(Continued from previous page)

tural significance and who may be depended upon to serve cultural ends only."

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

VETERAN member of executive of the National Council of Women: "Everybody seems to imagine that there's some particular virtue in being young, and that therefore, the more young members you have on a committee the better that committee will be. But I disagree. There's such a thing as experience, and it's not lightly to be discounted. Of course I agree that some people don't learn by experience, but in that case they should never be allowed to get as far as a seat on a committee. It's stupid to generalise about the relative merits of old and young—the only criterion should be whether a committee member is doing her job properly or not. If she isn't, then vote her out at the next annual general meeting."

SEXAGENARIAN Member: "I admit that age has a certain contribution to make, but there should be a good proportion of young members. After all, they have a great knowledge of present-day problems and having longer to live in this world, its problems affect them more closely."

YOUNG Member: "The solution of the Age versus Youth problem is to separate the two groups. The trouble with a committee composed of old members and young members is that the younger members are always trying to push ahead and the older members are trying to prevent them pushing ahead. Both sides waste a lot of energy and get nowhere. I'm not opposed to older women serving on committees—I think it's a good idea for them to have something to do in the intervals of minding the grandchildren—but why can't they have a separate committee of their own?"

EX-MEMBER: "During the time that I was on the National Council for Women, I was impressed, perhaps not so much with the age, as with the elderly outlook of the majority of the members. Many of the problems discussed were the problems of modern young people, and yet they were tackled from the emotional angle. These people, by reason of their remoteness, whether it was the remoteness of age or social position, seemed to me entirely out of touch with the life of the younger generation that was growing up. We spent a lot of time saying how terrible it was that this and that happened, but we didn't get down either to reasons why it happened nor what we could do about it. I think the trouble to some extent is that younger women these days are either in more progressive organisations or else they are too busy at home rearing young families and cannot get away."

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THE above criticism would not apply to all women's organisations, according to representatives whom we interviewed. "We have almost all young members," said a member of the Family Planning Association. "Most of us are mothers of young children, and almost all, I should say, are under 40."

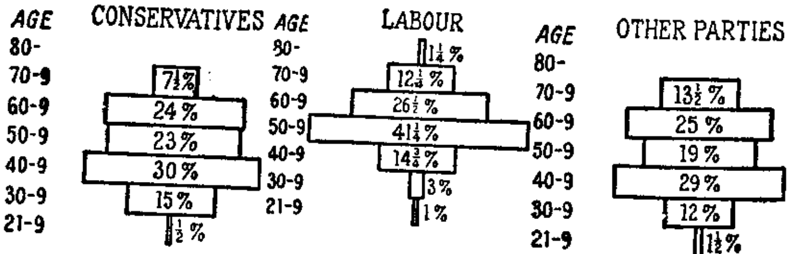
"We don't have elderly members," said a member of another women's club. "But then we all have to be in business or professions. We don't have social butterflies or retired people. I believe that it is most important to get our young people on to committees or public bodies."

MAN IN THE HOME

"THE question is probably anthropological," said a man in the street. "Most primitive communities show a patriarchal form of society, and it is reasonable to suppose that the wish to sway or control a large household or community lingers on in a large number of men, especially as they get older and their families go off. Older men consequently are frequently anxious to get on to committees, boards and public bodies. It is an outlet for the patriarchal instinct which modern society has thwarted."

★ Age And Politics ★

IN BRITAIN: The age composition of the parties in the House of Commons to-day is shown by these diagrams:



IN NEW ZEALAND: Here are the average ages of New Zealand Cabinets and Parliaments since 1854:

CABINETS: 1856, 39.5; 1856, 38.6; 1856, 38.1; 1861, 44.0; 1862, 42.3; 1863, 46.4; 1864, 47.0; 1865, 47.3; 1869, 46.1; 1872, 55.5; 1872, 45.7; 1873, 48.5; 1873, 45.7; 1875, 46.9; 1876, 45.9; 1876, 49.3; 1876, 48.0; 1877, 45.3; 1879, 50.9; 1882, 54.1; 1883, 50.9; 1884, 52.7; 1884, 47.0; 1887, 47.5; 1891, 43.1; 1893, 49.4; 1906, 60.0; 1906, 53.0; 1912, 54.6; 1912, 54.0; 1915, 57.8; 1919, 57.6; 1925, 57.6; 1925, 59.6; 1928, 59.6; 1930, 58.4; 1931, 57.5; 1931, 57.1.

PARLIAMENTS: 1854, 39.8; 1856, 39.2; 1861, 40.4; 1866, 43.3; 1871, 45.0; 1876, 46.6; 1879, 45.9; 1881 45.7; 1884, 48.5; 1887, 49.5; 1890, 47.4; 1893, 48.1; 1896, 49.0; 1899, 50.0; 1902, 51.1; 1905, 51.4; 1908, 50.6; 1911, 50.2; 1914, 51.2; 1919, 51.8; 1922, 52.0; 1925, 54.9; 1928, 54.2; 1931, 58.0.