

field of his labor, and to convert him from a thoroughly equipped and efficient workman into a specialist, who, should his own particular branch of labor become over-stocked, or even obsolete, is at once thrown into competition with those who may have been more fortunate than himself in the selection of their sphere, or who may, by reason of a more thorough technical education, be enabled to readily adapt themselves to any change of circumstances.

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"Although for practical purposes it may not now be necessary that a printer should be able to do anything from "pulling off a token" to setting a Latin grammar, still it cannot be denied that the imperfect and special training which our apprentices receive is more calculated to benefit their employers than to fit them for taking a creditable place in their profession, and in most cases can only result in seriously handicapping them in the struggle for existence which they are called upon to enter, after having spent, and to so little purpose, those valuable years in which they ought to have been laying the foundation for future prosperity and usefulness. Anything that would tend to mitigate or remove the hardship, chagrin and loss which a newspaper compositor must encounter on having to move into a book-house, or *vice versa*, would, we apprehend, be regarded as a universal boon; and a thorough and efficient course of technical training would do much to smooth down the difficulties which must be encountered in these and similar circumstances."

Then, going on to discuss the advisability of the Executive Council of the Scottish Typographical Association promoting classes for technical education, presumably for journeymen and apprentices alike, the same paper says:

"As to the best means by which such a desirable object might be attained, there will probably be great diversity of opinion. Some may even be disposed to question the expediency of the Association entering upon an enterprise of this nature, and may believe that such matters are best met and dealt with by individual effort. We confess, however, to the opinion that in this case individual effort would be wholly inadequate to accomplish the end in view, and that in order to give the movement the impetus and encouragement which it deserves, we ought to turn our organization to account, by the Executive Council being empow-

ered and instructed to give every possible assistance to branches who may find themselves in a position to organize and conduct classes—which should be open to all the members—for the systematic study of all the technicalities of our profession. Surely in our larger branches competent men could be found, well versed in one or more of its departments, who would be willing and ready to give their services for such a laudable object. Little or no expense need be incurred if the matter were judiciously and energetically taken up, as the classes might from the first be made almost self-supporting, while the granting of certificates and expenditure of a small sum in the way of prizes would do much to stimulate emulation among the pupils and encourage the movement. The institution of a specimen exchange, such as has proved so popular and beneficial through the medium of one of our contemporaries, might also form a valuable means of testing the progress made, while much good might be accomplished by the publication in our pages, from time to time, of competitive essays on technical subjects, for which we would gladly give every facility. Indeed, were the matter taken up in earnest, many ways might be devised by which good might be done, without entailing very great trouble or expense, and by simply utilizing the resources which we already possess. That the Association itself would benefit from such a movement must be apparent. Not only would it be doing something to earn the gratitude of its members, but it would also be doing the best thing possible for securing the interest and attachment of the rising generation, to whom it must look for its future supporters."

This is a matter which should engage the most serious attention of the International Union, as well as all its subordinates, in order that some action may be taken at the next annual convention.

A manufacturer of blank books came to this office the other day for information as to where he should write, with the view to its purchase, for information about a machine sewing wire. He remarked that the maker of this machine would wonder that such an inquiry was necessary on the part of a manufacturer. Men who are niggardly in the matter of making known what they have to sell, have no idea what they lose thereby. If they had, their conversion would be certain. — *Geiger's Stationer.*