

The young people of the west are imbued with a spirit of life and energy, and these characteristics are bound to manifest themselves in this branch of the church's life if we can succeed in arousing their interest.

We are necessarily laboring under great difficulties. We have not many young people in our congregations and what we have are with us to-day but are elsewhere to-morrow. The western spirit of unrest affects C. E. work.

In some localities the formation of B. Y. P. U's. and E. L's. of C. E. has made our numbers smaller, but perhaps this, in the end, will not be an unmixed evil, as we shall be able to concentrate our energies more on our own church work. In other places, however, the young people attending our services are of so many different denominations that no definite course is advisable along purely C. E. lines. In other congregations again while no societies are in existence as yet, the formation of such is constantly kept in view.

There have been in the twelve or thirteen fields in our Presbytery four societies during the past year; some see that the movement has a hold in one third of the territory occupied by the church. Not being in possession of the statistics of 1895 we cannot form an estimate as to increase or decrease, but we find the existing societies engaged in all the work in which societies usually engage, and in some new branches; for example, one society conducted several Sabbath services and reports "no serious results." The same society raised \$10 for the Armenian Fund, and another society raised \$25 for building purposes on the Mormon Mission in Southern Alberta.

In most of the societies, leaders are appointed to open the meetings and discuss briefly the topic, after which the meetings are thrown open for all to take part. This plan seems most successful. We find reported a total active membership of fifty-two and an associate one of forty-two, making a total of ninety-four, and a total contribution of \$97. In three out of four societies the Assembly's plan is adopted.

We believe that the movement is going to do good, and is bringing about desirable effects in moulding the lives of young people, in weakening the grasp of worldliness in their lives, and certainly furnishes a needed social retreat for them.

If we might be permitted to offer any suggestions, they would be:

1. Have a society if possible in every congregation. See that all the available material is considered before you decide you shall not have one.
2. If impracticable to have an organized society, do some C. E. work in connection with your prayer meetings.
3. When new societies are formed we would strongly advise the adoption of the Assembly's Plan of Study, as there is great need of instruction among the young people of our Church in her history, polity and doctrines.

W. L. Atkinson,

Convener Presbytery's Com. Y.P.S.C.E.

Innisfail.

#### ENDEAVOR NOTES.

A Christian Endeavor Society has been organized at the headquarters of the American Volunteers.

Rev. Dr. H. T. McIwen, pastor of the Fourteenth Street Presbyterian Church, addressed the social gathering of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, which was held in connection with the 202nd yearly meeting of the orthodox branch of the Religious Society of Friends, in this city. The address is said to have been a spirited one.

The Philadelphia Traction Company has granted the use of all its car sheds for the conduct of Gospel meetings by the Christian Endeavorers of that city.

The Christian Endeavor Union of Santa Clara County, California, has gotten up a pledge card for bicyclers. Each card provides space for five signers, who promise that they will not ride the bicycle for pleasure on the Lord's day.

Christian Endeavor Societies that have given money for missions to their own denominational mission boards will have the right to be placed on the missionary roll of honor, which will be unrolled at the San Francisco convention. All societies entitled to this honor should immediately report to Secretary Baer.

Rev. Robert F. Y. Pierce, the well known chalk talker, will attend the San Francisco Convention and take part in the junior rally. His ability to interest the young, as well as the older people is remarkable.

Among the subjects for consideration at the missionary session of the Convention, will be "Systematic Proportionate Giving to God," "City Evangelization," and "The Tenth Legion."

Evangelistic meetings will be held at the noon hour during the continuance of the Convention, in such places as will be likely to accomplish the greatest good.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterial and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2165, Toronto, Ont.

### DOUBTFUL THINGS.

BY REV. F. D. MEYER.

In the life of every Christian there are many questions which rise perpetually for answer. We puzzle about them in our hours of reverie. We listen with keen attentiveness to an address or sermon that seems likely to cast light on them, though as often as not we turn away disappointed. We sometimes, in bursts of confidence, intrust them to our friends, asking for help. And yet, after all, we have to waive the verdict; and the solution is given, not definitely or concisely, but by circumstances, or by an entire change in the conditions of our life. May it not be that these debatable matters are allowed to arise to test us? They are the gymnastics of the soul. They do for us what the exercise-ground does for the soldier, and the yards of the training-ship for the young sailor.

It is almost impossible, therefore, to lay down any authoritative rules of conduct. After all, each must decide what is right and wrong for himself. All we can do is to enunciate certain great principles, which always need to be borne in mind.

1. "Study the effect of any questionable fellowship or pastime upon the devout life." How many pitfalls there lie on heavily carpeted floors! What disloyalty to the King may be perpetrated in our light and unguarded hours! And how often, when the brilliantly lighted rooms are deserted for the lonely chamber, there is the sense of having lost tone!

Of course, the best and surest deliverance from this evil is to be found in the heightened or deepened soul-life, which can pass through scenes like these so completely at rest in Christ, so steadfastly rooted and grounded in his love, as not to drift before any current, or to be swayed by any breeze. But where this is impossible, where prayer and faith and the girding of the soul are ineffective to keep us to our moorings in Christ, it were better to avoid the scenes which always deteriorate and blight and dim.

2. "Beware of being brought under the power of any doubtful thing." As soon as that which may be innocent in itself, and lawful for another, becomes imperious in its demand for satisfaction, as soon as it asserts its powers or thunders at the gate of the soul, like the mob before the palace of Versailles demanding bread, then the apostle declares he would have none of it.

We none of us know the strength of the current till we turn to face it, or the force of habit till we essay to lay it aside. Paul, however, refused to allow the current to become swift and strong, or single actions to become habits, unless he were perfectly sure that they came from God and bore him Godward.

Well would it be for each to ponder deeply the habits and practices of life. They may be as innocent as lawn tennis, as healthy as cycling, but just as soon as anything which appears absolutely harmless, and indeed is harmless to others, begins to assume preponderating power, there is nothing for it but to put it aside.

3. "Study next the effect on others." Each act of ours influences others for good or ill, as each atom on the seashore affects all other atoms. You, boasting in your freedom and strength, may be able to expose yourself without hurt, where others would simply perish. Is it right to entice men to walk on glaciers to which they are not accustomed, when their shores are not studded with nails, and no pole is in their hand, and a fall almost certain? Is it right to tempt the weak and inexperienced far out of their depth because you can withstand the motion of the current and the beat of the surf?

4. "Do nothing on which you cannot ask the blessing of Christ." In the old days it was thought that if the sign of the cross were made over any vessel that contained poison, it would instantly be shattered in pieces. So, whenever some doubtful topic confronts us, let each say: "Can I do this for Jesus? Can I do it as one who is abiding in fellowship with Him? Can I ask His blessing? Can I do it for His glory?" If you can; if, as you look up into His face, He answers you with a smile, if you have the consciousness of being in the current of His life, then hesitate no more, but go forward where the way lies open. *Golden Rule.*

More than a third of the whole British Army in India are said to be members of its Temperance Association. The average number last year was 23,711 men. Lord Roberts, who, when Commander-in-Chief, encouraged the movement, declared that it has added three battalions of effective men to the British Army in India, saving £600,000 thereby every year.