the things that a woman has most cause to fear. No doctor can ever lose sight of the fact that the mind of a woman is always threatened with danger from the reverberations of her physiological emergencies. It is with such thoughts that the doctor lets his eye rest upon the militant suffragist. He cannot shut them to the fact that there is mixed up with the woman’s movement much mental disorder; and he cannot conceal from himself the physiological emergencies which lie behind.”

The views of Sir A. Wright have been keenly contested by some distinguished persons. Among these may be mentioned Sir Victor Horsley, Mr. Israel Zangwill, Sir Douglas Powell, Lady Robert Cecil, the Bishop of North Queensland, Prof. Sylvanus Thompson.

Mr. Zangwill said: “According to this letter the whole movement in favor of women’s suffrage springs from a form of hysteria, which is due to being a woman and unmarried. Now, I am in favor of the movement, and I am neither a woman nor unmarried. I want female suffrage for state reasons.