

patronage. She once told an interfering Duchess that though she might possibly wear a coronet, the Duchess would never be a nurse.

Miss Paterson defined slaves as of three classes : (1) The slave whose master cares for his bodily welfare to ensure a return of work accomplished ; (2) the serf slave ; (3) the wage slave, who is underpaid, overworked, and cast aside when of no further use—the class which concerns nurses most closely.

The speaker urged her hearers not to be deterred from joining the Union for fear of the word "strike." Each union made its own strike rules.

One of the great advantages of the Union would be that it would confer its protection on probationers in training. The elder sisters who had been through the mill were going to give a helping and protecting hand to the younger ones. Full membership was restricted to trained nurses, but those in training could be Associates, and for half the subscription, and without entrance fee, would be given the protection of the Union and become full members on receiving their certificates.

Never, said Miss Paterson, was a Union more needed, and the Government had asked every calling and industry to organise. Whatever you do, she continued, don't be a drag on the wheel, or keep out of this because your pocket or prospects are not threatened. Join up, work for the good of the whole, the larger our membership the more we can accomplish. Don't fear that Trade Unionism does away with the idea of a vocation, the doctors have their Medical Defence Union, and their Trade Union, and the Scriptures tell us that "the labourer is worthy of his hire." If you love your work and your profession, just payment and shorter hours will not lower your standard, but widen the scope of your activities. Our aims are not selfish. By improving our own conditions we shall be able to help to build up an A 1 Empire. (Applause.)

COUNCILLOR MITCHELL BRINGS THE GREETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS.

We print in full the remarks of Councillor Rosslyn Mitchell, who was listened to with marked attention :—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have come with great pleasure this afternoon to bear to you the greetings of the Council of Trade Unions, and have also come because I happen to belong to a profession, and because I have had for many many years a very close connection with trade union activities ; and it was thought that I might be able to put to you one or two points from actual practical experience of the operation of Trade Unions in other spheres which might remove from your minds perhaps some of those objections which naturally occur to people who have not been accustomed to move in trade union circles. We only hear of trade unions in ordinary affairs when they are taking up some very dramatic attitude, sometimes almost a theatrical attitude. Usually our knowledge of trade union existence

comes simply from the occurrence of strikes. Do let me in the first place tell you that the strike is one of the least important parts of the work of a trade union, both in the matter of the time which it occupies of those who administer the trade union and in relation to other purposes for which the trade union exists. (Hear, hear.)

The trade union is not a revolutionary proposition. It is an association which has grown up in the natural course of the evolution of efficiency in industrial organisation. It had originally two sides. In the first place, during the time when it was considered as illegal it found its origin in a desire among persons working in a certain craft to see that those who were apprentices in that craft were not taken advantage of by those who employed them by putting them upon work for which they were not fitted, which to them in their untutored condition might be a danger either to life or to limb, and which eventually would lead to the craft itself being flooded with young apprentices who had become journeymen without having gone through the proper training. Now, taking it from the employer's standpoint, it is only natural that he should, if a youth is brought in as an apprentice to a craft, and shows a particular aptitude for some part of the work at which he is placed, keep him there rather longer than he would in the ordinary course of events, because of his doing his work so excellently well. But, from the apprentice's point of view, and from the point of view of the craft generally, it is a bad thing that an apprentice should be kept at some specialised job, no matter how good a workman he might be in that job, because it denies to him the full and abundant equipment of a proper training in the various departments when he becomes a journeyman in the craft.

Now, without pretending to any knowledge of the intricacies of your profession, I take it that if a probationer shows a peculiar aptitude for one special part of the work in which she is engaged, there is a natural inclination on the part of the matron or governors of the hospital or institution to retain her at that work, thereby depriving her of the probationer's right to obtain instruction in all departments, and afterwards leaving her less fitted than she ought to be to stand upon her own feet, either as a private nurse or as a sister having power over the various departments. (Applause.)

Now, that is the first origin, and that is the main purpose of the forming of trade-unions.

The second purpose was to meet certain circumstances which always arise when you have groups of people working together if they are simply working as individuals. There is first of all the occurrence of what is considered by one side or the other as an injustice, rightly or wrongly, and there is the occurrence of the underselling of the only commodity which the worker has to sell in the market, namely, his labour. Now, with regard to the question of an injustice ; if we are all working as scattered individuals, and we feel

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