

Practical Suggestions for Junior League Workers

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EACH child possesses capacity for character, which when formed will be good or bad largely according to the start it gets. A child is thus an unknown quantity, but of unlimited possibilities.

The idea that young people must "sow their wild oats," then become converted and be brought into the Church is being superseded by the principle that it is much better to retain the child than to regain the prodigal. A child born in the Kingdom need never know itself out of the Kingdom. The instincts of a child tend toward good as naturally as toward evil. It should be easy for him to be Christian, and every encouragement should be given to direct and keep him in the way of life.

The home with its parental training holds the first and most important place in a child's life, but, because many homes

than we can ever repay to the Junior League for training in holding office, working on committees, singing, playing, and hearing the sound of our own voice in reciting, reading topics, and especially in learning to pray in public.

The Junior League is not merely the primary section of the Senior League. It is part of the Church and assists the pastor in caring for the catechisms of his congregation.

Life is made of nine-tenth habits, and the habit of daily prayer and Bible reading, carrying our Bible with us to the meeting, systematic giving to missions, formed as a result of the Junior League, is of inestimable value in forming character.

We save the child to save others. The children of to-day will be the workers of the next generation—the missionaries, preachers, superintendents, doctors, law-

Florence Nightingale, Abraham Lincoln, the great missionaries. Present Christ as the ideal hero and these people as his followers. Unconsciously the child will make them real, put himself as the hero, and live and feel the situation. Many children love to impersonate favorite characters, and this taste can be used to great advantage.

A child's imagination may be used effectively by illustrated blackboard talks. The superintendent need not be an artist. Children will accept roughly sketched pictures, sometimes only a few lines, without any details, and will fill in all the deficiencies with imaginary fittings.

Children love children, and we can have them help by appealing to the real needs of other little lives. This may be done by missionary object lessons, lantern slides and pictures. The making of scrap-books, little articles of clothing for the poor, dressing dolls, giving a toy or flower to a sick or shut-in one, helps them think of others and trains in service. Children love to do something worth while because definite and practical.

All work should be instructive, impressive and entertaining. The making of charts and diagrams of Bible facts is a good plan. Assistance and directions may be given at the meetings and the work completed at home. This work may be Scriptural in basis, but need not be confined to it. It may be supplemented by geography and history, with map-drawing occasionally, and to give an added stimulus prizes may be given for the best piece of work.

A Scripture contest proves very interesting to the Juniors, and it is remarkable how many verses will be learned. The method is similar to a spelling match. A portion of Scripture is assigned from which verses are chosen, or it may be the "Promises" of the Bible, or some line of thought to follow out.

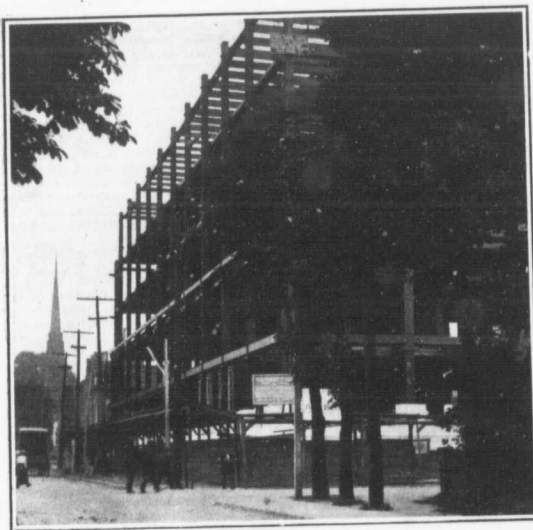
To encourage attendance a color contest may prove useful. The members are divided into two sides, the reds and the blues, seeing which can get the most new members. An honor roll hung on the wall and a gold star pasted opposite their names for punctuality and reciting Scripture will inspire many children to attend.

The atmosphere in which the meetings are held counts much. What children look at has so much to do with their life, therefore we must have a bright, light, comfortable, well-ventilated room, and see that it is rearranged frequently. In fact, avoid monotony in everything.

Have a definite plan and order for each meeting, which, by the way, must be prepared beforehand. No one can tell in detail each meeting; there must be a certain amount of originality. Just here the personality of the superintendent counts. She must be deeply spiritual yet not solemn; able to enter into the thoughts and purposes of the children; have an infinite amount of patience; untiring perseverance, and, above all, a passionate love for children.

Finally the League must co-operate with the home. One way in which this may be done is not to put the child's name on the roll until both it and the parent have signed the pledge. Then by children repeating at home what they have heard often remarkable results have followed, proving how true it is that "a little child shall lead them."

Regrets never follow virtuous actions. No one is sorrowful because, in looking back on his past life, he sees that it has been self-denying and full of labor for others. If he does grieve at the retrospect, it is because his efforts have been so imperfect and because he has done far less than it was his duty to do.—*Great Thoughts.*



ON JOHN STREET, LOOKING NORTH. ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DISTANCE.

fall in their duty, the Church through the Sunday school and Junior League endeavors to supply the child's religious need.

In the Sunday school the child learns truths taught, the Junior League supplements these by giving the child opportunity for expressing them. Unless we tell things we learn we forget them.

A child is not a piece of plastic clay which can be squeezed into any desired form, but a living germ to be developed from within. In speaking of the education of a child we do not ask what he knows but what he has become. So, training is more than teaching.

Training for service in the extension of the Kingdom of God is the main object of the League. The Junior League prepares the children for larger service in the Senior League, and there should be a continuity between them. Some of us owe more

years, teachers and politicians—and will inherit all the undeveloped resources and also the unfinished task of evangelizing the world.

In training Juniors in the League, we must not expect them to be like older people and make them sit still while we preach to them. It is breaking a law of nature to do so, and running a great risk of turning them against religion altogether. We do not need to give information so much as to inspire the Juniors to acquire it, by appealing to their imagination, remembering that their reasoning powers are not yet developed. They do not learn by being told truth in the abstract so much as by having set before them examples of the good and pure and true. One way to do this is by appealing to the love of the heroic in the boy and girl, with the stories of such people as the patriarchs, Peter, Paul, Frances Willard,