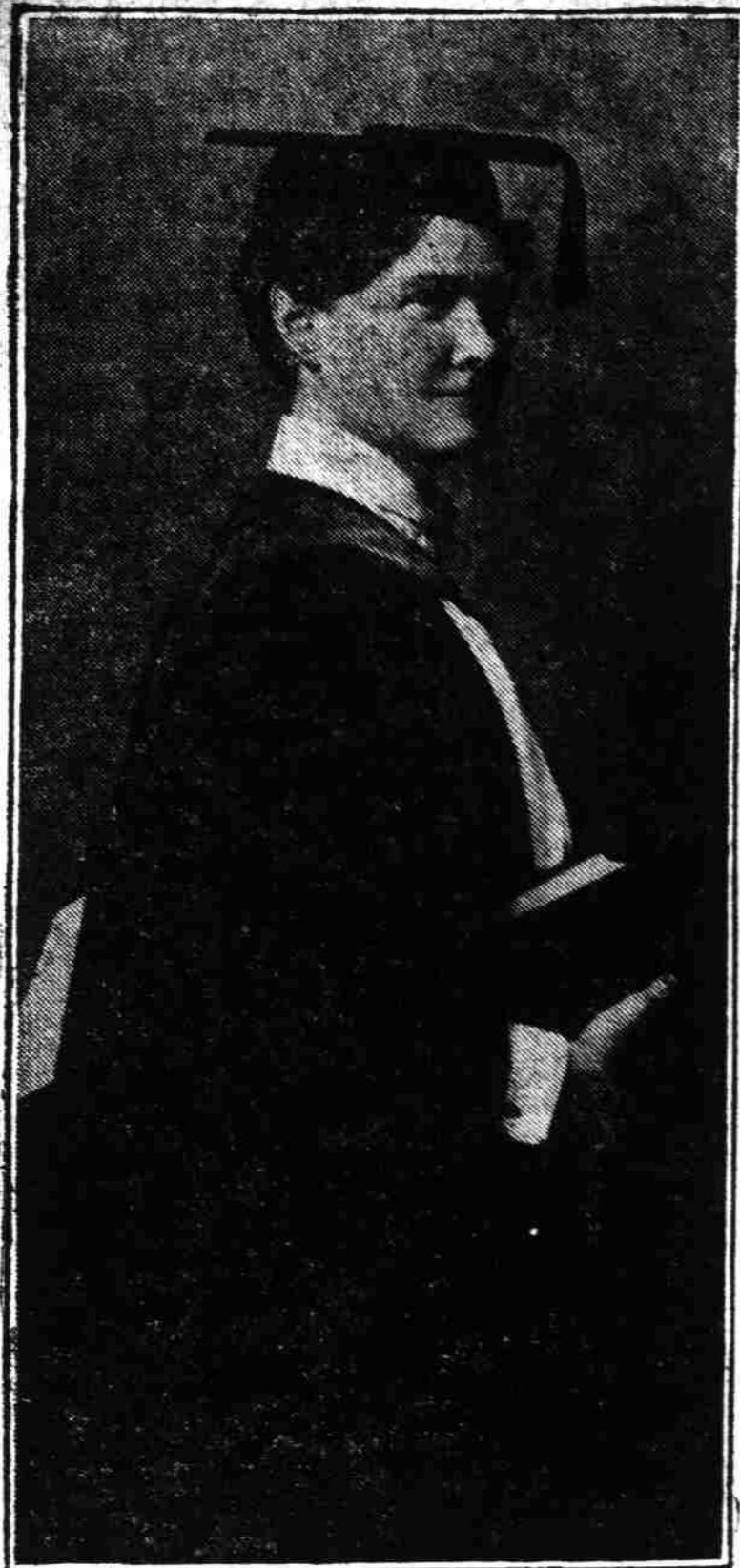


The New Triumphs of Women Lawyers

How All Venerable Traditions Are Being Smashed by Brilliant Achievements in the Interest of the Long Submerged Sex and of the Revolutionized World.



Marion Weston Cottle, Boston University.

By Ada Patterson

THE woman lawyer is finding a practical place in the law. In a phrase her function is that of guide post. She shows her sisters who know the law but dimly, the way. By reason of her greater knowledge of the law she is becoming literally the guide, counselor and friend of woman-kind.

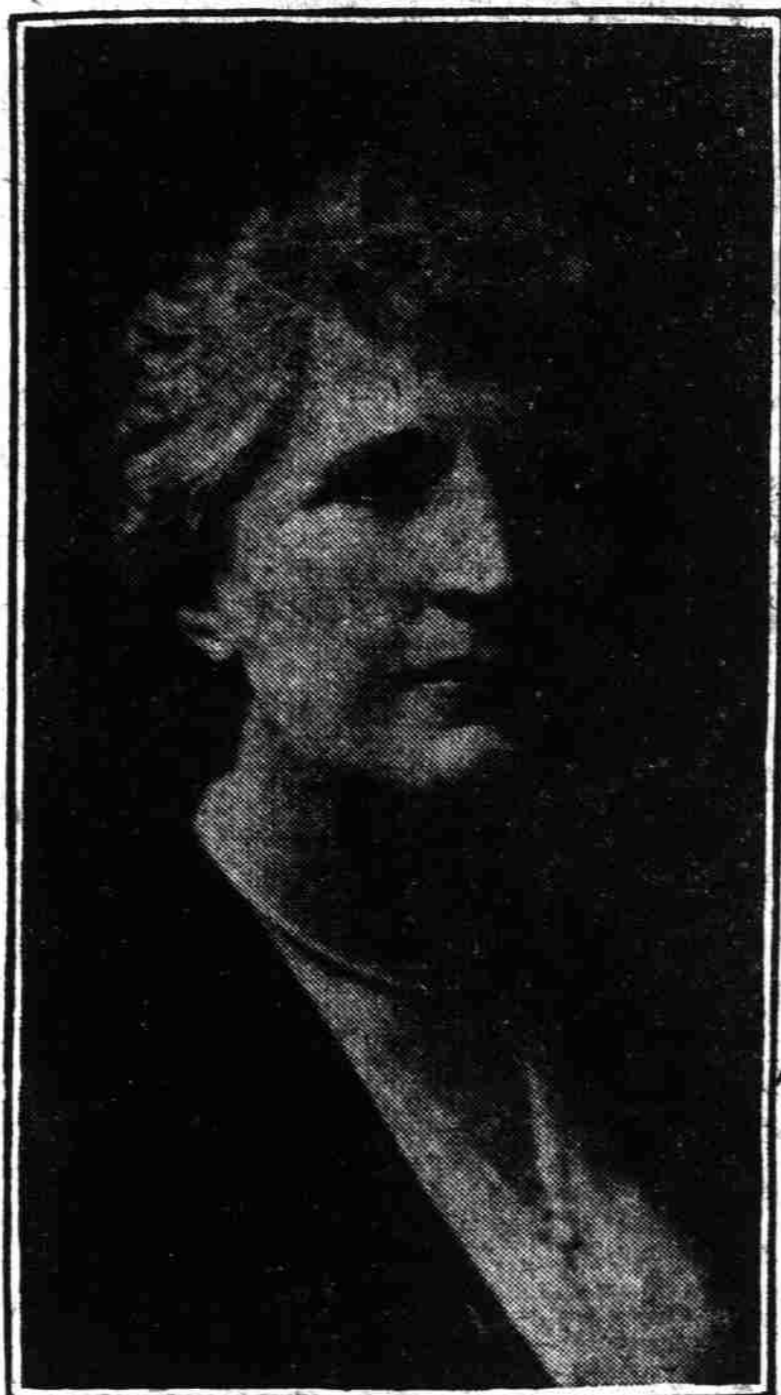
A brilliant example of what the woman lawyer may do for women is Miss Helen P. McCormick. An erudite and resourceful young woman, she was one of many probabilities considered by the district attorney of Brooklyn, as an assistant. He considered her past, brief though it is, for she is but 30, and learned that it held a scholarship-derived college education.

Miss McCormick took a course in genetic psychology, which means that she is prepared to teach mentally defective children, as she did for two years. She had been admitted to the bar and pending the building of a law practice had acted as federal factory inspector. She was an active member of the Women Lawyers' Association.

Disguised as Miss Binghamton she represented the up-state New York town and persuaded women of seven neighboring cities to shop in Binghamton rather than in larger and more remote cities. She induced the Erie railroad to put on an extra train for the benefit of the shoppers. She organized clubs and classes of working girls and gave her time to them in the evening instead of going to dances, dinners and theatres, which by right of her youth and beauty she might incessantly have done. When the district attorney learned all this he said something significant.

"She talks and acts to the point," said her superior, Dist. Atty. Harry Lewis. "Have you noticed that when she comes into a room she shuts the door, quickly says what she has to say, goes out, shuts the door behind her and it is over. She is no lingerer."

So Helen P. McCormick received her appointment. She began her work with the advent of the New Year. The district attorney's office and all of complaining Brooklyn admits that she has "made good." Complaining Brooklyn knows, for Miss McCormick's special duty is to hear all complaints. Originally she heard only complaints involving women and children. Now she hears all kinds of complaints. Self-conscious men directed



Mrs. Olive Stott Gabriel of New York.

to her find themselves face to face with a brisk, gray-eyed, black-haired American girl with the flavor of Irish in her, and awkwardly tell their story of evil done or evil suffered. She is stern with evildoers, gentle with victims, just always and now and then there's a dimpling of her cheeks and a laugh in her eyes that bespeaks a legacy of humor.

Miss McCormick has heard 8000 complaints in cases involving women. She has sifted the cases, prepared them and advised the complainants. She has counselled lost girls, abandoned wives, destitute widowed mothers, child drudges and victims of society's complexities and carelessnesses. Out of this experience as professional trouble-hearer and trouble-eradicator she has built some well-defined ideas of what women need for their greater usefulness and happiness and has aided energetically in legislation toward that end.

Miss McCormick's influence and eloquence were manifest in the work for legislation to prevent child labor. Her voice and pen were enlisted for a bill providing for women jurors. Her support of the widowed mothers' pension bill was energetic.

Miss McCormick, as an official of the largest city in the world, is an example of legal acumen developed in womankind. The greatest city furnishes a score of others, among whom is Mrs. Olive Stott Gabriel, a kinswoman and namesake of Oliver H. Perry, the American naval commander and the victor in the battle of Lake Erie in the war of 1812, whose ringing words, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," today are so prophetic of victory for American arms.

Mrs. Clarisse Margoles Baright has a law office on lower Broadway in New York City. She was the first woman lawyer to defend a prisoner at a general court-martial. She won. They say it is her habit to win.

Rosa Falls Bres, Counselor at Law, is the legend painted on the frosted glass of a Broadway office. But it does not indicate the scope of Mrs. Bres's work as a woman lawyer for women. She is one of the many Southerners who come to the metropolis and make an abiding impression.

Mrs. Bres is one of the most prolific writers among women lawyers. She wrote "The Law and the Woman," a book which is a bird's eye view of the laws of the United States in matters relating to womankind. Her second book, "Maids, Wives and Widows," concerns marriage laws and their effect upon the property rights of women. A third book deals with the conditions of children in this country. It is a compilation of the laws affecting their personal and property rights.

Frances Marion Brandon's name went on the office door when her husband enlisted and started



Above, Mrs. Tiera Farrow Moats of Kansas City.

On the Left, Miss Clara Ruth Mozzer, Assistant Attorney-General of Colorado.



to Camp Upton. She was admitted to the bar and stepped into his office and practice.

"Good-by, dear. I'll carry on," she said as she kissed her husband farewell. She pledged herself to the Motor Corps and often arrives at her office and confers with clients in the uniform of that branch of the service. She is serving on the legal advisory board in the work of registering the draftees. Mrs. Brandon's work of investigating family and home conditions has been effective. She has injected the human element into what might have become, of necessity, a machine-like process.

An excellent trial lawyer with a paying practice is Miss Julia V. Grilli, a lovely young American girl of Italian parentage who can sing as well as she pleads a case. One evening Miss Grilli gave a concert and the next morning locked the door of her New York office and went to the domestic relations court to secure a summons for a wife deserter.

Miss Grilli spent five years in one of the largest legal offices in New York to ground herself in the



Mrs. Margaret Ervin Ford of Tennessee.

law. Thereafter she devoted a year and a half to its further study in the offices of a firm that are specialists in negligence actions.

Another New York woman lawyer is Miss Amy Wren of Brooklyn, who has a large and remunerative practice. Miss May Patterson of New York exercises her executive ability and her knowledge of the law as business manager of the Women Lawyers' Journal.

A distinguished Portia of Boston is Marion Weston Cottle, who is a member of the bar of the states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and New York, and can practice in the United States supreme court. Miss Cottle lectured last summer on such subjects as "The Human Side of the Law," "Your Lawyer Friend," "Law for Busy Men and Women," "A Woman's Place in the Law" and "Driving Out the Kaiser." She also gives lectures on "Domestic Relations."

Miss Clara Ruth Mozzer is assistant attorney general of Colorado. This is the third year of her tenure of that office. She was graduated from a law school in 1915, and is the youngest woman to pass the examination of the supreme court of Colorado.

Before entering the legal profession Miss Mozzer was a well known social worker and lecturer. She drew up many of the bills for the last session of the Colorado Legislature, among them the minimum wage act, which is now in force. The minimum wage law is advocated by all woman lawyers.

Mrs. Margaret Hamilton Ervin Ford, a fair and eloquent Tennessean, was the potent deciding force when President Wilson determined to send his famous telegram to the Tennessee Legislature, urging it to reconsider its decision in regard to the equal suffrage amendment.

Mrs. Tiera Farrow Moats is president of the Woman's Bar Association of Kansas City, vice-president of the Woman's State Bar Association of Missouri and vice-president of the National Woman's Bar Association.

Mrs. Moats was admitted to the Jackson court bar in Jackson county, Missouri, the supreme court and federal court of that district and engaged in the practice of law in Kansas City. She was the first woman lawyer to defend a criminal in the criminal court of Missouri. She was trying a divorce case when the husband of her client killed the wife in the court room.

Mrs. Moats was appointed divorce proctor in the circuit court of Missouri.

The bill granting to American women married to foreigners the right to retain their citizenship was prepared by Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, the dean of the Washington law school.

Miss Margaret Ogden of San Francisco was the chairman of the committee of the Woman's Legislative Council of California which drafted the bill allowing women to serve on juries, which was passed by the California Legislature.



Mrs. Frances Marion Brandon of New York.



Miss Julia V. Grilli of New York.



Miss Helen McCormick, Asst. Dist. Atty. Brooklyn.



Miss Amy Wren of Brooklyn.



Mrs. Clarisse M. Baright of New York.



Miss Rosa F. Bres of Louisville, Ky.



Miss Felice Cohn of Lincoln, Neb.