

and management of young children. Such Health Visitors have also been appointed in Durham, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Leicestershire. There are women Sanitary Inspectors in twenty-three out of the twenty-seven Metropolitan Boroughs, and four women School Attendance Officers have been appointed. Under the recent Insurance Act women hold positions as Insurance Commissioners at £1000 per annum, an instalment, we hope, of the general establishment of the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Several women have from time to time sat as members of Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees. These are not salaried posts, but are offices of high honour, to which appointments are made by the King and the Secretary of State. Expert knowledge is required to fulfil the work.

Local Government

In New Zealand women have done useful work on School Committees and Charitable Aid Boards. Before their advent into the former of these two spheres, school-committeemen frequently averred there was not enough work for a committee to do and occasionally filled in the time of meeting discussing sheep and crops. The usefulness of women on other public bodies is limited by legal restrictions.

In the United Kingdom, where the qualification of an elector, and the duties of the elected, vary in different areas, local government is not easy to describe. I make mention of it here to show how easily hard-won privileges may be lost when those concerned are denied self-government, and also to show that by entering the honourable estate of matrimony a woman may place herself under a legal disability, in company with the minor, the lunatic, and the idiot.

The women electors of England and Wales have the right of election to Boards of Guardians, and to Parish Rural and Urban Councils, but except in London, they are disqualified by marriage from election to Town and County Councils. Previous to 1894 a woman might vote in virtue of ownership of property for Poor Law Guardians, but under the Local Government Act of 1894 she no longer has the right to do so. While women may vote in certain local government elections, a married woman may not vote as a joint occupier. She may vote in respect of a different property to the

one in respect of which her husband records his vote, but no woman is now entitled to vote in virtue of her individual ownership in any election. In this matter of local government, Scotland and Ireland are in advance of England as regards women electors, and in Scotland marriage is no disqualification to the woman candidate. Throughout Great Britain are several women serving in Town and County, Borough, Rural and Urban District Councils, but they may not vote nor be elected to the City of London Council.

The London County Council.

The London County Council Act was passed in 1888, and three women, Lady Sandhurst, Miss Cobden, and Miss Cons were, by the intention of the voters, elected, but Mr Beresford Hope, candidate for Brixton, who was defeated by Lady Sandhurst, petitioned against her election on the sole ground that she was a woman. The Court of Queen's Bench decided in his favour. Leave was given to appeal. Lord Coleridge presided in the Court of Appeal, and with him sat five colleagues. The women based their appeal upon three Acts: 1st, Lord Brougham's Act of 1851, which provided that words importing the masculine gender shall be held to include the feminine unless the contrary is expressly provided. 2nd, The Municipal Corporations' Act, 1882, which contained the following clauses, sec. 63, "For all purposes connected with, and having reference to the right to vote at Municipal Elections words in this Act importing the masculine gender include women." 3rd, Sec. 11.3, "Every person shall be qualified to be elected and to be a councillor who is at the time of election qualified to elect to the office of councillor." In 1888 the County Councils' Act incorporated these two sections of the Municipal Corporations' Act.

Notwithstanding this the appeal of the women was dismissed, all the judges agreeing that the Municipal Corporations' Act by specifically stating that feminine applied only in regard to the right to vote implied that in being voted for women were not eligible. Thus an Act of Parliament, and the portion of the Municipal Act favourable to the women were overridden. It is only since the Qualifying Act of 1907, that the right to be elected to a County Council as well as to vote has been held by women.

Again in 1890 a number of women lost their seats on Vestries and School Boards. In that year the London Government Act was passed. This created a number of Boroughs in London to take the place of Vestries. Women who, up to that time, had sat on Vestries now became ineligible as they were not qualified to sit on Boroughs at the time the Act was passed. Again in 1902, by the abolition of School Boards, and the substitution of Education Authorities, which were to be Committees of the County or Borough Councils, women, though eligible for School Boards, were ineligible for the new Education Authorities, and were again put out of positions, in which they were acknowledged to have done good service. If women had sat in Parliament during the framing of these laws these injustices would not have been allowed to pass.

(To be Concluded.)

WOMEN CANDIDATES.

We must all feel very gratified at the success of Women Candidates for Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards; also for School Committee elections. We offer hearty congratulations to our White Ribbon sisters who have been elected. Dr Florence Keller, our Purity Superintendent, headed the poll in Auckland. Dr. Platts-Mills and Mrs McLaren, both W.R. subscribers, are re-elected in Wellington; also Mrs McVicar, Wellington Central's Secretary, joins them for the first time. Our old friend, Mrs Watson, is again elected to Nelson H. and C. A. Board. Dunedin returned three women at the head of the poll. It is surely a splendid tribute to the work done by women on these Boards that Wellington, Auckland, and Dunedin returned women at the head of the poll.

Mrs Jemison, of Tariki, has just been elected Secretary and Treasurer of School Committee for the seventh successive year, and Mrs Darvall, Ngaio's Vice-President, has been re-elected Secretary.

All through the Dominion women's work has received recognition by re-election of old members, and by election of new women members. We trust that it will not be long before women are elected to our Educational and Municipal Bodies in greater numbers.