

ing God. These, if faithfully prosecuted, will embrace the whole family in a golden circle for the study of God's Word.

EPWORTH LEAGUES.

Never were our Epworth Leagues doing a nobler work for Christ and his Church than to-day. Never was more prayerful study, more earnest effort, more kindly co-operation put forth than now. But they have not reached the full ideal of their full usefulness. They may exert an influence of untold power upon the young men and young women in our towns and cities, who through the exigencies of our industrial civilization are often severed from their homes and exposed to social perils and estrangements from the house of God. What is a young man or woman to do who has no place in which to live except a little seven by nine room, in an alien and often unsympathetic environment? It is the duty of the Church to act the part of father and mother to these homeless young people, to extend the hand of cordial greeting, to show a kindly sympathy and interest, to bid them welcome, not merely to the class-meeting or prayer-meeting, but to its social gatherings and entertainments. Hence the General Conference directed that wherever practicable church parlours for reading, music, rational culture, and social enjoyment should be opened.

Nor may the Church frown upon the desire of its young people for out-door recreation and athletic games. These will, under proper guidance, conduce to those twin essentials of moral well-being, a sound mind in a sound body. These will prove a powerful antidote to the saloons and pool rooms which too often spread their allurements and beguilements around the path of our youth. We are glad to know that in some of our churches these reading parlours and gymnasias are being organized, that in connection with others playgrounds are being prepared for the children of the schools and for children of a larger growth.

OUR SUMMER SCHOOLS

are annually enlisting increased numbers of our young people to seek the advantage of our college halls, and Biblical instruction and missionary inspiration. These possess the potency and promise of great spiritual blessing to our Church. Our college halls are filled as never before with eager young

souls who are coveting earnestly the best gifts, seeking the best training for life and its duties. Analogies of the Holy Club at Oxford, out of which grew the Methodism of the world, are not wanting in these institutions of learning. It is cause for gratitude that they are instinct with Christian spirit, inspired with missionary zeal, and better equipped than ever for the higher culture of heart and mind and brain of our young people. Many parents have made strenuous efforts, even to great self-denial, in the past to secure this precious boon of higher education for their children, and have been abundantly rewarded by their increased usefulness in the world. May their number be greatly multiplied.

No Church has provided more largely and liberally than the Methodist Church in this land sound and wholesome periodical reading for all classes of the household. We urge upon our people the duty of making the widest and wisest use of this provision. Amid the flood of fiction, frivolous and often pernicious in its character, it is the duty of parents to see that their households are well supplied with that which will interest, instruct and religiously profit their members.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

The Methodist Church is not indifferent to the great sociological problems of the times, and an advance was sounded all along the line in the unending war against the liquor traffic, Sabbath profanation, the gambling spirit of the race-course, pool-room, and other forms of making haste to be rich.

There are some aspects of our national life that arouse deep solicitude. In the material prosperity by which we are surrounded we should not be full and forget God. If riches increase we should not set our hearts upon them. We should not in the greed for gain join in a chase for worldly riches at the cost of better things. We may not despise the plodding industry of our fathers, slow, perhaps, but safe and sure.

In the emphatic verdict given by the people of this province when the liquor bar was up for trial, the voice of the Methodist Church was heard in no uncertain tones. But the bar is still with us, and doing its deadly work. There must be no faltering nor failing till these death-traps, in which Canada's most precious treasures are lured and