

From the Field.

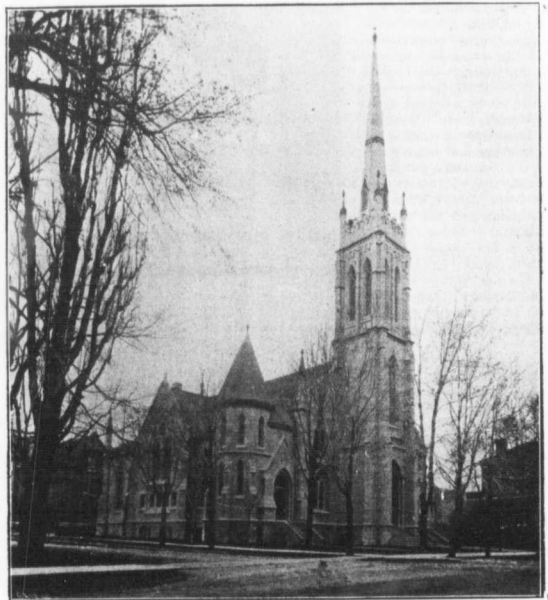
Toronto, Central Church.—When, a few years ago, the work of reorganizing and reviving the Epworth League connected with the Central church, Toronto, was undertaken, those who devoted themselves to this task not only adopted, but decided to test, the Constitution of the Epworth League as applied to the operation of local societies, as thoroughly as their resources would permit, for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, some satisfactory proof of the ability of the Constitution, when put into practice, to meet all the requirements of an efficient organization, as well as to discover, by actual test, what were the weak and what its strong points. Now, after nearly four years of experiment, in which a very thorough and careful test has been made, we gladly bear testimony to the fact, that in all its essential features the Constitution has honored its authors, and has proved itself to be eminently adapted to the work for which it was intended; for, in the endeavor to place the League upon the most thoroughly efficient working basis possible, we only found it necessary to make digressions in one or two points of minor importance, in order to adapt it to the peculiar needs of the work in Central church. One of the strongest points of the Constitution we found to be in the dual nature of the composition of the Executive Committee, viz., the election of president, vice-presidents, secretaries, and treasurer, and the appointment of the minor officers, such as convenors of sub-committees. The advantages of this plan are apparent, inasmuch as it allows the membership of the League the privilege of selecting by popular election, those whom they wish to be their leaders, while it also affords a most extraordinary opportunity for the exercise of careful foresight and judgment, on the part of those who are thus elected, in appointing to positions of minor importance those whose worth and ability has not yet been manifest to the League as a whole, but who have given evidence, in a quiet way it may be, of the possession of ability which if developed would enable them to be of greater service in later years. This plan of careful and prayerful selection has been practised in our work at Central with singular success, and as a means of developing character—which we place as the primary purpose of the work of the League—it has proved not only to the individual, but also to the League and the church to be of inestimable value. We might, indeed, multiply words in commendation of the Constitution in other respects; but will just add that in the experimental development of the work of our League along the lines laid down by it, we have met with unparalleled success, and attribute a large measure of our success to its ability to draw out and develop to best advantage the talents, which, for so many years have been hidden from the eyes of men.

Burlington.—The following is an extract from the annual report of Burlington Epworth League of Christian Endeavor:—"We present this, the Seventh Annual Report of the Burlington Epworth League of Christian Endeavor, with gratitude and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the work we have been enabled to accomplish. In the department of Christian Endeavor we are pleased to report a marked progress. The Look-out Committee has faithfully endeavored to look up absent members, and also look out for new ones. The average attendance at the monthly consecration meeting was fifty-five—an increase of seventeen over average of last year. Special mention should be made of the excellent work accomplished by the Prayer Meeting Committee.

They have made arrangements and provided leaders for the devotional meetings held at 6.30 Sunday evenings. They have been greatly encouraged and their hearts made glad by the increased attendance and interest shown, especially by the younger members. The Sunday School Committee has co-operated with the superintendent by looking up absentees to the number of 109, and has also endeavored to bring in new scholars. In the Missionary department interest has not been lacking. Six missionary meetings have been held. \$540.00 has been promised, of which \$25.94 is received. We use the systematic plan of one, two, or three cents per week. Under the direction of this committee the nucleus of a circulating missionary library has been purchased. Very helpful and practical work has been done by the Relief Committee. They have held fifteen meetings, eleven of which were sewing meetings—forty-eight garments have been made, and

special evenings. Under the direction of the latter committee the church has been decorated every Sunday with plants or cut flowers. Sixty-three bouquets, each accompanied by a verse of Scripture, have been carried to the homes of the sick and shut in. After careful revision of the roll, the League has at the present time a membership of 111—103 active, 8 associate."

Weston.—The president of the League at Weston writes:—"Our Christian Endeavor department is given most prominence. We have a talk on the topic for each week, and our active members in turn take charge of this part of our service. On the last evening of each month we hold a consecration service led by our pastor, Rev. J. J. Ferguson. Our total membership is fifty-seven, the general average being about thirty-five. The missionary department holds special meetings every second Friday. We adopted



SYDENHAM STREET CHURCH, KINGSTON, ONT.

fifty-four visits paid by the committee. They have been especially watchful for cases of need. They have expended in supplies \$9.62, and have a balance on hand of \$5.20. Four temperance evenings have been provided by the Temperance Committee. In July, in view of the plebiscite vote, 5,000 temperance tracts were distributed throughout the village. Forty names have been added to our temperance pledge, and thirty-nine to the tobacco pledge—making now on the temperance pledge ninety-three, on the tobacco eighty-eight. Under the Literary department splendid work has been done by the literary and social committee. They have presented varied and interesting programmes for eight evenings, of which perhaps the most enjoyable were 'A Patriotic Evening,' 'A Mock Court,' and 'An Evening with our Fathers and Mothers.' Under this department are the music and flower committees. The former has provided an organist for each month, and furnished also the musical part of the programme for all

the Forward Movement three or four years ago, and have thirty members giving systematically. In the report for 1897-98 you will see that our League gave \$35 to the fund. In addition to this, we have sent a bale of clothing, books, toys, etc., to Algoma, and since that, a box of books to form a Sunday School library. We have found it very helpful to have some special work always on hand. The interest and loyalty of the members has been greatly stimulated as the result. Our interest in mission work is largely due to our pastor, who is truly missionary in spirit, and to whom we owe much. We have also a well-worked literary department, one of the features of which was a debate between six of the members, held early in the winter. The committee is arranging for a friendly debate between the Christian Endeavor of the Presbyterian Church here and our own members. It is creating great interest, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable evening. We have had evenings with different celebrated authors and poets. During the last year and