

Various Methods of League Work

Have You a "Stationary" League on your District?

BY MR. F. H. TALBOT.

We have. We'll describe its officers. Then if you want any of them, or if numerous relatives in your League at any time, you'll be prepared to give them a wide berth.

The president of this League is Mr. B. Hindthems. He is generally credited with being about forty years old, but his actions imply a much more advanced age. How he came to be elected president we do not know. At one time he was an exhorter, but he seemed to lose faith in men, and then men lost faith in him.

Not a well-read man at all, we have heard him say that he seldom reads anything outside of his Bible. He never suggests anything new to his followers, is content to continue week after week in the same manner, and if any scheme calculated to give fresh impetus to the work proposed by any member of the executive, he generally disposes of it by his indifferent attitude towards it. We could more minutely describe our worthy (?) president, and his methods, but we will pass on to the others.

The first vice-president's name is Mr. Will U. Joinus.

He is, of course, chairman of the Lookout Department, but his work in this particular seems to consist chiefly in looking out to see whether weather conditions will permit him going to the service each meeting night.

He is very methodical, but not very Methodist in his work. Every consecration service sees the same order, same hymns, same set speeches, same old testimonies, and still he wonders why more young people do not join. Do you?

Miss Shuinary is the 2nd vice-president. She once heard a lecture on the life of Dr. John G. Paton, and she told a friend about it. And the friend nominated her for the missionary v. p. of the League. And the Leaguers elected her. She says she finds it very hard to keep up the Forward Movement in the League. She has forgotten the name of the missionary supported by her district, but believes strongly in supporting missions. She has heard of the Missionary Bulletin, but said she never saw the board any place downtown. When asked if she were on the "banks of the Besor," she answered negatively, but remarked she would like to visit the place as she had no doubt it would be nice.

The 3rd vice-president is Mr. Y. Z. Head. His usual method is to take the complete charge of each service himself. After the usual preliminaries, our good friend commences to read the inevitable essay, which, by the way, is always great-in length.

Assuming a rather ungraceful position, he reads in a voice of one tone (nasal), some twenty or thirty sheets of closely written foolscap. He sits down, those of his auditors who are still awake, heave a sigh of relief, the president rises, compliments the essayist on the breadth of thought displayed, forgetting, of course, the length, then pronounces the benediction, and the meeting passes into history or oblivion.

Miss I. C. U. R. A. Stranger looks after the social side of the work. She has seen better days before coming to our League, and so had we. It is true, she speaks to each one, but it is only in such a hollow conventional tone of voice, that her expressed wish "to see you again," is not

always reciprocated. A mechanical handshake completes her portion of the work.

Mr. D. Lay is the man who wields the pen for the League. He is always late. Really couldn't leave his business. Hoped he had not kept them waiting. Well, he had forgotten about that early meeting of the executive—and his books—how stupid! And he had a letter for the Leaguers—something about a visit of a neighboring society. Oh, well, we can bring that up next week. The report—Oh, yes—he had forgotten that also,—what was the use of them anyway,—and so it goes on.

Our secretary is always in a hurry, so great, in fact, he hasn't time for the work,—and he doesn't know why the leaguers elected him,—and we don't either.

As regards the treasurer, Mr. U. O. Dues, we think the less said the better. Like the rest of the executive, he is no good. Now, is it any wonder that a League handicapped by such officers, should make no progress?

These descriptions given are duplicated in many places, but we hope that our young and energetic leaguers will use sound judgment in electing to the various offices such persons as have given evidence previously of their adaptability for the work.

Beware of pessimists and fossilized leaguers. Elect your most enthusiastic members to the positions of trust, and you'll not have a "stationary" League. London Junction.

A Bright Paper

The President of the Epworth League at Killarney, Man., writes as follows:

"Your page in the September Era on Practical Plans contains many valuable suggestions regarding work in the literary department. In our League we have a plan which is proving very successful, not that the idea is new, but we have found that it adds interest to our meetings. For the winter months we are having a League newspaper read once a month. The literary committee have elected one of their number as editor and the other members act as sub-editors of the different departments, each in charge of one of the following columns: General League News, Missionary, Temperance, Literary, Local Church News, and Wise and Otherwise. We are arranging for a special missionary issue for October, and one on Temperance in November. All members and friends of the League are asked for contributions which are handed in to the editor for arrangement in the paper. The following are a few of the items from the last edition of "Forward":

BIRTHS.

Born to the Lookout Committee a new desire for work. We extend congratulations and best wishes for a long and a prosperous life.

Born to the Missionary Committee a great and glorious responsibility. May "forward" not only be an anticipation but a realization in our League.

Born to the President and Officers a grand chance to do personal work for their Master. Let them ever remember "I am among you as he that serveth."

MARRIAGES.

At Killarney by the Rev. Will Power, Miss Do-What-I-Can to Mr. Associate Member.

At the last Consecration Meeting by the Rev. Living Faith, Miss Past Failures to Mr. Better Life.

At the League Meeting, by the Rev. I. Promise, Miss Active Member to Mr. Personal Service.

At the foot of the Cross, by the Holy Spirit, the Sincere Christian to Entire Consecration.

DEATHS.

Suddenly of heart trouble, Mr. No Interest, a member of our League in good standing for a number of years. Funeral private. No Leaguers.

On Monday, of softening of the brain, Mr. Let-the-other-follow-do-the-work, an aged and respected member. Death due to overstudy in trying to evade responsibility.

After a long and painful illness, borne with remarkable fortitude, Miss No-committee-work-forwards. She leaves a wide circle of intimate friends and relations to mourn her loss.

After a painful and lingering illness, Mr. League Formality. His end came as a peaceful relief to his many friends and acquaintances.

Making the Devotional Meeting a Power

Rev. Dr. Randall, General Secretary of the Epworth League, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, makes the following excellent suggestions concerning the League Devotional meeting, in a recent number of the Epworth Herald:

With all that good leadership accomplishes, the leader is not alone responsible for the devotional meeting. Heroic, indomitable leaders can gradually create from a dead, spiritless chapter a constituency that would make any devotional service a power, even with an indifferent leader, but it is perilous and unsafe to burden leaders with the discouraging disadvantage of such a necessity.

The revival of a dead devotional service may and perhaps must begin with one person. This one seeks out and imparts to another his anxiety over the spiritual situation. These two awaken the concern of two more and the four stir up four others. So the movement extends by a widening circle, the rapidity and extent of its growth being largely in proportion to the intensity of the earnestness of those who start and spread it. The pastor, president, and first vice-president should act as among the first enlisted.

Those interested will begin at once to contribute increasing spiritual life and power to the devotional meeting. They will remember it in private prayer and become regular and prompt in attendance and active in participation. By invitation and personal effort they will increase the attendance as far as possible. They will interest themselves in the selection of efficient leaders. They will adopt and successfully carry out effective methods for improving the devotional service and giving it evangelistic power. If practicable they will maintain a short preparatory service of prayer just before the devotional meeting.

This devoted company will always rally to the support of the leader, putting nerve into a real one, covering up defects of a poor one. They will hearten the discouraged, tactfully press the timid into activity, persuade the convicted, go with penitents to the altar and help them into the kingdom. Solicitous for the Lord's work, always ahead, never in the way, they recognize and respond quickly to every emergency, helping and never hindering the activity of others, especially of the younger ones. Not satisfied with a devotional service of mere spiritual interest, they do not rest until they make it a place where doubts are dispelled, clouds are dissolved, cares flee