

round, and when a felony having been committed, "some person or persons" are advertised for. She is enough of a person to vote for an Urban Councillor, but not enough to vote for the member of Parliament returned by real persons to make real laws for her governance. She is sometimes assured that in point of fact he does really represent her too, but when she appeals to him to hear her grievances, because she is his "constituent," he turns round on her and says, "You are not my constituent." A woman is a person by courtesy when she pays Income Tax, and by discourtesy when the police are after her.

Although she is full half of the nation, although if a householder she has to take her full share of the rates, and, if in receipt of an income, pays the same amount of income tax as if she were a man, even her status as a parent is not legally defined. Her part as a parent is overwhelmingly greater than that of the father—a man can be a father without so much as knowing it—but this does not give her equality of status even as a mother. When her husband sends her to enter his and her "conscientious objection" to the vaccination of their infant, she appears there as a parent only if a good-natured magistrate consents to consider her so. If he is not good-natured, or if he disapproves of the law he sits there to administer, he can, and often does, tell her that "parent" means father. Her husband must come himself, incidentally losing half-a-day's wages. But if a father appears, the magistrate does not send for the mother. A mother is not even enough of a parent to be a conscientious objector.

The possession of the franchise will mean the legal recognition of women as "persons" and as "parents." Is not that worth marching to Hyde Park to get? Depend upon it, when women have the vote, a mother will at once become a full-fledged parent and a complete person.

M. A. M. M.

AGAINST. By *THE EDITOR.*



MR. Massingham was saying the other day that the time for argument on the subject of women suffrage had gone by. It would be nearer the truth to say that it has hardly begun. Most men avoid a subject which cannot but be distasteful, since it involves the marshalling of facts and arguments which seem to imply an attitude of general hostility to women which the opponents of women suffrage may be as far as possible from feeling. Even Mr. Asquith, who is bearing the full brunt of the odium that falls to the man who says No, has never given his reasons.

There have been vehement statements of the case for giving the vote; but argument means the balancing of conflicting views, and as yet we are only beginning to have the per contra from the anti's in some little detail. In