

study, prayer and service. Never consider your League as a little or unimportant thing, never ignore or trifle with the principles vital to its growth; but unite to make it a big and mighty agency in the uplift of everybody whom you may touch in the various ways within your reach. Plan big things and work together to realize them.

### Make It Easy

Many young people find it difficult to live as their inmost hearts prompt them to. The blame is not wholly theirs. The social world of to-day makes it exceedingly easy for the youth to form questionable if not really vicious habits. The Church does not make it equally simple for them to do right. We have the conviction that many young fellows go astray, not because they wilfully purpose to do so, but simply as the result of the easy drift downwards in which they so readily find themselves. The attractions of life seem to be almost altogether on the devil's highway; the paths of righteousness too frequently appear to be hard and thorny to youthful feet. This is wrong. The ways of God are being caricatured when they are presented to the boy or girl as anything else but pleasant and fair. The beauties of holiness are neither visionary or future but present and real, and should be so appreciated by the growing child. Satan may well laugh when the Christian life is presented to the boy as a long succession of self-denials or a continual repression of the natural instincts of normal being. He knows that the wholesome cravings of the child reach out after such things as will minister to his pleasure here and now as well as to his salvation in some future sphere, and if the Church will not provide these he sees that the need of pleasure is met to repletion. The danger of us adults is that we may make the way of right living hard to the young, while the enemy sees to it that the ways of error and sin are made extremely easy for youthful feet to tread. Why may we not make it as easy for our children to do right as the evil one makes it easy for them to do wrong? That is a vital question, and one which in our judgment the Church must face and solve if she would retain the most promising of the thousands of the children. We cannot afford that any of these little ones should perish.

### Practical Prohibition

It is generally conceded that our Epworth Leagues and kindred young people's societies exist not only to cultivate good characters in the individual members themselves, but to enable these members together to do their part in the development of similar goodness in the community to which they belong. No one among us will object to our young people personally pledging themselves to abstain from intoxicating liquors, and few, if any, will find fault with the idea of every Epworth League becoming a recruiting station for the enrolment of such abstinents. But is that enough? We think not. In our judgment the time is opportune for every Epworth League to join in an active propaganda for the elimination of strong drink, not only from the personal use of its individual members, but from the business life of the community. No League does its whole duty, as we see it, if it limits its activity to the room in which it holds its meetings or to the limited number who constitute its membership. The church is a good place to come to as a place of meeting, but it is equally good as a place to go from for the exercise of influence that shall drive the drink traffic forever out of business. Every League should educate its members, not only in personal total abstinence principles, but in practical prohibition politics. Every Epworth Leaguer should be to the utmost of his influence among his fellows an educator in temperance, but he should also be an agitator in prohibition legislation. We can see no other consistent course before our societies than for them to unite, formally, publicly and unequivocally place themselves in open alliance with those measures that are likely to most quickly

and thoroughly rid the country of the drink curse. We confess to no hesitation or qualification in our own mind on this score as far as Ontario is concerned, and make no apology whatever for counselling every loyal young Methodist having the permanent good of his Province at heart to support in every way within his power the Liberal leader, Mr. N. W. Rowell, in his noble endeavor to "Abolish the Bar." With party politics in its narrower and meaner sense we have nothing to do, but with the politics of the party that will strike the hardest and quickest blow at the most deadly enemy our country knows, we are in deepest sympathy and heartiest accord. Let the intelligent young manhood of Ontario assert itself at this critical period, and not for party gain but for the triumph of purity and truth, the advance of righteousness and godliness, the alleviation of suffering and the obliteration of poverty—for God, and Home, and Native Land—join forces in the spirit of noblest patriotism and help the cause along. Don't be afraid of politics in your League as long as they are based on such principles as N. W. Rowell has consistently advocated. Read Isaiah 28, and learn present-day lessons for the country's good.

### A First Duty

To make inventory of one's duties or to place each in its proper and relative place in the correct scale of values is not easy, but perhaps impossible; yet one of the "first" duties of every young person is to see that as far as lies in his power he is physically fit for the work of the day. One may not have full and perfect control over his health, but we are assured that thousands of our youth are culpably careless as to their physical condition, and by ignoring or neglecting the laws by which health and strength are conserved are inviting disease and making physical weakness sure. Many have attributed to a "strange and mysterious Providence" conditions and experiences with which the Almighty has had no direct connection, but which have come as the natural and logical results of violated physical law. To be at one's best and to preserve one's physical condition on that high and healthful level is one of the "first things" that our Creator expects of us. No one can do best work without best conditions under which to do it, and one of these is physical fitness. Any high-minded youth, therefore, will allow himself no habit which he knows full well will entail physical debility and unfit him for the proper performance of his daily tasks. We believe that such a consideration clearly and tactfully presented to a boy will do more to prevent the cigarette habit than an emphatic prohibition by dogmatic authority will accomplish. The same is true of liquor drinking, and indeed of any of the grosser forms of vice. Because our young folk cannot afford to indulge in these they may be led to ignore them altogether, and they will do so if they are early taught the sacredness of the body and the supreme value of preserving it in health. It is a duty one owes himself, his fellows, his work, his future, his God, to conserve his physical well-being. It is a "first duty." Do it.

### Local Initiative

We have long been of the opinion that the Epworth League should develop the powers of the young folk themselves in initiating plans and methods of work that are best suited to their own neighborhoods. Young Methodists should not be content to remain forever children. By this we mean that our Leagues should not ask to have everything outlined for them by somebody outside of their own home circle. They may start as inexperienced juniors, and while in the kindergarten grade may require by their very immaturity that someone more advanced and experienced shall tell them exactly what they shall do and how they should do it; but surely the Epworth League is more than a kindergarten. We confess to considerable disappointment with many Leagues we have known in this