

EDITORIAL

THE ANNUAL OFFERING to the General Young People's Societies' Fund is now due. It is required by our Discipline that a collection be taken once a year in all our Young People's Societies, whatever their name may be, on behalf of the general work of the Board. Our Ministers and Presidents of all Young People's Societies are urgently requested to see that this important matter is duly attended to, and it is respectfully asked that the offering be a generous one and regularly forwarded through the Financial Secretary of the District to the Conference and General Treasurers.

W. E. WILLMOTT,
General Treasurer.

Notes

As far we have been able to obtain available information relating to our Summer Schools, we give it in this issue. These schools, while all under local management and without definite responsibility to any General Conference Board, have a practical bearing on our connexional life and work. That they have a permanent and important place to fill most of us believe, but whether they can do their best work as at present managed is questionable. To arrange that these schools shall be from ocean to ocean a connected chain of educational centres, under connexional direction and with adequate support, should be one of the aims of the forthcoming General Conference.

We cannot but regret the withdrawal of the Bay of Quinte Summer School even for one season. The conclusions reached by the Executive are given elsewhere in this number. The absence of young men from the Summer Schools has long been noticeable and regrettable, and until by some means, perhaps as yet untried, our coming men are induced in larger numbers to attend, we can scarcely expect our Summer Schools to become in any extensive degree recruiting stations for the ministry or mission fields. Perhaps the Committee on Summer Schools appointed by the General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies in 1912, may have some suggestions to make that will appreciably improve the situation.

It is a serious mistake to conduct an Epworth League solely along one or even two lines of study. The variety introduced by our Topic list well covers every section of the League life, and our responsible local leaders will do well to study the official list thoroughly before they decide to supersede it by another of their own selection. Follow up each department's outline and month by month you will surely gain some added knowledge that will mean eventually something worth while because measurably complete and full. In either department one main theme runs through the year, and the twelve studies relating thereto cannot but tend to round out knowledge and at the end of the year give a clear idea of the subject in hand.

We propose to give our readers some supplementary studies from month to month in the several departments. In this number will be found, in addition to the usual line of topics, some excellent articles on the Family and Woman's place in the Home. These, in addition to the messages and extracts bearing directly on Mother's Day, will supply abundant material for any of our Societies desiring a special programme on that occasion. A change will be found also in the heading of the page devoted to "Credo," whose splendid paragraphs during the past year have been so suggestive. During the year just beginning "Credo" will treat practical "Life Problems" from the

standpoint of a mature man seeking to counsel and aid the young in their efforts to gain the highest plane of living and to perform the noblest deeds of service. We are aiming more and more, not to entertain our readers only, but to instruct, inspire, and guide them in the mind and work of the Master as best we can.

As a splendid way to teach the outstanding events in Church history and to make our boys and girls somewhat familiar with the great men of the past, who have shaped the work of God to its present form, we advise all our Leagues, adult and junior as well, to give special attention to the "Epoch Makers" series commenced this month. If nothing better can be done, let one of your members be appointed to read Mr. Malott's splendid article in the meeting, and follow this up with a solid class exercise in which by catechizing and review the main facts will be riveted on the memory. It will not be our fault if our young folk remain in ignorance of these giant men and their mighty deeds for the Church of Christ on earth. Do not fail to personally study and collectively use the Topics allotted to the Third Department.

Mr. Herbert D. Tresidder, the President of the Toronto Conference Epworth League, 19 Bellfair Avenue, Kew Beach, Toronto, will gladly send any quantity of small tracts free to any society sending postage in advance. We can recommend these tracts for distribution in Church or League meetings, or for handing to friends. Three especially good ones that have come to our notice are: "God's Best," "Wir's End Corner," and "How the Lord Sustains."

The District League Executive

From several letters recently received from as many District Vice-Presidents, our conviction is deepened that too few of our District League Executives are seriously facing the problems that exist in the territory over which they have been given the responsibilities of leadership and oversight for the current year. Our immediate purpose in writing this note is to kindly and yet positively remind the District League Presidents of the supreme importance of their office and work. With us Methodists, the District is the unit requiring most efficient official supervision. Without the District League there can be but little vital connection with the larger connexional League life. And without an active District League Executive, local leagues will die. The office of District League President is therefore a very important one for any man or woman to fill.

The purpose of the District Convention, meeting annually, is mainly two-fold. The work of review should be carefully performed. Yet we have known plenty of District Conventions where there was no serious effort made to examine into the state of the work on the District; indeed, there was not even a report from the Executive as a whole, or from the Officers individually. The real business of the Convention was, in our mind, almost wholly missed. It is the imperative duty of the District Executive to make systematic and diligent enquiry into the condition of affairs throughout the District, that weak points may be strengthened and strong ones emphasized. A Convention that does not review the year's operations and call its Officers to account for their year's proceedings, is not doing its whole duty to its constituency.

The District Convention should also anticipate the needs of the District and plan to meet them throughout the year. Just how this can be best done, only those in charge know. Perhaps the visitation of the various existing leagues by a delegation of the Executive will be found most practicable. Correspondence between the District officers and the local representatives should be regularly maintained, and some form of periodical reports is, in our judgment, indispensable. Where there are no leagues,