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feminism

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(fɛmɪnɪz(ə)m) [f. L. *fēmin-a* + [-ISM.](#)]**1.** The qualities of females.**1851** in [OGILVIE](#).**2.** [After F. *féminisme*.] Advocacy of the rights of women (based on the theory of equality of the sexes). (Cf. [WOMANISM.](#))**1895** *Athenæum* 27 Apr. 533/2 Her intellectual evolution and her coquettings with the doctrines of 'feminism' are traced with real humour.**1908** *Daily Chron.* 7 May 4/7 In Germany feminism is openly Socialistic.**1909** *Ibid.* 29 May 4/4 Suffragists, suffragettes, and all the other phases in the crescendo of feminism.**3. Path.** The development of female secondary sexual characteristics in a male.**1882** *Syd. Soc. Lex.* II, *Feminism*, the qualities of a female. Also Lorain's term for the arrest of development of the male towards the age of puberty, which gives to it somewhat of the attributes of the female. **1945** H. BURROWS *Biol. Actions Sex Hormones* xxiii. 453 The symptoms of adrenal virilism and feminism are caused by an excessive production of androgen or oestrogen by the adrenal.