

A WOMAN'S VIEW OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

IN the recent discussion of woman suffrage in this country the objections to the proposition that have been urged by women have been, perhaps, quite as numerous as, and in many instances more forcible than, the objections urged by men. In beginning an article on the subject in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September, Miss Molly Elliot Seawell deplores the "superficial and inadequate manner in which the matter has been discussed on both sides." She complains that the suffragists show in their spoken and published utterances that they have little knowledge of the fundamentals of government or the real meaning of suffrage. In their treatment of the subject they hopelessly confuse political, philanthropic, socialistic, and economic questions, nor do they seem able to discern between objects of national and those of State and municipal regulation.

On the other hand, this writer admits that the objectors to woman suffrage have not always given logical or practical reasons against it. Both sides make the mistake of assuming that the revolution will be over when a woman can walk up to the polling booth and deposit a ballot in the box. It is at this point, however, according to Miss Seawell, that the revolution will begin. The experience of full suffrage for women, as it has been tried in the States of Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah, has not been entirely successful, and during the last fourteen years the States of the West, where a nearer view of suffrage was possible, have repeatedly defeated suffrage amendments to their constitutions.

A brilliant and prominent advocate of woman suffrage recently gave the following as its chief objects: "Women suffragists stand for sanitation, education, and the uplift of six million workingwomen in the United States."

Miss Seawell proceeds to analyze this formula:

First, is the universal fallacy on the part of the suffragists that all women will vote alike, and will vote right.

Second: neither sanitation nor education can be the first or even the most important object of government. Good laws well administered, a pure and competent judiciary, internal order, national defense, and many other things, must take precedence of sanitation and education. Neither sani-