

About the Junior League

MISS ETHEL WRIGHT.

THE Junior League is one of the most vital organizations in the Methodist Church. Its aim is to keep the boys and girls in the Kingdom and fit them for life service.

Greater emphasis than ever before is being laid on the proper care and training of the child. We are realizing that the child of today is the man of tomorrow. The state says that his intellect must be trained and his body cared for. Doctors and nurses visit our schools seeing that disease does not work its ravages on the child. Men and women are employed to teach the boys and girls how to play. Gymnasium work is systematically taught in order that their bodies may be perfected. The manual training teacher, the domestic science teacher and the art teacher are all doing their share toward making school life easy and pleasant for the boys and girls. The school is being made to fit the child, not the child to fit the school, as was formerly the case. The individual is becoming of greatest importance. Each child is a living germ to be developed from within.

But alas! unless the spiritual nature of the child is equally as well cared for and developed, it can never become the perfect being God intended it to be. The church is awakening to her great responsibility in this matter. She is realizing, as never before, that she must keep the child in the Kingdom and that it must begin very early in life to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The Methodist Church acknowledges that all babes are born into the Kingdom, and it is the duty of every follower of Christ to see that everything possible is done to keep the children surrounded by Christian influences. They should be taught from infancy of the love of Christ, and the Christian life should be made the easy and natural one for them to live. Their souls should grow and expand just as the tiny flower unfolds its petals to the sun.

Great importance should ever be laid on parental training, but it is a sad fact that too often all the religious training of the child is left to the Sunday School, and whatever other church organizations the child attends. The Sunday School and the Junior League must both do their share in awakening the parents.

The pledge of the Junior League reads as follows:

"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise that I will try to follow Him, that I may learn to do the will of God, my Heavenly Father, in all things, and at the foot of the pledge card is a space for the parent to sign his or her name, stating that they are willing their child should sign the pledge, and will do all they can to help the child keep it. This is only one of many ways in which the interest of the parent may be obtained.

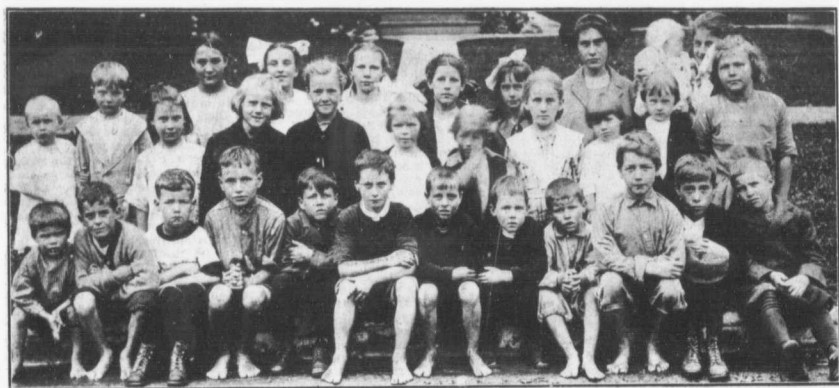
A great deal of the success of a Junior League depends on the Superintendent. The Superintendent should be a thor-

oughly consecrated man or woman, who realizes that the care of the child is the biggest and most important task the Master has given him or her, as the case may be, and one who fully appreciates child nature and tries to understand it.

The Junior Leaguers should, as far as possible, plan and take charge of their own meetings—the Superintendent or one of the Assistant Superintendents being behind the plan. The meetings should be brighter and cheerful, and variety should be one of their strong points. It is wonderful how gracefully and easily the children can fill the different offices. One is often surprised to see how perfectly the President fills his or her position, how well the Secretary takes down the minutes; what excellent papers the Juniors write, and how well they can debate. The Junior League should always afford them an opportunity of expression as well as impression. There is a wonderful lot of talent stored up in every Junior League only awaiting the touch of the Master hand to set it in motion. Each child should be given work to do along lines that are congenial to its tastes.

At no time in life is memory as keen as in childhood and the Leaguers can be taught, in ways which will be most pleasant to them, certain important information concerning the Bible, which will prove invaluable to them in after life, such as the number of its books, the names of the books, the natural divisions of the Bible, when and why certain books were written and many interesting facts and stories recorded in the Book.

Children are hero-worshippers, and it is during childhood's days that they can be taught to best advantage the bi-



BOYS AND GIRLS AS WE SEE THEM EVERY DAY.

The streets of the City shall be full of boys and girls playing.

Here they are, a truly typical group of boys and girls on the city streets. Just everyday "kids" the most of them, ordinary "youngsters" you will probably say. So they are. We did not select them for their beauty, indeed they were not selected at all, but just came at our call. It happened this time in London. The place was Piccadilly street. The children's names we do not know. But they are somebody's boys and girls, and a jolly lot they seemed. Just a "Halloo" gathered them together before the camera, and here they are with their "message" to you. What is it? Read it in their faces. "We are coming men and women. What do you think of our pro-

spects? Give us a chance and we will do your country credit. But don't despise us because we are just a lot of 'kids.' Make the city's streets safe places for us to play on. Keep them and us clean. Give us room and we will grow. Give us healthy atmosphere and we will grow strong. Give us wholesome moral surroundings and we will grow into good men and women. We are only boys and girls now, but soon we will be as big as you. Help us to be better than the average that we may help Canada to be God's best country in the days to come."

Do they speak something like this to you? Then, remember that all about you there are just such boys and girls

with just such living appeals to you. You need not go to London to find them. They are right at your own door. What are you doing for them? What is your Church doing for them? What is your League doing for them? "Not much," do you say. More's the pity! Get to work for your own youngsters, do not let them be swallowed up in the world's swirling vortex and be perhaps lost to virtue and truth, to the Church and the Kingdom, to God and Heaven. They are worth saving. They were not born to be damned. If they are lost to the Kingdom, you may be to blame. Save the boys and girls. You can, but will you?