

The following officers were elected: President, Rev. C. L. Bowdly, Jordan Station, Ont.; 1st Vice-President, J. A. Wiley, St. Catharines; 2nd Vice-Presidents, Rev. F. A. Cassidy, St. Catharines, and F. C. Fisher, Queenston; 3rd Vice-President, J. E. Palmer, Jordan Station; 4th Vice-President, Miss L. Dainty, Queenston; 5th Vice-President, Mrs. Dayman, St. Catharines; Secretary, J. Elliott Wynn, Queenston; Treasurer, Miss Jessie Miller, Thorold; Conference Representative, Rev. G. W. Calvert, Thorold, Ont.

Palmerston District.

The fourth Annual Convention of the Palmerston District Epworth League was held in the Methodist Church, Palmerston, November 29 and 30. The gathering was a representative one, and the addresses were earnest, practical and inspiring.

Encouraging reports were received from the various departments. The Missionary Department of our district is deserving of special mention, having raised \$397 towards the support of two native missionaries in Japan.

At the afternoon session a number of interesting papers were given on the different departments of League work.

The Wednesday evening session opened with a song service, the church being crowded to its utmost capacity. Addresses of great depth and power, were delivered by Revs. C. R. Morrow, Alma, on "The League; its Province, Power, Promise and Perils;" and J. H. Robinson, Honorary President of the District, on "Forward Outlook." The Convention closed by singing, "We'll all gather Home in the Morning."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Honorary President, Rev. J. H. Robinson, Palmerston; President, Mr. Clem. Bennett, Palmerston; C. E. Vice-President, Miss Thackeray, Harrison; Missionary Vice-President, Miss May Cowen, Drayton; Literary Vice-President, Mr. Geo. Awde, Drayton; Social Vice-President, Miss Stone, Alma; Junior League Vice-President, Mrs. Adams, Drayton; Secretary, Miss Ella Kearns, Palmerston; Treasurer, Miss Cora Wilson, Harrison; Conference Representative, Rev. D. H. Taylor, Stirling.

Enjoying Religion.

Enjoying religion means entering with heart and soul into all the activities of the church. It means the consecration of the whole being to the service of God. It means visiting the sick, helping the poor, welcoming the stranger, comforting the sorrowing, dealing gently with the outcast and the fallen—in short, it means to be like Him "who went about doing good."

Then let us put away whining and crying and quavering. Religion is a glorious sentiment, but it is not sentimental. It quickens. It inspires. It calls out the best and the highest of which mortals are capable. It takes us out of the horrible pit of our own littleness and selfishness, and sets our feet upon a rock of character and strength. Nor does it cease its work until it has put a new song into our mouths, "even praise unto our God."—J. WESLEY JOHNSTON, D.D., in *Christian Advocate*.

Are you looking for a suitable Christmas Present?

Where can you find anything more appropriate or better value than the Epworth League Reading Course?

SEE ADVERTISEMENT ON LAST PAGE.

The Reading Course

The Object of this Department.

We desire to make this department helpful to all our Reading Circles, and also to those who are reading the books alone, by supplying from month to month, suggestive programmes, with practical hints concerning methods of conducting Circle meetings. To make this a success we must have the co-operation of those who are actually engaged in the work. Let us know what plans you have found practicable and useful. Send copies of programmes that have been interesting and helpful to your Circle. If the reading of the books suggests difficulties which you cannot solve, send us your questions and we will try to answer them.

For Busy People.

Can busy people take up the Reading Course? Is a question frequently asked. The answer is, "Yes they can, easier than for the stimulus of the reading will brighten the daily grind." "I am too busy," is simply another way of saying "I am not sufficiently interested." The fact is, that we do find time for the things we enjoy. It is the busiest class, as a rule, that take up the Chautauqua and Epworth League Reading Courses.

Will You Help?

Our Book and Publishing House is able to publish the Epworth League Reading Course at the low figure of \$2 per set only by disposing of the entire edition. If any considerable number of the books were liable to be left on the shelves each year the price would have to be increased. Up to the present we have had good success, but our undertaking this year is much greater than anything yet attempted. Let those who have purchased the books and are pleased with them bring them to the attention of their friends. They only need to be seen to be admired, and in most cases purchased. Every one of the 2,500 sets must be sold.

A Reading Circle of Two.

In some places the organization of a Reading Circle has been attempted, but because a large number could not be interested the enterprise has been abandoned. It should be remembered that very efficient work can be done by a very small Circle. The other day we became acquainted with a Circle of two members, a young minister and his wife. They discovered that they were in the habit of spending some time after each meal in talking over little matters that were not of much importance, and determined to improve these moments by reading. Every day after dinner one of them reads aloud from Dr. Miller's "Week-day Religion," for half an hour, and in the evening they take up a chapter or two of

"Makers of Methodism." In this way they have finished both volumes by simply using fragments of time.

General Hints.

The *Chautauquan* makes the following suggestions to readers of the C. L. S. C. They are equally applicable to the Epworth League circle. No advice can be given which will hold good for all circles, but there are certain general maxims which may be well considered:

1. The aim of a circle is culture, not promiscuous talk, a good time, or "some place to go."
2. A first-class circle is made only by its members giving it the first place in their literary lives, respecting it, and allowing no other work or pleasure to interrupt its claim.
3. Membership should depend upon sincerity of purpose, willingness to bear one's part of the burden, and sympathy with the purposes of the gathering.
4. No more machinery is wise than what is necessary to accomplish the actual work.
5. Promptness in beginning in the fall, in observing the hour set for meetings, in preparing programmes, and in adjourning, is essential.
6. Interruptions of regular work by outside matters are not to be tolerated. After the regular exercises a "social" is in order, but not during their progress.
7. Having adopted a plan which meets your needs, do not be enticed from it by the reports of what some other circle is doing. Stick to the original conception. Variations may relieve, but should never displace the main idea.
8. There are drones in every hive. They do not make the honey. Patience, charity and enterprise prevent their spoiling it.

Suggestive Methods.

Mr. A. Butchart, President of the Walkerton League, writes of their Reading Circle as follows: "We have already purchased eight sets of books and expect to order four or five more. The roll call is answered by quotations from an author or poet, selected at the previous meeting. On one evening the members were asked to answer with a proverb from the first five chapters of the book of Proverbs. Half an hour is to be devoted to each of two books which we read at the same time. Twenty minutes is devoted to the oral reading of some of the finer passages in the lesson for the evening. Ten minutes is spent in calling the roll."

"At one of our meetings each member was asked to hand in two questions on the lesson for that evening, one from each book. These were mixed up, and given out to the members to be answered by them. If the member who received the question could not answer it, the person who asked it was expected to do so."

"Readers are asked to mark difficult passages for discussion, and passages of special beauty are also noted. Each member keeps a note book and jots down the main thoughts of each lesson."

"We are looking forward to a pleasant and profitable winter."