

## HOW TO WORK THE JUVENILE BRANCH OF THE C. E. T. S.

(From a Tract by Miss S. U. Gardner, Secretary of Juvenile Union C. E. T. S., Eng.)

[CONTINUED]

**Officers.**—This brings us to the question of how many ladies or officers it requires to manage the meeting. Unless it is a very small Society not less than five. These should each undertake her own especial office, and if absent should try to supply her own place. There should be

**The Superintendent,** who, remaining at the desk, reads prayers, chooses the songs, maintains general order, and when there is no visitor gives the reading or address.

**The Secretary and Treasurer,** who, seated at table, keeps the books and takes the payments, writes out the cards, and does all the work involved in the name.

**The Boys' Officer,** who is responsible for seating and general order of the boys, giving out and taking back their books, &c.

**The Girls' Officer,** who does the same for them.

**The Doorkeeper,** who keeps the door, is responsible for order in the lobby or porch, and who takes down in a rough book the number on the registers of each child who enters. If the boys and girls come in through different doors, each will require an officer in charge. If there is not a special pianist the superintendent should include this in her duties, as the chief lesson she must instil into the minds of all her sub-officers is *never to leave her post*. If any more helpers can be obtained they can be placed as assistants. It is only when no one else can be found that office should be given to older boys or girls.

**ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.**—The hour of meeting having come, the officers should all be in their places before the doors are open. As the children gather, the subscriptions should be paid, and new candidates for admission the following week must give in to the Secretary their name, address, and one penny entrance fee. This pays for the cards which the Secretary makes out between the weekly meetings.

**ADMISSION.**—The books having been given out, the doors should be closed, and the proceedings commenced with a hymn followed by prayers. The children whose names and fees have been given in the week before are now admitted, and have their cards presented to them between two prayers, as part of the office, which should conclude with the Collect of the Society said all together. The doors should then be reopened and a song given out without allowing any pauses during which children grow restless and disordered. Recitations and songs should follow each other briskly, until the time for the address, and it is best to close immediately after the latter, and to march the children out singing either a hymn or song.

**REWARDS.**—Where treats can be afforded, a day in the country in the summer, and a tea in the schools at Christmas, are doubtless very great attractions, and sustain a large attendance. The sad disaster at Sunderland, which last year filled all England with grief, was proof in itself of the attraction to children of occasional distribution of penny toys or sweets which, if associated with the idea of prizes for attendance or good behavior at the Temperance meetings, would do much to ensure both.

**PUNISHMENTS.**—The best and almost only practical punishment for disobedient or unruly members is the infliction of fines. A halfpenny fine for a first, a penny for second offence. These can be enforced either by refusing admission the following week until it is paid, or by stopping the next halfpenny or penny brought for subscription, and where the excellent rule is observed that no child is entitled to come to the treats unless the subscriptions are paid up, the penalty is not felt to be a light one. The word *fine* should at the time it is inflicted be entered in the Secretary's book, and written in ink on the child's card in the place of punching a little round hole to show the subscription paid. Many of these suggestions are the result of my own experience and observation in working one or two societies for poor children in large London parishes, there may be many different arrangements necessary, in country or village societies. If any difficulties are felt, or any further questions raised, which those who are working amongst children would like discussed, I should be very glad to answer them, either personally or by letter, as a welcome addition to my work as Organising Secretary to the Juvenile Union C.E.T.S.

### RESPONSIBILITY IN TALKING

THE absolute lack of responsibility which a good many well-meaning people show in the matter of talking would be incredible if one were constantly coming upon illustrations of its extent. Men and women give forth impressions and repeat, without qualification or condemnation, statements regarding others which have absolutely no foundation in fact, and to ascertain the truth or falsity of which not the slightest effort has been made. The same people would shrink from the idea of burning down a man's house or taking a ten-dollar bill out of his pocket, but they do not hesitate to smirch his character or destroy his peace of mind, calamities much more difficult to bear than the results of arson or theft. Society stands in great need of sound education regarding personal responsibility for talk which affects the character or standing of others.—*Christ. Union.*

Our daily defect or infirmity, overcome by God's aid, is worth whole years of supposed security and highly wrought feeling, without such earnest self-mastery.—*Kable.*

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