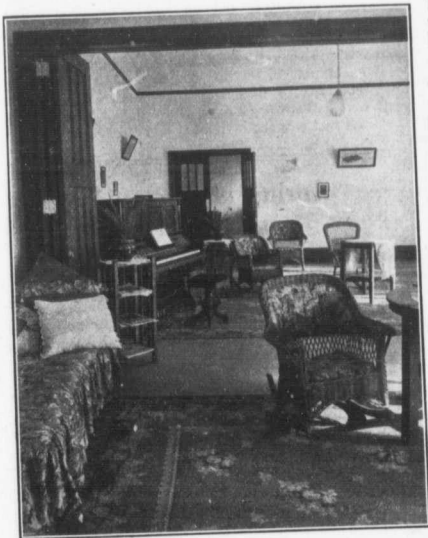


me, how many folk seem to take pleasure in that hammer business! More shame to them. May the numbers of the "boosters" increase. Which are you?

### Young Methodists and Spirituality

We have been somewhat distressed lately by the seemingly unkind criticism which we have heard passed by some well-meaning but narrow-visioned souls on the young people of to-day. If one were to believe, for instance, all that a dea. lady tried to tell us not many days since about the sad decadence of spirituality among the young Methodists and particularly the Epworth Leaguers of these present days, certainly one might conclude that all and sundry were on the high-road to ruin. A dear old father wrote a letter to a certain League Vice-President, which letter was shown us in confidence, in which he warned him in no uncertain tones of his certain doom to everlasting perdition if he did not cease at once and forever the practice of conducting such pernicious social games as crokinole among the young people of the league



A COSY REST ROOM.

in the school room of the Church in connection with a social evening or at the close of a league programme. And neither the lady nor the old man in question seemed to consider themselves in the slightest degree in error of spirit if not of judgment in passing such sweeping condemnation on the practices of the young folk of whom they spoke and wrote such sweeping and condemnatory words. But, thank God, our young people are not just what these dear misjudging souls seem to think.

The fact that the old time-honored forms of religious meetings which were so effective in the days of our fathers are not now considered appropriate nor closely followed by our young folk in their services is no proof that these same youth are no longer "spiritual." It were a difficult matter to define spirituality if it were centred in or confined to prayer-meetings, "testimonies," experiences, church-goings, and such like. We would be the last to underestimate the value of any or all of these, but neither alone nor all together constitute spirituality. All our church services should be aids to the development of a

truly spiritual character, but it takes more than singing, praying, and testifying to prove one a saint.

And they are in error who think our young folk to-day have "soured" on such exercises as prayer, praise, and testimony. Many a League meeting has been held during the winter past in which the manifest presence of the Divine Spirit has been graciously felt and the hearts of the members have as truly "burned within them" as those of their fathers ever did. That they neither shouted nor danced in spiritual intoxication or exuberance is no evidence that they were not quietly glad in their hearts, nor exultant in spirit. Yes! Yes! Our young people may not be perfect; but they are as nearly so as those of any previous generation, as far as we can form conclusions from both reading and study, and the life of the Spirit of God is still aglow in their souls and moving them, perhaps as never before, to emulate Him who "went about doing good." Surely if the basis of judgment laid down by St. James of old is still good, there is abundance of "works" in evidence as proof of "faith." We believe in the real, positive, personal goodness of the great bulk of Methodist young people still. We thank God for their loving ministry and prefer rather to encourage them in their manifold good works than to scold them for their lack of "spirituality."

### A Cosy Rest Room

The illustration on this page shows a delightful double parlor in the newly erected Sunday School Hall connected with the Wesley Methodist Church, Hamilton. The particular section shown in the picture is especially devoted to the Business Girls' Club, and anything more comfortable than the accommodations here provided would be hard indeed to find. This Club is regularly organized, we believe, as a class in the Sunday School, but its ministry is not by any means confined to the Sabbath. The social advantages afforded to the members during the week are many and various, not the least being the provision made for those at work in down-town stores, shops, or offices, to procure lunches during the noon hour. The Deaconess of the Church, Miss Bowes, is teacher of the class and supervises the main duties attached to the management of the Club parlors. The picture shown was one of several which we took during the recent District Epworth League Convention, reported elsewhere in this number, and gives a pretty clear idea of the comfort of the whole room. Sliding partitions make it possible to divide the space into two separate rooms, either of which is large enough for general meeting purposes. Both together provide a spacious extent of accommodation, making possible the holding of quite large gatherings of whatever kind that may be called for by the occasion. We need write nothing about the comfortable furnishings of the parlors. The picture speaks for itself, and the cosy corner shown is certainly attractive enough for the most fastidious. All praise be given to the Trustees and Officers of the Wesley Church for their progressiveness in thus providing a splendid equipment, complete throughout, for carrying out the whole work of a modern Church.

### Just a Personal Incident

Tact is a great thing, but often wanting in well-intentioned persons who really want to do some good service to their fellows. I was somewhat amused at an experience I had not long ago. I had been down with our friends of the splendid and fast-growing Riverdale Sunday School, Toronto, and had greatly enjoyed the fine banquet at which upwards of 100 Sunday School Officers, workers, and friends had participated in the pleasant task of unloading the well-spread tables. I had given what I thought a fairly decent address to encourage and help them in their magnificent enterprise, and was on the whole feeling pretty well satisfied with myself as I started for home on a westbound Queen Street car. There were not many passengers, and I do not know that I looked