

whose contents you may spend many a beneficial hour.

Still there is something better than this. We believe that to take the Canadian First Standard Course in Teacher Training would wonderfully help a large number of our young people. Is it not the Epworth League should be the ever-ready and cheerful assistant of the Sunday School. Most of the Leaguers are either in the Senior or Adult Division of the School, or are teachers in its classes. What better service could they render than in the future than they have been able to render in the past? The Teacher Training Course is definitely planned for this purpose. Its divisions are five-fold, and each subject is not only of deep interest in itself but essential to good Sunday School teaching. Any Epworth League, through its third Department, could well serve the Sunday School by making provision for a Teacher Training Class. This First Course is better than any Reading Course we have ever known. It leads somewhere. It tends to something practical. It makes for more effective service in the Lord's work as well as enlarges one's appreciation and knowledge of the Lord's Book. Its practical advantages are too numerous to state here. Try it. The leaflet, giving full directions, will be sent in any number to any address, by simply sending a postcard to the General Secretary.

Whatever you may do with yourselves during these coming long winter evenings, resolve to make them count for something of permanent value to yourselves and your friends. Do not dissipate them in senseless or harmful pleasures. There is something to make for more. Seek it, and by combining self-culture with a measure of uplifting communion and fellowship with your friends, you will both receive and impart positive good, and rejoice as the springtime comes again that you have not idled your time away nor spent it in vain. Make the winter pleasures that lead only to dissatisfaction and loss. Make the winter evenings happy to yourself by seeking to make them cheerful, pleasant and profitable to those about you; first, at home; then, among your young friends at League.

About Convention Programmes

Just one remark, please! As far as subjects are concerned, we have no fault to find with the programmes as far as they have come to our table. But once more we must state our opinion that two many places are occupied by the ministers. Do not be too quick to take offence at that statement. No person knows the absolute necessity of ministerial leadership of the Epworth League better than your General Secretary, and no one will more highly honor our ministers who set themselves to the salvation and training of the young people under their care; and it is just because of this that we object to the ministers doing all the work themselves. True, it may be easier for a District Executive to secure ministers to do the speaking than the young men and women directly from the various Leagues to be represented in the Convention, but it is not best that they should take the easier way. If we do not cultivate the art of public speech in our young men our supply of young preachers for our ministerial ranks will become smaller and smaller, and we all know how lamentably short that supply is now. We cannot afford to pass our younger talent by, and it is poor judgment that simply for the sake of a more fluent address makes appointment of ministers almost exclusively to do the speaking at our Dis-

trict Conventions. A similar remark has been made by us before, and it may be made yet again, for our conviction is deepened as the days go by, that if the Epworth League throughout is not a young people's society—maintained by them, not simply for them—and cultivating their powers of expression in every possible way, it will fall to do what the Methodist Church has good right to expect of it. We do not blame the ministers who monopolize the platform, but rather the Committees who by organizing the Convention programmes appoint them to their place. Give the young men and women a chance, and even if rhetoric, logic and oratory all suffer somewhat at the Conventions, more real good will accrue in the long run. Equal rights to all, but no ministerial monopoly of Convention programmes is our argument. Is it a valid one, think you?

The District League

Time and again we have called attention to the supreme importance of the work included in the District League, not simply because it is of supreme importance, we are constrained to do so again. The Epworth League Constitution, as we have it here in Canada, is a most democratic arrangement, inasmuch as it allots to the young people themselves almost the entire government of their own societies. Some have questioned the wisdom of this, and have advised a more strict, and serious oversight of the local Leagues by the central governing body, the General Conference Board. And it may be that it will be necessary to make some radical changes in our Constitution unless a number of the District League Executives take their work more seriously and transact the business for which they stand more thoroughly. The General Conference has reposed great confidence in the young people of the Epworth League in planning the business of their own hands, to manage and conduct under certain general regulations and conditions, and as long as the work of the District is prosecuted with some degree of thoroughness, doubtless this confidence will continue and the privilege of directing their own affairs will not be withdrawn. But a large measure of improvement is desirable in a number of Districts.

As long as the Executive contents itself with simply holding an Annual Convention, there cannot be the measure of progress that is necessary if we are to maintain our societies at anything like a high level of excellence. As long as no Executive meetings are held save as may be absolutely necessary for the arrangement of the above mentioned Annual Convention, there must be a sad lack of conscious responsibility on the part of the Districts. As long as even the constitutional Annual Convention is allowed to pass without anything like full reports of the District Officers or even a written statement of the work actually done by the Executive as such during the year, these officers will consider their office as duties and perform the minimum of required duties with only perfunctory attention. As long as District Executives are content to let local Leagues die without seeking to know the cause, and to remain defunct without making any effort to revive or reconstruct them, there will be a falling away of both Leagues and Leaguers from our ranks. And as long as District Executives are satisfied that there shall continue to be many congregations on the District, without any form of organized young people's society, and so make no attempt

to secure the formation of a League in every congregation, we may expect to report annual decreases in our numbers. All these weaknesses do exist among us. It would all become easier to mention any Districts by name; but he is persuaded that the reason why so little progress is achieved is simply because so little responsibility is felt by the average District Officer, so little intelligent study given to existing District conditions by the average Executive, and consequently so little effort made to increase the efficiency of Leagues that do continue to exist, as well as to increase the number of local societies throughout the field.

These things are not written in any spirit of fault-finding, but with the sincere conviction that our District Presidents must see well to it that the territory under their supervision is well cultivated and served. It is well within the province of every District Executive to ascertain where Leagues do not exist, to secure the organization of one at every such place possible, and to intelligently and systematically supervise the operations of all existing Leagues to ensure in them the largest measure of practical efficiency.

Every District Executive, therefore, should carefully review the circuits within its bounds at least once every year. It should plan to reach some new every place where no League exists in order to plant one there, and it should likewise arrange to visit by some one or more of its members every League that does exist, in order to encourage and help the workers. When was such done on your District? If it has not been done, why not get right at it now? Some Districts are doing it, and certainly good must result. But until it is done on our Districts generally, there must continue to be a very regrettable falling away in numbers, a decrease in interest, and a failure to quicken and use the influence lying latent in our young people and awaiting only consecrated direction and guidance to become a mighty power for God and the Kingdom of Heaven amongst men.

We desire most earnestly, because of the vital issues that are at stake, that all our District League Presidents take their work very seriously, that they unite the other District Officers with them in planning it systematically, that together they carefully direct in the transaction of every needed step for the furtherance of the District interests, that as a result we may merit the blessing of God and assure ourselves of the prosperity and growth that can come in no other way than by the united and prayerful co-operation of all upon whom the responsibilities or office have been laid. If the District Officers fall, who else can do the work? If the District Executive is incompetent or indifferent, where is the compensation for the loss sustained in consequence? But there is no need of failure, no need of loss, for success larger than ever before will be ours if we but do our best to perform the work for which we have been appointed in His Name.

OUR friends will be pleased to know that the newly elected Field Secretaries have both accepted the positions to which they were appointed by the General Board at its recent meeting. Rev. Manson Doyle, B.A., will reside in Winnipeg, and Rev. Frank H. Langford, B.A., in Regina. The decisions of the brethren were not known in time for us to print their photos in this issue; but in our next we will endeavor to present both of them to our readers. These men will make a strong addition to our general working staff.