

among women of all classes and of all parties to obtain the parliamentary suffrage for women who have the various qualifications demanded by law of the male elector. With this end in view, a Special Appeal Committee for women's suffrage has been formed, consisting of Conservatives, Liberals, Liberal Unionists, and advocates of the Temperance movement, besides several members of Suffrage societies. Their object is to circulate, in every constituency throughout the United Kingdom, the following Appeal to the House of Commons, and to obtain the signature to it of every woman over 18 who is in sympathy with its object:—

AN APPEAL FROM WOMEN

OF ALL PARTIES AND ALL CLASSES.

To the Members of the House of Commons.

GENTLEMEN,—Many of the women who sign this appeal differ in opinion on other political questions, but all are of one mind that the continued denial of the franchise to women while it is at the same time being gradually extended amongst men is at once unjust and inexpedient.

In our homes it fosters the impression that women's opinion on questions of public interest is of no value to the nation, while the fact of women having no votes lessens the representative character of the House of Commons.

In the factory and workshop it places power to restrict women's work in the hands of men who are working along side of women whom they too often treat as rivals rather than as fellow-workers.

In Parliament it prevents men from realising how one-sided are many of the laws affecting women.

We therefore earnestly beg you to support any well-considered measure for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women.

The Appeal Committee consists of the following ladies:—President, Mrs. Fawcett; Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Morrison; The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Balfour, Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs. Leonard Courtney, The Lady Knightley, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Massingberd, Miss Mordan, Mrs. Wynford Phillipps, Mrs. Broadley Reid, The Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. T. Taylor (Chipchase), Miss Vernon; Secretary, Miss Julia Cameron. Office, Albany Buildings, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster.

The non-party character of the committee will be evident to all who read this list; but in order to emphasize this fact the committee are circulating three letters in support of the Appeal; one of these is signed exclusively by well-known Conservative ladies, the second letter is signed by Liberal ladies on behalf of the Women's Liberal Federation, and the third by Liberal Unionist ladies, as individuals, not as representing their society.

It is earnestly hoped that women, who are doing good service to the community as Nurses, will take an interest in this Appeal, and will send in their names to Miss Julia Cameron, Secretary, 47, Victoria Street, London, as being willing to sign it. Women are sometimes reproached for being unable or unwilling to work together, and it will be very satisfactory if we are able to show that in the case at any rate of the working of this Appeal, the reproach is not deserved.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Science Notes.

MODERN PHYSIOLOGY.

PROFESSOR BURDON-SANDERSON, in his inaugural address at the Annual Meeting of the British Association, held last month at Nottingham, gave a most interesting sketch of the history and scope of modern physiology. The Professor explains that physiology, as we understand it to-day, dates back only some fifty years. Before that time, and even as early as the time of Aristotle, physiology was studied, but there were many hindrances in the way. For instance, it was customary to speak of, and believe in, a "vital force," comparable to the physical forces of heat, electricity, etc., whereas the modern physiologist regards the phenomena of living nature to be manifestations of the same physical and chemical forces as those of inanimate nature. He does not pretend to explain the first transition from non-living to living matter, but his inability to do so need not prevent him from studying living matter in the light of physics and chemistry.

At the beginning of this century it was believed that organic compounds, such as are formed in the living bodies of plants and animals, as a result of their activity, could not be artificially produced in the laboratory of the chemist. The sweeping away of this belief by the artificial production of *urea*, and subsequently of many other organic compounds, naturally gave a great impetus to the study of physiology by disciples of the new school.

Speaking of experimental psychology, the Professor explains that mind must be regarded as one of the "specific energies" of the organism, and the study of the mind and its various workings must therefore be included in the subject-matter of physiology. Of all departments of physiology this owes most to recent investigation, and also presents the greatest difficulties. Mental science or philosophy was certainly one of the favourite studies of the ancients, but with them it was not an experimental science; in fact, until the latter end of the last century, literally, almost nothing was known of the structure and functions of the various parts of the nervous system. Now it is, to a certain extent, mapped out as it were, and we owe this to anatomical researches into the minute structure and development of the brain, to patient study of the phenomena of brain disease, and to physiological experiments. "In our own Universities," says the Professor, "in those of America, and still more in those of Germany, psychological students of mature age are to be found who are willing to place themselves in the dissecting room side by side with beginners in anatomy, in order to acquire that exact knowledge of the framework of the organism, without which no man can understand its working."

The Professor gives two or three curious instances of the working of a rudimentary mind in unicellular organisms. It is interesting to note in such lowly forms the beginnings of mental activity, considering that from such forms all higher organisms have sprung. Thus certain bacteria are able to distinguish light, and will congregate together in a beam of light until the water at that point becomes purple. Again, in the reproduction of ferns and mosses, the fertilising

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