

## Practical Plans.

### Bicycle Club.

The various Leagues of Toronto have organized a Bicycle Club, with over two hundred members. Three or four times during the summer they have a "run" together through some of the best paved streets, or to one of the parks, and end the evening with a social half hour at one of the churches, with light refreshments.

### Rainy Sunday Band.

One League reports that a large number of its members have pledged themselves to attend the church service on rainy and stormy Sundays. They feel their responsibility to be present, and their attendance encourages others who have been in the habit of remaining home.

### Lawn Services.

During the months of July and August the meetings of the Metropolitan League, Toronto, will be held in the open air on the lawn back of the church. It is expected that the arrangement will help greatly in keeping up the attendance. At one of the meetings in August all the societies of the district are to be invited to participate in a great open air meeting.

### Careless Officers.

What shall be done with officers who only attend the meeting of the League occasionally? They should be interviewed by the president who should urge upon them the importance of regularity. If there is no improvement the delinquent officer should be asked to resign and make way for some one who will do the work. When it happens that the president himself is the careless one, the case is more serious, and should be taken in hand by the pastor. Nothing so hinders the progress of a society as indifferent officers.

### Business Meeting Built Up.

"We have the hardest time getting people out to the business meeting," said an Epworthian recently.

"Try our plan" responded the one addressed; "we had the same difficulty until we added a social to the business meeting."

"That's a good idea," brightly replied the Epworthian; "how many did you have in attendance then?"

"We increased our number," replied the friend, "from fifteen to fifty. It was a successful combining of the social and business element. It gave a larger number some part in the evening's entertainment as there was some game or light

refreshment for the social hour. Those who had reports to make were more particular about being present, and it is surprising how much more interest was taken in the league work.

### Plan For It.

A really good League prayer meeting does not happen, but must be planned and prepared for. Here is a good suggestion which comes from one who has seen it successfully tried: "The leader, frequently requests a number of persons, in advance of the time, to speak upon some phase of the topic during the meeting, *without being called upon*. This prevents 'dragging'—a condition so embarrassing to all leaders."

### "The Greatest."

The following suggestions for a literary evening come from Rev. R. O. Armstrong, Newport, N.S.:

The greatest general—Joshua.  
The greatest statesman—Moses.  
The greatest poet—David.  
The greatest philosopher—Solomon.  
The greatest preacher—Peter.  
The greatest seer—John.  
The greatest missionary—Paul.  
The greatest of all—Christ, who gives all true greatness.

### Shepherding the Lag-Behinds.

Discussing this question in *The Christian Endeavor World*, Dr. J. F. Cowan says: "Dealing with delinquent members is a very tender subject. Were you ever in a Lookout Committee conference where it did not come to the surface at once, and stay there? The first and best rule is: 'Try not to have any.' It is the 'stitch in time' that is worth nine others. Of course, you will mark the roll-call carefully at each weekly prayer meeting, as well as at the monthly consecration meeting. Keep a record of the way in which each member takes part. This will quickly show when interest begins to wane. 'Prayed fervently,' 'said a few words,' 'read extract,' 'repeated verse,' 'called for hymn No. 17,' reads down the thermometer. A little stimulus just at the cooling-point is better than a galvanic shock after the case has been neglected. Be a 'sooner' committee. Here are some good preventives, an ounce of which is worth the proverbial pound of cure:

"Give the languid members something to do.  
"Read the pledge in concert at each meeting.

"Get delinquent members, one at a time, into your committee meetings.

"Use the mail and telephone to remind them of remission.

"Offer a prize, or have a roll of honor for all-the-year-round attendance.

"Call on sick members, and offer to carry their messages to the consecration meeting.

"Send birthday reminders to show that the society still cares for them."

### Objections to the Pledge.

The Lookout Committee ought to keep on hand some good leaflets on the subject of "Christian obligation" to hand to those who are thinking of signing the pledge.

When one hesitates because he believes that the step will mean sacrifice, don't contradict him. It is an unfeeling evidence that he has been harboring in his heart and life something that is inconsistent with a genuine Christian life. For, depend upon it, one who can not keep the pledge has not been keeping the pledge he made when he gave himself to Christ. In their eagerness to gain accessions to the society, Endeavorers sometimes do much harm by attempting to make light of difficulties. For instance, when you approach a devotee of the theatre, the card-table, or the ball-room, don't change the subject or turn the matter aside, if he is disposed to bring up the question; rather seek to show him that a Christian life is worth all that it can cost, and that it is sure to cost something. If the Endeavor Society does not help to a higher life, it has no mission. And to promise to strive to do whatever Christ would like to have you do, and still put your own desire for a bit of worldly pleasure against the sentiment of the most spiritual-minded that have lived and are living, is far from consistent.—*Lookout*.

### Hints for Missionary Department.

At the Ecumenical Missionary Conference in New York, there was a special meeting for missionary workers in Young People's Societies, which took the form of a Round Table Conference. The following are some of the suggestions which were made with a view to increasing the efficiency of missionary work:

At every missionary meeting there should be a definite aim, and an effort should be made to interest every member.

A permanent and slow growing missionary exhibit is a great help. Missionary maps and charts should be used.

Missionary mottoes on the wall increase interest. They should be changed occasionally.

Good stereotyped views can be secured at missionary headquarters.

Missionary bulletin boards, with terse information frequently changed, are helpful.

Robert Speer's pamphlet on "Prayer and Missions," was highly recommended.

Induce indifferent members to study missionary books by placing interesting volumes in their hands and pledging them to read the first three chapters.

Giving should be the outcome of self-denial.

Develop a feeling of confidence in your own Missionary Board.

"Mr. Horn and His Friends," by Mark Guy Pearse, and "Money," by Rev. A. F. Shaufler, were books on giving which were highly commended.

The advantage of systematic and proportionate giving is that it teaches people to live within their means, and not to spend upon themselves what should be given.