

We attended a Convention the other day, and did not hear the expression "along this line" more than half a dozen times. Strange as it may seem, this is an actual fact.

To get one copy of THE EPWORTH ERA and pass it around among the members of the League is certainly an economical method, but it is hard on the publisher. If all the societies did this we would have to raise the price to about \$2 per year.

LEAGUES which were prevented from taking up the Epworth League Reading Course in the fall, by special meetings, etc., will do well to start in as soon as possible after the holidays. There are five full months for this work before the summer.

The probabilities are that the temperance question will be a live issue for some time to come. Epworth Leagues and other Young People's Societies should prepare themselves for a campaign, by storing up facts, arguments, incidents, etc., for temperance meetings, and for personal work.

INSTEAD of continually singing, "Let a Little Sunshine In," it would be a good thing to "let a little sunshine out." Those who scatter sunshine by kind deeds to others are usually much more attractive as Christians than the individuals who are always seeking to make themselves happy.

THE Convention speaker scored a bull's eye when he said that the tendency in many places was to minimize the importance of the Social Department, and place upon it members who were not considered competent to work on other departments. Nothing but failure can result from such a course.

We remind our readers that each issue of this paper costs them less than five cents. If any of our subscribers think it is not worth this amount, we do not want them to renew for 1902, but we are exceedingly anxious to retain all who believe they are getting the worth of their money. Send on your half dollar for the new year without delay.

ATTENTION is directed to the Conference League Conventions to be held during January, February, and March, in Cornwall, Deseronto, and London. The officers are preparing excellent programmes, and it is expected that our work will be greatly stimulated by these gatherings. Of course your League will send one or more delegates.

Some one has expressed surprise that the supply of fools should keep up to support the multitudinous fads and isms which are springing up on every side. Why the fact is, the country is full of them. A few weeks ago a company of gypsies pitched their tent upon a vacant lot in Parkdale, Toronto. Since then there has been a steady stream of people, mostly society ladies, going to the gypsies to get their fortune told. The travelling frauds have reaped a golden harvest out of the gullible public.

The devil is getting in some fine work these days. One of his sharpest tricks is to induce candy makers to fill their confections with brandy, with the object of cultivating a taste for alcohol among children and young people. Find out whether his satanic majesty is operating in this way in your town. If so get after him with a heavy club.

DURING the past month we had a call from Rev. R. Burns, of Harriston. He informs us that the Brotherhood of St. Paul, for young men, is doing well. It has now been in existence for over a year, with no diminution of interest. So far from injuring the Epworth League it has been a feeder to it, considerably increasing the membership.

WE are in receipt of a little local paper called "Church Tidings," published by Rev. David Rogers, at Fordwich. It is full of interesting items, including the pastor's "Christmas Greeting." That the "Tidings" is not intended to be picked up by the *Guardian* is indicated by the fact that eighteen new subscribers have recently been secured for that paper in Fordwich.

A RECEPTION to the new minister is a very pleasant and appropriate affair when held within a few days of his arrival on the field, but when it is postponed for three or four months, as it has been by several Toronto churches, it loses much of its effect. It is positively ridiculous to read in the daily paper of November 20th that "The congregation of — church held a welcome reception for its pastor last evening," when the said pastor commenced his ministry in the previous July.

ONE of the daily papers reports that a wealthy farmer died recently and left \$20,000, which was divided between two sons. It adds that "some unimportant bequests were made to a daughter." This is the way it is usually done by the average farmer. The land and nearly all the money are given to the boys, while a hundred or two are set apart for the girls. There ought to be some way by which such wills could be set aside, as they are a rank injustice to the daughters.

THE Britishers are giving the world a fine illustration of pluck and persistence in carrying on the South African war. Difficulties almost insuperable, and discouragements most serious have been encountered, but the idea of giving up never seems to have entered John Bull's head. What a lesson there is here for those who make one or two attempts at a difficult task and then conclude that "it can't be done." The prizes of life usually come to the men who have the spirit of perseverance.

THE Christmas number of *Onward* was a gem. We really pity the Sunday-schools which did not have the privilege of reading it. It is a shame that in a number of places our senior boys and girls have to put up with a poor little sheet printed on wrapping paper, with ancient illustrations simply because it is cheap. Economize in some other direction, but not in

Sunday-school papers. Our Methodist young folks deserve the best that is to be had, which we are glad to say is produced right at home.

"If any man offend not in word the same is a perfect man." This is the opinion of no less an authority than St. James. At first, it seems strange that a man should be judged by his words, but there is really nothing that affords such an index to the inner life. There is no form of outward action that gives such a picture of the condition of the heart as the speech. If a man's words are pure, sweet and wholesome, it is an indication that his heart is right, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

WE often hear it asserted that the churches are after young men for their pulpits, and undoubtedly this is correct. Several sprightly young fellows have been picked up recently by city congregations. Rev. Dr. Henson, of Chicago, who has been in the ministry for forty-five years, and Dr. Lorimer, at the age of 62, have been called to the pastorates of important New York City churches. Rev. W. J. Hunter, D.D., at 67, receives an invitation to a leading Toronto church, and Rev. Dr. Wakefield at three score and ten is asked by his Paris Quarterly Board to remain for a fourth year. After all, age is not a matter of years. Some men are younger at seventy than others at thirty.

A YOUNG pastor on one of our country circuits was visited, not long ago, by a solemn-visaged man who desired to have an interview with him upon a matter of great importance. "Brother," said he, addressing the preacher in a serious manner, "I have heard a rumor about you to-day which greatly distresses me, and I want to be able to deny it, for it will hurt your influence greatly. They say that you have a *crokinole board* in the parsonage. Can it be possible that this is the case?" We are glad to say that the crokinole board is still in the parsonage, and the preacher occasionally plays a game with the young people who are invited in to spend an evening. By this means he gains more influence over some of them than by his sermons.

WHAT a miserable lot of rubbish is printed in the papers describing social events in the homes of the people! It is all right enough for Mrs. Highlier to have an "At Home" or an "afternoon tea" for her numerous friends if she wants to, but why is it necessary to give so much space to a minute description of the whole affair, even to the ladies' dresses? Here is how *Saturday Night* writes up an "afternoon reception": "To see the tall and gentle young hostess take her guests by the hands and smile upon them in that adorable way she has, and pass them on to the Doctor for a second delightful greeting, in his cultured voice, was so pretty a sight that women grouped and lingered to look at it, and forgot to crowd themselves into the tea-room, as is their imbecile wont." How edifying and entertaining this must have been!