

BRACEBRIDGE

For the encouragement of other circles, who may be hesitating, I would like to tell the story of the Jubilee Fund drive in our Church at Bracebridge. Credit goes first of all to the Young Women's Circle, who under the inspiration of their tireless leader, Mrs. W. C. Denniss, set out in January to raise a jubilee gift of twenty-five dollars. As an incentive towards this accomplishment, Mrs. Denniss promised the girls that if they succeeded in attaining their objective she would add to it an equal sum. With no uncertain purpose they set about their self-appointed task. Their method of procedure was to divide into groups, each group to raise an equal share of the sum. After four weeks they met to report, and it was found that each group had raised not only its allotted portion, but more. Altogether the girls had raised thirty-four dollars. When their leader's gift of twenty-five dollars was added, the girls were able to make Mrs. Good, the pastor's wife, a life member.

Before the Young Women's Circle had completed their object, the spirit of the Jubilee Fund had possessed the adult Circle, and at their February meeting, after an earnest discussion, the women, not to be outdone by their daughters in the younger organization, set themselves an objective of fifty dollars to be raised before June. Once more Mrs. Denniss, whose unbounded enthusiasm and generosity had largely inspired the other women, promised an additional twenty-five dollars when the goal should be reached. As the group method had already proved so effective, it was resorted to again. Four groups were formed, each to raise ten dollars. It was arranged to raise the fifth ten dollars by means of the play "The Pill Bottle", to be presented by the entire circle. Some suggestion was made, that just as the young women had gone beyond their objective, so might we, and amid smiles of doubt at the improbability of such a thing, it was duly moved and carried, that if there should be a surplus, it should be applied to certain special needs at home, whose claims were even then being urgently presented. This in explanation of what follows.

The time set for the raising of our offering has just expired and at our May meeting, held to-day, reports were brought in. As each group leader was called upon, she handed the treasurer the money her group had raised, telling in a few words how it had been made. In every case the allotted sum was reached. Most noteworthy was the group who instead of ten dollars brought in twenty-seven. By the time the fourth group had been heard from our sum already stood at sixty dollars. Then the report from the "Pill Bottle" was called for. This play that was to bring in ten dollars, produced eighty-three dollars and seventy-five cents. Our total was now one hundred and forty-three dollars and eighty cents. The promised donation of twenty-five dollars was immediately presented, and the sum of seventy-five dollars, plus the necessary exchange was voted to be forwarded at once to the Board treasurer, the balance to be applied as agreed, to local work.

Perhaps some of the ideas used might interest others who are looking for suggestions. Among ways and means related by the groups were these: making and selling aprons, pies, bags, and candy; selling eggs; papering a house; doing a washing; holding social evenings and afternoon tea and evening entertainment; distributing bags for contributions, and by voluntary gifts.

We heartily recommend the group system for raising a stated amount. The divided responsibility, the good-natured competition, and the inclusion of every member, make it an almost certain method of attaining an objective. Also we highly commend the play, "The Pill Bottle" as one worth the attention of any circle. While it is rich in humor and entertainment, its stirring missionary appeal lifts it far above the level of mere amusement as such. Aside from the financial returns, we feel that the message it proclaimed was vastly worth while.

We hope that this account may encourage others to join in on the "Jubilee Special" and wish the Link continued success, especially in its prospective new venture, which we are anticipating with eager interest.

L. Johnson, President.