

and the persecution of many labour leaders, some of whom were even deported as criminals, that wage-earners were conceded the right to combine to safeguard their own interests.

Women have recently been enfranchised, and it is undoubtedly the duty of every woman to help to organise her fellow women workers. Whilst at least 50 per cent. of the drudgery and coarse servitude of the world is performed by women the unorganised woman is a traitor to her sex.

Lastly, let us look at the matter from the National point of view.

The Government has asked every calling and industry to organise. All employees should form their Trade Union, and all employers should join their associations or societies, and should form between them a Joint Industrial Council for regulating relations between the workers and the employers.

No movement has suffered more from deliberate misunderstanding and misrepresentation than the Trade Union movement, and yet, in its purity—I am not speaking of the abuse of Trade Unionism, but in its purity—it is a civilising force second only to Christianity, and any form of organisation which does not realise and employ its potentialities, for the individual and general good, will achieve nothing, but will wander to and fro groping, because all other forms of organisation are, so to speak, mere emblems, and not instruments of advancement. (Applause.)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

The Chairman then announced that a collection would be taken to defray the expenses of organisation. The Hall and other items cost money, and the printers did not print the Bills for nothing.

A collection was then taken which, we are glad to learn, amounted to a handsome sum.

#### DISCUSSION.

MISS BEATRICE KENT, in opening the discussion, laid emphasis on the necessity for a liberal collection in support of the new movement.

MRS. ROGERS spoke of the power of the Press, and the importance of acquainting oneself with both sides of current politics. She said she was an Australian nurse, but had had the splendid privilege of reading *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, which was known all over the world as the friend of nurses.

#### "HOSPITAL" AND "NURSING MIRROR" TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT.

She spoke of the most shameful criticism to which the finest women in the nursing world had been subjected in the *Hospital* and the *Nursing Mirror*—criticism which made her blood boil. Her plan was to tear them up, and, suiting the action to the words she tore up copies of these two publications before the audience, and threw them on the floor, where they were trampled under foot.

A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC expressed the opinion that the nurses were going to help not only themselves but the public by this movement. (Hear,

hear.) He advised them to form their Union, for through it they could bring public pressure to bear upon any Government going. He advised the nurses to do it themselves. It was the best means of getting at public opinion.

MISS HASLAM, who said she was an American Registered Nurse spoke of what had been achieved through organisation in the United States, she was very glad to learn that English nurses were forming a Trade Union.

A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE asked what more the proposed Union could do for the nurses than the College was going to give them. Most of their objects were already objects of the College. She said further: "Anyway, the College will do all the nursing education in the future."

The Chairman said that, in regard to the College, the writing was on the wall. *Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin* (weighed in the balances and found wanting).

MISS DRUMMOND enquired why Miss MacCallum did not resign her membership of the College if that was her opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN said that was her affair. In reply to a further question from Miss Ferrier she said she had every right to retain her membership, and also, if elected, to take a seat on its Council.

DR. WELPLY, Medical Secretary of the Medico-Political Union impressed on the meeting the necessity for adopting a democratic constitution.

DR. ARMSTRONG congratulated the meeting on its success, and advised nurses to form their Trade Union. Behind the diplomats were the sailor and the soldier, and the fact of carrying arms gives you more weight though you may not use them.

MISS O'DWYER, who said that she possessed the commercial instinct, enquired what she could do to get her guinea back from the College of Nursing, as she felt she had not got value for it.

#### OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION.

On being put to the meeting, a forest of hands were held up, and the Chairman declared the Resolution carried by a large majority, the limited opposition there was came from a small College clique at the back of the room.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the Chair.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, especially the speakers, some of whom had come at very great sacrifice and inconvenience.

She then declared the meeting closed; and so ended a most memorable gathering of nurses.

Those who desire further information as to the Professional Union of Trained Nurses should apply to the Secretary, c.o., the Triangle Secretarial Offices, 60 and 61, South Moulton Street, W. 1.

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