

with unsavoury imaginings as a contribution to one side of a passionate controversy, they are the more to be deplored."

Sir Victor Horsley states, also in *The Times*, "every one I meet agrees with me that Sir A. Wright's statements are most repulsive in the debased picture they represent of woman in her relation to man. . . . To the majority of his colleagues, who know his views, his perverted ideas of the relations of the two sexes will come with no surprise, but the public need to be warned against the assertions he makes concerning the physical constitution of women, assertions which he boldly advances as if they were physiologically and neurologically true. . . . "As Mr. McCurdy truly said, in the House of Commons, every one of us regards the letter as an insult to women, but Sir A. Wright has also insulted his profession and his sex. In truth his statements and allegations are essentially pornographic, for to medical practitioners in consultation, 'modesties and reticences' have no existence save to a prurient mind. The women medical practitioners have shown the world what is real modesty, and have always stood for a single code of moral conduct which should ennoble the lives of men and women alike.

"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."

Let us hope for the consummation of that day when the spiritual force of both men and women will have freedom to overcome the animalism which inspires the fear with which many an anti-suffragist regards the emancipation of women.

We note that Sir Almroth Wright raises no question as to modesty and reticence in regard to women nurses, but nurses come into more intimate contact with patients than women doctors. Many are still living who remember the indecencies of hospital wards before educated women entered, refined and purified them. While, it is true that there is no sex in medicine or nursing, the nurse worthy of the name is tenderly

solicitous of the modesty of her patients, and has demonstrated that decency of procedure is compatible with thorough examination, and the performance of the necessary offices.

ELLEN PITFIELD, PRISONER.

A PETITION FOR HER RELEASE.

Every nurse and midwife will doubtless have read in the daily press of the case of Ellen Pitfield—wrongly described as a "nurse," but who is a certified midwife. How, as an ardent Suffragist, she was brutally injured when taking part in a demonstration in demand of the Vote on Black Friday, the 10th November, 1910. How cancer is supposed to have resulted from a blow then received, necessitating two operations, and that her case has been pronounced incurable.

Miss Pitfield came before the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, March 20th, charged with setting fire to a basket containing shavings saturated with paraffin in the General Post Office. Mr. Justice Horridge said her case was tragic, but he was not going to take into consideration her motive for her extremely wicked, criminal act, but owing to the state of her health it would be wrong to sentence her to hard labour, and he should send her to gaol for six months in the second division. The prisoner, on leaving the dock, in which she was attended by a nurse, exclaimed: "I suffer for the freedom of all women." Now I am not going to enter into the motives which influenced Ellen Pitfield, or those of the judge who sentenced this sick woman to double the term of imprisonment often given to those terrible wild beasts who criminally assault innocent children; but I want every reader of this JOURNAL to realise that this woman, doomed to die, and that soon, a painful death from the most cruel disease, is shut away, perhaps for the last few months of life, in prison and alone, and that, realising this tragic fact, I want one and all to sign a Petition to the Home Secretary for the immediate release of this sick and dying woman. A form for signature will be found on page xii, which, when signed, should be sent to me at the Office of this JOURNAL, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Subscriptions in aid of propaganda in connection with the Petition will be gratefully received by me at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

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