

Woman Lawyer Discusses Sex Equality in Maryland

Maryland laws grant equality between the sexes in most instances, the exceptions being chiefly in domestic relations, Miss Vivian V. Simpson, Rockville lawyer, told a meeting of the Chevy Chase Woman's Club at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church yesterday. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, president of the District of Columbia Federation of Club Women, spoke on laws relating to women in the District.

Maryland divorce laws apply equally except that a man can obtain a divorce if he can prove misconduct before marriage, while a woman can not, Miss Simpson said. The husband has the right to select the domicile and refusal by the wife to live where he directs is desertion. An unmarried mother has the duty to support her child and the child in such cases inherits from the mother but not from the father. The mother is the legal guardian of an illegitimate child, while the father is guardian of a legitimate child, she said. A white woman who has a child by a Negro father can be sentenced to serve from eighteen months to five years, while there is no penalty for a

white father in the same predicament.

Mrs. Wiley said that the minimum wage and hour laws work to the detriment of women and urged that such laws should apply equally to both sexes. She paid tribute to the late Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, prominent feminist, and advocated passage of the equal rights amendment being fostered by the National Woman's Party.
