

WORK AMONG THE CHILDREN.

THE Discipline of the Methodist Church recognizes all children as members of the kingdom of God, and regards all baptized children as under the special care and supervision of the Church. It also provides as soon as an age of understanding is reached, that they should be put under instruction in things pertaining to salvation, and formed into catechumen classes with suitable leaders. The principles therein laid down are right, but many a busy pastor is not able to undertake the duties required to carry out the instructions of the Discipline, neither is it always possible to appoint suitable leaders to carry on the work. The very word "catechumen" is a term that many of our people do not comprehend, scarcely understanding what is implied by such "classes."

Whatever may have been the cause, the Church has too long neglected her children. While tenderly cared for in some respects, little systematic effort has been made to secure their decision and early allegiance to Christ. The best time to convert a man or woman is when a child, before becoming unconverted. The Church should continually stretch out her arms to the children with the Master's Spirit, and keep "the little ones" in the kingdom of heaven. What seems to be required is an organization embodying the idea of the Discipline, having a name and plan of operation that would at once suggest methods of work to adults, and enlist the interest and co-operation of the children. Such an organization, we believe, is provided in the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor or the Junior Epworth League.

The object of these societies is to assist and supplement home training and Sunday School work. They are training schools in Christian character and service. Their purpose is to train the heart, head and hand in lessons of personal trust, loyalty and work "for Christ and the Church." The object is accomplished similarly to that of the Christian Endeavor weekly prayer-meeting, by means of officers and committees under an adult superintendent. A pledge similar to the following may be taken: "Trusting in God to help me, I will try to learn and do