

OTHER SOWERS, WHO?

Every preacher of the Gospel is a sower of the seed. Every time a minister enters the pulpit to declare the truth, it may be said, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." Every Christian, every one who has received the seed of the Kingdom of God, has the right and the privilege to sow that good seed. Every Epworth Leaguer should regard it as a solemn obligation to be a sower of the Gospel seed.

DISCOURAGEMENTS.

There are many discouragements. Yes, that is so. Christ himself seemed to sow to little purpose—a few hundred converts the whole result of his labors; how scant the harvest, how little the joy! What, then, can sustain you, young Christian, or you, matured saint, in your mission of seed-sowing? Faith in God's own Word, and in the promises it contains, that he will with the foolish things of this world so confound the wise, and with the weak things of the world, and with the things that are mighty, that "he who goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

THE SEED.

No figure stays forth, as Guthrie points out, the Word of God more forcibly than that of seed.

(a) There is life in seed. Dry and dead as it appears, let it be planted, and it rises from the ground with beauty, perfumes the air with fragrance, or enriches the earth with grain. Such life there is in all truth, but especially in Gospel truth. It is incorruptible and immortal seed. It must also be remembered that there is life in bad seed—the seed the evil one sows, and that is what makes it so fatal.

(b) There is force in seed. Buried in the ground, a seed does not remain inert. It forces its way upward, pushing aside the earth that covers it. Dropped by a passing bird into the fissure of a crack, the acorn grows into the oak, and by the putting forth of inherent force it heaves the stone back from its bed, rending the rock in pieces. But God's Word by its divine force, rends hearts in places harder than rocks.

(c) There is power of propagation in seed. A single grain of corn would, were the produce of each season sown again, so spread from field to field, from country to country, from continent to continent, as, in the course of a few years to cover the whole surface of the earth with one wide harvest. In regard to the Gospel, the divine seed, there is not a shore that shall not be sown with it, not a land but shall yield harvests of glory to God and of souls for heaven.

THE SOIL.

Seed cannot grow without soil. In the granary it may lie for years and never fructify. Placed in the soil it grows. Soil, too, will nourish seeds of both kinds, good and bad. So with the field of the world in general, the universal heart of humanity—that is the soil for moral seed. Truth or error needs soil in which to grow, and the human mind is the place. The soil will nourish any kind of seed, good or bad. Oh, for wisdom to receive the good and reject the bad, as eternal consequences hang upon the issue!

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

After a brief introduction to the parable by the President, who should prepare carefully for it, let a number of the Leaguers take part. Let one take "The Divine Sower," another, "Other Sowers," another, "Discouragements," another, "The Seed," another, "The Soil," and another, "The Harvest." By this plan, you will interest six members be-

sides the President. Of course, the subjects should be assigned a week in advance and carefully prepared. About three or four minutes each is quite enough. Select hymns bearing on seed-sowing and harvest. If you wish a few passages of Scripture, here are some:

Ps. 126, 6; Eccl. 11, 6; Isa. 32, 20; Gal. 6, 7; Isa. 55, 10; Ps. 145, 13-21; Ps. 67; Rev. 19, 20; Prov. 4, 18; Dan. 12, 3; Rev. 7, 9, 10; Rev. 22, 5. Be careful to make a careful application of this telling topic.

MAY 29.—"OUR SUMMER SCHOOLS AND THE FORWARD MOVEMENT FOR MISSIONS."

The last Summer School was held in the city of Toronto in July, 1903. The place of meeting was Victoria College, with its cool halls, airy class-rooms, and beautifully shaded grounds. The Summer School is a gathering open to all who are interested in the study of the Bible and missions. The lectures and addresses are given by college professors, missionaries, and specially qualified workers and leaders. It has been said that the Epworth League discovered the Forward Movement for Missions. The mighty force in these young people for the evangelization of the world. The development and use of this force in our young people demands trained workers qualified to lead. And the opportunity for this training is supplied by the Summer School through the lectures, study classes, practical methods of work, Bible study and addresses, all which combine to make the school of educational value and help to the development of the spiritual life.

AIM OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The object of the school is to bring all who attend into closer fellowship with Jesus Christ, to give information about the work he has entrusted to us, his disciples; to study the conditions under which Christ's kingdom is growing; to develop and train workers who shall lead and help our young people to prayerfully, systematically and intelligently strengthen and extend the mission work of the church, under the direction of the General Board of Missions.

The aim of the Forward Movement is the extension of God's Kingdom, and this can only be done by prayer, study, giving. The school is held for prayer, study and giving. Those interested assemble at the school, not to talk about "How to study?" but to spend the time in studying our mission fields and methods of work, in increasing their knowledge of the Bible, in gaining a wider vision of the world we live in, and in planning to give themselves for the help of others.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHOOL.

These are well set forth by one who attended the Summer School of 1902, as follows:

1. Rest and recreation have been most successfully combined with study and inspiration.

2. The social side of the Summer School life is strong and wholesome. The "esprit de corps" of Christian friends grows from day to day.

3. Intellectually every session is replete with fresh, crisp, interesting and up-to-date information in all phases of church work.

4. The spiritual side of the Summer School work is, perhaps, the most helpful of all.

HOW TO PROCEED.

The question may be asked, "How shall we organize the Forward Movement for Missions?" Here are some hints: If you have no Young People's Society

in which to work, begin to pray daily and study missions, as you have opportunity, and lay aside systematically whatever you conclude the Lord would have you give and then ask others to join you in this work.

Where there is a Young People's Society, with which you can unite, endeavor to have a Missionary Committee appointed (on which you volunteer to act as needed), consisting of a convener, a secretary-treasurer and a missionary literature member (or missionary librarian), and one other member for every ten members in the society.

The convener should see that all the members of the committee do their work and plan for a monthly missionary meeting. The great object of all his plans and efforts should be to lift the members of the society, by prayer, study and sacrifice, into fellowship with Jesus Christ in saving the world.

The monthly committee meeting cannot be neglected. The missionary work of the society must be reviewed and plans for the programme of the next meeting arranged for the future. Fully three months should be allowed for busy Leaguers to prepare a programme for a missionary meeting (see Missionary Outlook and Epworth Era for subjects for monthly missionary meetings).

The secretary-treasurer of the committee should have a book in which to keep the minutes of the committee meetings; a collector's book (5 cents each), in which to enter all moneys received; a report and remittance book (5 cents each), and a supply of small envelopes, \$1.00 per 1,000, 10 cents per 100. The secretary-treasurer should also have a copy of the roll of the membership of the society.

The missionary librarian has a unique opportunity. If his League is fortunate enough to have a good library, he should see that the books are read. If the society has not a missionary library, his business is to obtain one.

Perhaps the best and most successful work is done by consecrated workers acting on the Missionary Committee as canvassers and collectors. Each one should use pledge cards as helps. There should be a canvassing member for about every ten members of the society. If a busy person has twenty or thirty members to see in a month, it is almost impossible to do it. But if he has ten, to pray for and to speak to, he can soon so interest them that they will pay into the secretary-treasurer their contribution each month. The collectors should teach contributors that systematic giving is an act of worship—an act of thanksgiving to God and of loving helpfulness to man.

The missionary vice-president should write a quarterly letter to the missionary which the district is supporting, encouraging and cheering him in his lonely field. He may ask any questions about the work which he or the League would like answered, requesting that the answers be given in the quarterly letter to the district, which is published in The Missionary Bulletin.

All moneys collected should be handed to the pastor each quarter (every three months). The pastor will send it to the chairman of the district without delay, who will forward it immediately to the Mission Rooms, Toronto. Promptness in forwarding funds would provide a very large sum of interest paid on money which the Missionary Society has to borrow while waiting for our subscriptions. See Missionary Outlook for Christian Guardian for acknowledgment of money received at the Mission Rooms.

All questions, suggestions, news items, etc., regarding the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions should be sent to F. C. Stephenson, M.D., Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto, Ont. Any questions concerning the movement, no