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THE  
WOMEN POLICE  
QUESTION

BY  
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*with an introduction by*  
ASHLEY BROWN

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PAMPHLET

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### FOREWORD

THE experience through which the Country has passed since the body of this pamphlet was written confirms in all respects the writer's point of view.

Whether it is generally recognised or not, the fact remains that the fabric of our society has been preserved through the efforts of organised physical force.

We owe our continued existence as a sanely organised community to the police forces, with the armed forces of the Crown in reserve behind them.

The strain imposed upon the police forces was great and the necessity for keeping them up to the utmost strength that the finances of the country can stand has been impressed upon all intelligent observers.

It is to be hoped that our recent refreshing contact with the stern actualities underlying our social and political system will create a new public opinion which will firmly reject any further proposal to squander money upon such fantastic futilities as female police officers.

A. H. H.-L.

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# The Women Police Question

## INTRODUCTION

CERTAIN parties are at present promoting a Bill which proposes to compel Local Police Authorities to appoint Women Police, whether they believe them to be useful or not. This Bill if given effect, necessarily involves a considerable addition to the heavy burden of taxation already resting upon this country, and it is only reasonable that an attempt should be made to ascertain whether or not this additional expenditure is justified.

It is necessary at the outset to recollect that the agitation in favour of the employment of Women Police has been conducted by a comparatively small number of women who are unrepresentative of their sex.

There have been three Enquiries into the Women Police question, the first being that of the Geddes Committee, which was, of course, chiefly concerned with expenditure. This Committee reported that the employment of Women Police was not justified as their utility was negligible. The verdict of the Geddes Committee was supported by the opinion of Police Authorities throughout the country, and of the Police Women engaged during the war and still remaining in the service, all but a few were retired.

The political agitation which followed was conducted by certain Feminist Societies, which were in no way representative of the opinion of normal women. Pressure was brought to bear upon successive Governments, and these Governments, in the hope that the agitators would be bought off and that the "Women's Vote" might be secured, reinstated a certain number of the Police Women. This action was the result of mingled cowardice and calculation. The cowardice, however, was unprofitable, for the agitation continued, and the calculation was a bad one since the Women's Vote was not gained. Committees were appointed by these Governments to cover their action by suitable recommendations. Reports which entirely disregard expert opinion and which are expressly designed to win votes, strike at the very root of honest government.

None the less, the Women Police are once again in disrepute and in view of their possible abolition a new agitation has been commenced by Feminist Societies, with the intention of still further increasing their numbers. It is necessary that this agitation should be effectively met at the outset. Unfortunately as experience has shown, Political Parties cannot any longer be trusted to deal honestly with questions concerned with the employment of women.

Political managers are hypnotised by a mythical "Women's Vote," and since the franchise was extended, Party Politics have been largely governed by the absurd consideration that some astute move will secure for one Party or another all the women's votes in the country. This is, of course, pure nonsense. Women do not vote as women, but as wives and taxpayers. However, the Government has still to be convinced of this fact, and left to themselves they will concede the employment of Women Police, or any other demand put forward by Feminist agitators, if the bait of the Women's Vote is held out to them. It is necessary, therefore, that the public itself should take a hand in the game, and this it cannot do unless it is furnished with adequate material upon which to base its judgment.

For this reason, the reprint of the report of the Police Federation is very welcome. It is at once authoritative and conclusive.

It has been argued by certain Feminist Organizations—which are less concerned with the merits of this particular question than with the endeavour to thrust women into every appointment hitherto held by men—that women were in fact employed as police constables during the war, and that their work in this capacity was successful. The reply to this argument is a simple one. In no branch of public work was the standard adhered to during the war as high as that which had previously obtained. A moment's thought will shew that this was inevitably the case. As a matter of fact also the work of the women police during the war was greatly simplified by the Army, which obligingly took charge of every criminal under the age of 42 and courteously transferred to France every undesirable who could, by any stretch of imagination, be classified as above C3. Success, therefore, in civil work during war time was really a comparative term, people were successful IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. It is sometimes desirable in an emergency to rely upon an expedient. When the emergency is passed the expedient gives place to methods of proved success, unless it has shewn itself to possess merits to which older customs cannot lay claim.

Practically the only serious argument which interested parties have been able to advance to justify the expenditure incurred in the continued employment of Women Police is that women prisoners should be searched and supervised by women, and that women constables are more likely to suppress prostitution. On the first point it is only necessary to say that for many years past women have always been searched by the very useful women who are known as matrons, and who are to be found at all police stations, and that all the officials who come in daily contact with women in Prisons are women. Power already exists to add to the number of police matrons and women warders, and it will inevitably be used if the efficiency of the service requires such an addition.

On the second point it may be said at once that the opinion expressed is not shared by those who have practical knowledge of the true state of affairs. The report of the Police Federation shews that the Police Woman is shunned by the prostitute, who readily makes friends with the Woman Missionary. Why is this? The explanation is quite simple. She knows instinctively that while the woman missionary may represent what is true and beautiful in womanhood the woman constable can never be, at best, more than an imitation of a man. She instinctively recognises that the Police Women, to be efficient, must possess qualities which the normal woman of healthy mentality does not possess.

But although it is the habit of Feminist Societies when discussing the employment of Women Police to concentrate upon questions of morals, it is necessary to remember that the effect of the innovation goes much further. It has never been suggested by the Feminist Societies that the responsibilities of Police Women should be limited to dealing with their unfortunate sisters. Such is the sex bias that lies at the back of this and similar movements that in the case of many Feminist leaders, such a suggestion would once and for all rob the proposal of all attraction. Indeed, they would probably see in it an attack upon their sex.

The fact cannot be sufficiently emphasized that it is the aim of the Feminist agitators to secure the employment of Women Constables upon precisely the duties now devolving upon the male policeman. To those men who are really willing to be dragooned by women in police uniform this aspect of the case will be without interest. But the man who is conscious of the responsibility and dignity attaching to manhood will consider, as the writer considers, that the time has come to call a halt.

There remains one further argument against the employment of Police Women which transcends in importance any other. The future of this and every country is governed in the long run by the home influence of its mothers, and by the extent to which its men realise, and live up to their responsibilities. Movements and propaganda deliberately designed to lessen the prestige of motherhood and to undermine the sense of responsibility towards women which is possessed by every man worth the name, are a crime for which punishment will one day be exacted in the form of an irresolute and characterless race.

ASHLEY BROWN.

## CHAPTER I.

### *Comments on the Report of the Bridgman Committee.*

THERE is no public desire, much less demand, for the appointment of women police, but when the subject is brought to the notice of an ordinary individual of either sex, if a favourable view is taken of the proposal, it is almost invariably on the ground that women might be useful in cases where children and members of their own sex are principally concerned.

Mr. Ashley Brown has already pointed out that those who are responsible for maintaining the agitation have no such limitation in their minds.

In order to make clear the real state of opinion in regard to this question it is essential that we should consider not only how many people desire the appointment of women police, but what they expect and wish them to do when appointed.

Whatever the number of people desiring the appointment of women may be, it is quite certain that the great majority of them desire that when appointed their duties should be confined to cases in which women and children are concerned, and if these people be deducted, the number left who desire the appointment of women on Feminist principles is indeed infinitesimal. The Feminist demand is quite logical and simple; it is for the appointment of women as members of the police force without any regard being paid to their sex. As long as a woman conforms to the regulations governing the admission of recruits, as to character, height, strength, education and health she ought to be admitted and when admitted be subject to the same method of training and to the same discipline, charged with the same responsibilities, remunerated on the same scale, and have exactly the same chance of promotion as her male colleagues. This is a perfectly accurate statement of the feminist view of the matter and has been accepted as such by several representative feminists to whom I have submitted it, but these ladies themselves seldom state their case in public so clearly because they recognise that such a proposition has only to be advanced to secure its immediate condemnation in the minds of people possessed of common sense.

Therefore, in order to secure the insertion of what they only regard as the thin end of the wedge, the agitators conceal their real aim and in advocating the change rely on the "women and children" argument which is better calculated to appeal to rational minds.

It is remarkable that in all that has been written by interested advocates in praise of the services rendered by women police during the war, stress is always laid on the protection afforded to girls from the supposed evil designs of the members of His Majesty's Forces.

There is not a particle of evidence that these war-time women ever did anything of the slightest value in the sphere of ordinary police work. I was much amused by an interview I had recently, in the course of my enquiries into this subject, with a very well-known and ardent feminist, who was one of three women I have met, each one of whom has proudly claimed to have "originated" the women police.

I asked her if she would agree that women should be employed on traffic regulation duty, and she replied, "Certainly!" and then proceeded to relate with great gusto how she was "on duty" one day in Whitehall, when a horse fell down, whereupon she sent a boy for some sand and then held up her hand to stop the traffic; she did not even claim to have assisted the unfortunate quadruped to rise!!

The utter incapacity of women at a real man's job, when judged by a real male standard, is revealed in this lady's story.

Here we have a woman of considerably more than mature years who—feminism apart—must be accounted of fair intelligence, recalling with glowing pride after an interval of many years, an incident so utterly trivial that an ordinary constable would probably have forgotten it a few moments after it had taken place.

The attitude of the Press contributes largely to the exaggerated self-esteem which these women exhibit, for had the incident been witnessed by a Pressman there would probably have been a half-column report in the paper under some such headline as "Police-woman holds up traffic," the occasion being improved by a leaderette on the marvellous capacity of the modern woman.

The Bridgman Committee was obliged to admit in their report that the few Chief Constables, who had expressed themselves in favour of the employment of women, all agree that their work when appointed should be regarded as supplemental to and not interchangeable with that of policemen. This view is, of course, flatly opposed to that of the feminists who formed the majority on the Committee, so that we find them stating that, "While we agree that FOR THE PRESENT women should not be regarded as substitutes for men, we think that ultimately it may be possible for men and women to be regarded as interchangeable . . . ."

It must be remembered that this Committee, which contemplates without shame the prospect of women being engaged in street fights, was appointed by Mr. Arthur Henderson, then Home Secretary.

Mr. Henderson is a genial and popular person, witness his universally recognised sobriquet of "Uncle Arthur," in his own domestic life he is a beloved patriarch, but he is also the most astute and successful political organiser of the age. With all his astuteness, however, he makes the common mistake of confounding the feminist vote with the women's vote, and he appointed the

committee with the object of getting a report which would placate the feminists in spite of any evidence which might be put forward.

The spirit in which the members of this Committee approached their task and the value to be attached to their conclusions may be judged from the following extract: paragraphs 3 and 4 on Page 5 of the Report:—

“ 3. On the general question of the employment of police-women there is a considerable diversity of opinion. The representative of the Police Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations who gave evidence before us stated that, in the opinion of that Committee, there was no general demand on the part of the public for the extended employment of policewomen, and urged that the whole question was one which should be left to the discretion of the local authorities. The County Council's Association, in a letter addressed to the Committee, express the opinion that so far as County areas are concerned the employment of women is unnecessary.

“ 4. On the other hand, the representatives of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and the London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality urged that Police Authorities throughout the country should appoint a sufficient number of policewomen to ensure proper administration, and expressed the opinion that the success which has attended their employment fully justifies their continuance and extension.”

Here we have recorded the adverse opinion of such serious and responsible bodies as the Police Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils' Association and, “on the other hand,” as if it provided balancing testimony, the opinion of quite unrepresentative bodies like the National Council of Women and the London Council of Public Morality.

I shall refer to the latter body in the final chapter, but the former requires a brief notice here.

The National Council of Women cannot be accurately described as a Feminist Organisation, for it numbers many desirable and normal women in its ranks, and always held aloof from the so-called “militant” societies, that is those who believed in propaganda by brawl; it is in fact a body to which a woman may belong without losing her reputation as a normal human being; but its membership is, in fact if not in intention, confined to upper and middle class women, and its claim to speak in the name of the women of England, who number many millions, with a great working class majority, is quite inadmissible. Like most propaganda societies it is actually controlled by a very few people, in this case a few well-to-do women who can, and do, decide its policy on any particular question. It is not denied that the views of these ladies may be of interest and, conceivably, of some value, but when an official Committee accepts them as cancelling out

the opposed opinion of the great bodies which represent the municipalities of the Country, it is surely time to make a protest.

Another witness to the expression of whose purely personal views the Committee listened, apparently quite seriously, was a Miss Mary Allen, sometimes referred to in the popular press as a “Commandant,” by virtue of her connection with an unofficial organisation which now calls itself the “Women's Auxiliary Service,” but which formerly had the word “police” in its title until the real police took serious objection.

In this connection the following extract from a letter, written by an ex-Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police to the Bridgman Committee, is of interest:—

“Above all things, amateur and unofficial organisations should be suppressed in the same way that bogus policemen are dealt with by Law. These organisations in the past not only hampered the recognised Women Police, but at times brought the Force into disrepute through their misplaced activities being mistaken for those of the official Force.”

And yet the head of one of these organised public nuisances is permitted to air her views before an official Committee, and to attend at the Home Office in deputations and address the Home Secretary.

The discussion of a lady's garments, in public at any rate, would not in the ordinary course of events strike me as being a useful proceeding, but in the present case there is justification in that the lady started the discussion herself, and moreover the matter has certain psychological implications which have a very direct bearing on the question under review. The lady in question recently visited America, and was reported, on both sides of the Atlantic, as having said that she had not worn a skirt for six years.

There are some people who accept eccentricity of this sort as being representative of the “modern” woman, but it is a libel on her to do so; it is difficult to suppress people who are possessed of a congenital desire to make fools of themselves, and left alone they will do little harm, but when their pretensions to a representative character are endorsed by official bodies, a protest must be made.

The preceding paragraphs will give the reader a good idea of the kind of “evidence” which was accepted to guide the Committee to its predetermined conclusion, but there was at any rate one person of a different calibre, who expressed views agreeably to the Committee although he did not appear in person, but expressed himself in a letter, which is published in full as an appendix to the Report.

The gentleman in question is Sir Nevil Macready, from whose letter the following paragraph is quoted:—

“For many years—long before I became acquainted with the Metropolitan Police—I held the opinion that the check of prostitution in public places would be carried out with greater discretion and thoroughness by women than by men, *in whom it is difficult to eradicate the sex instinct*, unless they are religious fanatics, the worst type to deal with that form of vice. The difficulty, of course, with women, as with men, police, is to secure the right stamp of person. The main point was to eliminate any women of extreme views—the vinegary spinster or blighted middle-aged fanatic—and to get broad-minded, kindly, sensible women who would bring to bear common sense in their dealings with their sisters who had taken a wrong turning, more often to lighten a dull existence than from inherent vice.”

Sir Nevil's distinguished public career, as well as the fact that for a brief period he held the office of Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, justifies and indeed necessitates the careful consideration of his expressed opinions, but in so far as our present subject is concerned it is to be noted that these opinions were formed before he became a police officer and not as a result of his experiences in that capacity.

I shall presently quote the opinion of police officers, which are actually the result of long and practical experience, but before doing so, comment must be made upon Sir Nevil's letter. He appears to harbour the extraordinary delusion that a person *in whom the sex instinct has been eradicated*, is fit to be entrusted with public duties involving constant and intimate contact with normal human beings; we say that he *appears* to entertain that idea, but a few lines later on he insists that only women with certain characteristics—kindly, sensible, broad-minded—should be employed as policewomen.

The statement that many men exhibit an abysmal ignorance of the nature and implication of sex requires no better example than that of a man who thinks that a woman in whom the sex instinct has been *eradicated* can yet be a broad-minded, kindly and sensible person. The very qualities which he calls for are the hall mark of the normal woman, and no normal woman ever yet succeeded or even tried to “eradicate” her sex instinct. I am not, of course, entitled to assume that Sir Nevil does not grasp the import of the word he uses, if so I might be led to suggest that he is thinking of the process of sublimation rather than eradication, but then I should have to point out that most of the people who think they have sublimated their sex instinct have, in fact, only perverted it, and that the very few who have successfully accomplished the very difficult process of sublimation will not provide candidates for a police force. Sir Nevil's attitude is based upon

the notion that you can thrust rough manly responsibility on a woman, and expect her successfully to assume it, while retaining all her desirable womanly qualities. It is a profound delusion. Those who have studied the matter at first hand know that unless the woman suppresses her womanliness as much as possible she never begins to be taken seriously as a fully responsible police officer.

Here is a further quotation from Sir Nevil's letter :—

“That women police should have the power of arrest is I think essential, but the power should be restricted by police regulations so as to avoid absurd situations where enthusiastic women might try and exercise their authority under impossible circumstances, such as, for instance, the tackling of a burly drunken man.”

In other words women are to be appointed on the ground that they are the equals of men and to receive the same pay, but are to be specifically excused from certain important duties on the ground that they are incapable of performing them.

Of course, nobody worth calling a man would allow himself to be forcibly conveyed to a police station by a woman; if she attempted to use force he would be morally bound to restrain her until the arrival of a male constable. If not his life would probably be made miserable by the banter of his acquaintances and he would inevitably and properly earn the contempt of all the women who knew him or heard of his case. The many psychic hermaphrodites in our midst cannot understand the spirit which prompts this expression of opinion, but all normal men and women will appreciate it. Moreover though magistrates might have to acknowledge the theory of sex equality, a man charged with assaulting a woman constable would certainly have a more severe penalty imposed upon him than if the assault was upon a policeman, which, in the circumstances, would be very unjust.

That a man should be much more heavily punished for assaulting a woman than a man is, of course, highly proper, but it is only so on the accepted grounds that women are entitled to men's protection and behave accordingly. A female endeavouring to exercise by force the authority of a police officer would forfeit all claim to consideration on the grounds of her alleged womanhood.

The fact is, and it is recognised by all but a few cranks, official, ex-official and otherwise, that the duties in connection with the police, which women can and do usefully perform, do not involve the necessity of patrolling the streets, the proper performance of their true functions can only be hindered by such an obligation.

When Sir Nevil wrote to the Committee stressing the importance of excluding “any woman of extreme views, the vinegary spinster, or blighted middle-aged fanatic,” he was, of course, saying to the Committee in effect that they must not countenance the admission

of some of the women who conduct the agitation ; as a description of these ladies, Sir Nevil's description is as accurate as it is forceful, it breathes a spirit strangely at variance with some of his other conclusions.

#### *The Testimony of Practical Men.*

The testimony of practical men given to the Committee was, as was to be expected, flatly opposed to that of Sir Nevil, and the curious medley of busybodies with whose views he thought fit to associate himself. Sub-Divisional Inspector Varney, an officially-appointed spokesman of the rank and file, stated that the women patrols employed in his division during the war did no useful work whatever. His experience was that girls would not go to women in uniform for assistance, but would willingly go to the lady missionary attached to the police court.

Three other representatives of the rank and file stated that the employment of women as ordinary constables was a waste of public money, such work as they could usefully perform *being better done by women connected with Welfare Agencies in touch with the Police.* The Federation of Police Officers representing over 56,000 members of the Forces throughout the Country prepared a report on the question of the employment of policewomen, which is so important that it is given in full in the following chapter.

## CHAPTER II.

### *Report of the Federation of Police Officers, 31st October, 1924.*

“ALTHOUGH realising the scope which exists for useful service by women in the way of social welfare and similar work which might be regarded as supplementary to actual Police duty, yet the Committee is unanimously of the opinion that the utility of women from a Police point of view is negligible, and does not justify the expenditure involved. This opinion is based upon practical experience of the works of Women Police, and we believe is representative of the general opinion of the Service. With all the good will in the world, and from a wholly impartial and disinterested starting point, we have been entirely unable to discern any grounds warranting the formation of a Force of Police Women.

(ii.) We desire to say that we are entirely unprejudiced ; we realise that women are able to render important public and social service equally as well, if not better sometimes, than men. But we know the nature of Police duty. It is essentially a duty involving work which women are neither physically nor temperamentally adapted to perform successfully. Police duty requires men, and then only men who are specially fitted and adapted for it.

Many men, as all acquainted with the subject know quite well, are not fitted to become efficient Policemen. We are unable to conceive of a woman who would be so fitted. She would be an unnatural product. Police work is men's work. Temperamentally, emotionally and physically women are fundamentally different from men, and if there is any work which demands personal characteristics quite the opposite of those which naturally distinguish women, that work is Police work. That is, the less temperamental vagaries and instabilities, the less emotional disturbances and physical delicacies and weaknesses you get, the better and more efficient Police work you secure. Effective Police and patrol work, as such, for women, is, in our opinion, little, if anything, short of the impossible, and the efforts to procure it will, we are convinced, prove futile. This will not be because of the faults of the women employed, but because of the neglect to recognise the obvious and unalterable natural facts. The system of policing by men has shown no failure or defect so far as we have been able to ascertain. Nothing convincing has been forthcoming from any quarter in this direction. Any improvements necessary or desirable could be achieved within the present system far more easily and successfully than by the introduction of a body of Women Police.

(iii.) *That sexual vice and prostitution can be effectively dealt with by Police action is a snare and a delusion. At most it can only be checked in public places, which is the least part of the evil. The employment of an army of women would have no effect in this direction, except, perhaps, to make the problem worse.* Exactly the same arguments apply in connection with the care and rescue of children. Those who are acquainted with the legislation for the care and protection of children and the action of Police, know how difficult a problem it is, and how well and effectively the work is done at present. In short, Women Police require the Policeman to take care of them in addition to his already numerous and difficult duties.

(iv.) We notice that there were dissentients upon the Women Police Committee to the recommendation that a woman should be appointed to assist H.M. Inspectors and advise the Home Office and Police Authorities generally. This is significant. We should have thought that if scope did exist at all for the service of women in connection with the Police it would be in just such an advisory and not an executive capacity.

(v.) But, apart from this, we know, and have been shown, no phase of Police work proper which is not capable of being done much more effectively by men than by women. We say this quite fairly. In the taking of statements from women and children there may be something to be said for the employment of women, but it is very debatable, and surely does not justify the setting up of a force of women for other work for which they are wholly

unsuitable and which would be of no value. With work connected with social welfare, as distinct from Police work, as affording scope for the useful employment of women, we are not concerned. If it is to be undertaken at all, it needs, in our opinion, to be undertaken upon a much different basis and by a fundamentally different organisation from that intended in the scheme under review, so that this aspect need not be considered here. We speak from personal intimacy with every phase of Police duty in all conditions and from practical knowledge of the work done by women as Police. The Committee which has reported in favour of their being again employed may have had better grounds for their recommendations, but we do not think so.

(vi.) We have not yet touched upon the subject of economy in connection with this question, but it is not to be overlooked. We are still suffering from the effects of the Geddes recommendations, and are likely to suffer in many ways for some time to come. *The Geddes Committee also recommended that the employment of Women Police was not justified because their utility was negligible.* They did not report or suggest that the utility of the ordinary Police was negligible. From this it would be no more than fair to suppose that the economies laid upon the ordinary Police Forces would be removed before proceeding again with the organisation of Women Police. But this is not the case. The full weight of the Geddes economies is still laid upon us, while it is proposed, and a commencement has been made to devote what must ultimately amount to very large sums of money upon Women Police. If there is a rightness in these things we fail to find it here. In any case, such procedure is bound to detract considerably from the weight of any plea of the necessity to economise."

\* \* \* \* \*

I do not know the writer of this Report, but the fact that he thinks that a really efficient policewoman would be an unnatural product shews that he has grasped the implication of certain psychological facts which do not appear to have been observed by Sir Nevil Macready; it would have been better to have used the term abnormal product, for nature is after all responsible for many imperfections.

### CHAPTER III.

#### *The Limitations of Effective Police Action.*

IT is necessary at this stage to make some frank and much overdue observations on the body which calls itself the London Council of Public Morality. It will no doubt surprise many people to be told that this body is not entirely free from responsibility for the plague of night clubs from which London suffers, but so it is and this is how it happens.

This Society ever seeks to diminish the number of hours during which intoxicating beverages may be legitimately sold in decent establishments; it does not thereby seriously diminish the amount of such beverages consumed, the profits of the brewers and distillers prove that, but it does force people to drink in undesirable places at illegal hours.

What happens in London is the exact counterpart of what is happening in America, and naturally so, for the same cause has produced the same result. We have prohibition in England after certain hours, hours in which it is perfectly reasonable for people to wish to drink, the reasonable desire is hindered by law with the result that the law, being unreasonable, is inevitably and universally broken. Drinking under illegal conditions provides a certain excitement for many young people, so that law breaking is encouraged.

There is not a night club in London which could keep its doors open for a fortnight were it not for the large profits derived from the illegal sale of intoxicants; if the restrictions on the decent establishments were withdrawn the night clubs would wither like mushrooms in the sunshine. Just as bootleggers in America entertain kindly feeling for the framers of the Prohibition Law so the proprietors of London night clubs look with equanimity upon the misdirected efforts of the well-intentioned but stupid people who set themselves up as the censors of the morals and manners of their fellow citizens.

Having helped to create a great evil these people join in an agitation for the maintenance at the public cost of a horde of female police to cope with it.

It suits people of this kind to pretend that the conditions of our streets and parks is becoming worse, whereas any intelligent observer over forty years of age knows from experience that it is infinitely better. A vast improvement has taken place and that improvement, steady in its growth and still continuing, is due to the spread of education and owes nothing to bi-sexual police officers or other war-time aberrations.

The Federation of Police Officers do well to combat the widespread but erroneous notion that sexual vice and prostitution can be abolished by police action.

Immoral conduct, when not the result of congenital depravity, is usually caused by unfavourable home conditions, and such conditions all too often arise when the mother is compelled to give up much of her time and energy to work outside her home.

In nothing are real Feminists so consistent as in the contemptuous attitude they adopt towards the woman who regards the proper bringing up of her children and the management of the home as her principal work in life, but it is seldom that the daughters of such women drift into the paths of prostitution.



To suppose that a young woman whose girlhood has been passed in evil home surroundings, and who has taken to an immoral life, is going to change her course because she is spoken to by a police officer of either sex, is to exhibit a pathetic ignorance of the facts which govern the actions of those who dwell, from choice or necessity, in the underworld of our great cities.

There is a notion abroad that there has been an increase in offences against young children, but there is no evidence of this. There has been an increase in convictions because of more efficient police work, but the number of cases where an offender has been detected by a female police officer is infinitesimal in relation to the total charges.

Depraved brutes who are capable of this class of offence usually take care to commit it in conditions which they deem to be safe for their purpose, and it is difficult to understand how any intelligent person can suppose that the perambulation of the streets by a woman in a conspicuous uniform will lead to the arrest of offenders of this class.

Whenever specific arguments for the employment of women on ordinary police duties come to be carefully examined they are found to be without substance. It has been made clear that nearly all advocates of women police rely on the necessity for checking immoral conduct as their principal argument, but it may be doubted if these people have ever tried to visualise the kind of life they are suggesting for such unfortunate women as may join the Force. Imagine spending the best years of one's life in the loathsome task of spying upon the sexual lapses of other people!!

Supposing a woman had some semblance of normal feeling on enlistment, what would she be like after a few years? Whose nature could remain unspoiled after such an ordeal?

It is not so much a question of whether it is expedient, it is whether it is just, or right, or decent to offer any woman such a means of earning a livelihood.

The male policeman is not exposed to such an ordeal, dealing with sexual offences is only one of many duties which he can and does perform. He is not called upon to be a specialist in sexual crime as the woman would be, and as Sir Nevil Macready intended that she should be, as witness the following quotation from his letter to Mr. Bridgman:—

“Had I remained at Scotland Yard it was my intention to increase the number (of women) so as gradually to hand over to women police *the entire work* of checking immorality and prostitution, and incidentally the discovery of irregularities in night clubs and such like places.”

Such a suggestion is positively nauseating, and I feel that the great majority of those who read these lines will join with me in

all reverence in thanking God on behalf of England's decent womanhood that, in the circumstances, Sir Nevil Macready did not remain at Scotland Yard.

There is always a strong tendency among prudes to attribute to immorality conduct which is merely the result of high spirits, as in the case of a lady who complained to the chief constable of her town that the factory girls sang in the streets on their way home.

Those who realise the soul-destroying monotony of most factory work will thank God that the young people subjected to it have enough vitality left to want to sing anywhere.

The dreadful state of overcrowding in the homes of the poor is such that young people living in them can have no privacy within doors, and they must perforce do their courting in the parks and quiet streets. Are we to spend public money in order that they may be harassed and distressed by Sir Nevil Macready's monsters, “in whom the sex instinct has been eradicated”?

The demand for the puritanical suppression of the natural manifestation of the feelings of youth almost invariably originates with cliques of middle-aged and well-to-do women who have always had ample space at home where expression might be given to their natural feelings, if one is prepared to make the large assumption that they ever had any.

The demands for official enquiries into the prevalence of sexual offences are generally originated by women to whom political agitation is as the breath of life, apart from the pleasure and employment which they derive from the agitation itself they hope by creating a wholly false impression of the state of public morals, to create a seeming justification for their own employment by the State.

Outside the home, we must look to the Church and the School to maintain and improve the moral tone of the people, and if these institutions fail, and facts prove that they have not failed, it is idle to suppose that the Police Force can act effectively in their stead.

The latest official figures shew an increase in crimes of a general nature for which no offender is brought to book, and this is due to the fact that so many policemen are now employed on traffic duties and the Police Forces are below their establishment because of the supreme and urgent need for the reduction of public expenditure.

The recent slight increase in the number of women police in London has been forced upon the Chief Commissioner by the Home Secretary for political reasons. The justification of this statement lies in the fact that the Commissioner informed the

Bridgman Committee that his view was that the Metropolitan Police should be brought up to its full strength before any more women were appointed, and this condition has not been fulfilled.

The position is that the woman police officer—as distinct from the woman doing useful womanly work in association with the Police Forces—is a war product, the relic of a time when abnormal conditions reduced the total strength of the manhood of the country; the conditions under which her very limited efficiency was of value to the State have passed away, her now unjustifiable existence is being prolonged in deference to the clamour made by a small group of totally unrepresentative women, who see in her a reminder of their happy days when womanhood was at a discount and male values held undisputed sway.

If we are to continue to raise a race of sound men and women, the children must be nurtured in decent homes illumined by a mother's love and ordered by her unceasing care; to strive to find the wherewithal to maintain such a home is man's highest privilege and responsibility.

The ideal of home and motherhood must be kept before the girls who are growing and those who in the days to come will grow to woman's estate; they must be taught to look, as the great majority of them do with calm but not uncharitable indifference upon the graceless antics of those poor psychic hermaphrodites who ever shew themselves willing to sacrifice what little womanhood they possess in order that they may turn a mincing step into an often too manly stride and follow with pathetic mimicry in the footsteps of the male.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMANHOOD

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THE most ardent Feminist can hardly deny that there are women who object to the whole philosophy of the Feminist Movement and to the definite proposals of a Feminist Character which are put forward from time to time.

The Feminist Movement only accepts a scale of male values; it seeks the abolition of all laws and customs which are based upon the belief that the natures and requirements of men and women are essentially different.

The League of Womanhood, which is now in process of formation, will endeavour to put before the public the view of the modern woman who dissents from the feminist creed, and desires a social system which gives freedom for the development of her natural personality, as a being whose instincts, tastes and requirements differ fundamentally from those of men.

The League will only seek to represent those women who regard motherhood and marriage as the best and highest walk of life that a woman can follow, and who regard all other occupations—however desirable in themselves—as second best.

The League will resolutely challenge the whole epicene creed of Feminism on every possible occasion.

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Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Honorary Treasurer, The League of Womanhood," and crossed.



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