

many League meetings. The speaker is not in harmony with the plan of the year, and he does not feel particularly the responsibility of the results of his address. Why not adopt a new plan for this year? Select twelve men and women on whom you can depend and who have a rich experience and a personality that wins. If you cannot find twelve get as many as possible, from the congregation. Tell them of the plan for the year and that they are given a special opportunity to enlist for something that will mean much to them and to the community. Have them meet at a home some evening, and there in the spirit of prayer go over the whole plan, discuss the topics and then let them volunteer to take the one they specially wish. Take them into your confidence regarding your plan about the new family altars and the prayer and Bible study pledges. They will see the scope of the year's work and will become interested at the very beginning, and an interested leader means a good deal toward his giving his best to his hearers.

Thus the leaders are prepared to enter a plan that has a definite purpose in it. They feel that they are personally part of the plan that will lead men and women nearer to Christ. If the topic for a certain evening is, "What it means to be a Christian," or "The Young Christian at Home," the leader is aware that a good deal depends on his effort, he feels his need and he is constantly in prayer and study, and will not need to be warned that he must not forget that he has the topic on a certain evening. Being a link in so important a chain he will not read some hastily prepared paper, the half of which he has copied from the Epworth ERA expositions. The man selected for that address is not that kind of man and a contribution of that kind would not be big enough to satisfy him or realize his ideals for the meeting.

And would not the cottage prayer meeting be rich in blessing in those new homes where the family altar had just been erected? Don't you fancy those folks would welcome it, and would not the prayers mean more to them than saying prayers? Nor is it to be expected that young people will lead in prayer at any League meeting if they have not been praying in private. Surely it is about time we urged ten-minute prayers at home that it may not be necessary to coax for sentence prayers at the meeting.

Try a Bible study contest on Bible questions prepared by the pastor and given out two or three weeks before the slides meet. The questions need not be difficult; simply facts from the Bible such as everyone ought to be familiar with. The writer can personally testify to the success of this plan. The young people delved into their Bibles and learned facts that surprised themselves and an interest was created that was satisfied only by further study.

We must still remember that prayer is the secret after all. We have organization enough; we have literature enough and to spare; we have ability enough stored up in the minds of our people; we have the best that brain can devise at our disposal, but these are as "sounding brass" unless through prayer we have a vision of the work we are called upon to do. Organization is good and we need it, but organization is useless unless the individuals at the back of it are spiritually efficient. With all the advantages of science and literature we must not forget the Creator of it all.

This is the crisis the Church is facing. Are there not men and women in our churches who have the vision of a new day and are the Instruments in God's hands to interpret it to the present and rising generation? We have faith in our people; we believe the future will reveal

marvellous things, and the Church will come to her own more fully than ever.

We quote the following little poem by L. H. Bailey in the "Country Church and the Rural Problem," a book every Leaguer should read carefully, "rural," of course, referring to all places outside the city.

THE RURAL CHURCH.

*In some great day
The country church
Will find its voice
And it will say:*

"I stand in the fields
Where the wide earth yields
Her bounties of fruit and grain;
Where furrows turn
Till ploughshares burn
As they come round and round again;
Where workers pray
With their tools all day
In sunshine and shadow and rain.

"And I bid them tell
Of the crops they sell
And speak of the work they have done;
I speed every man
In his hope and plan,
And follow his day with the sun;
And grasses and trees
And birds and bees
I know and I feel ev'ry one.

"And out of it all
As the seasons fall
I build my great temple away;
I point to the skies,
But my footstone lies
In commonplace work of the day;
For I preach the worth
Of the native earth
(To love and to work is to pray)."

Keivin, Ont.

Writing of the progress of the work in Keivin, the president, Mrs. M. F. Jackson, says: "Our League here is making itself felt in the active Christian work in our community. In the past year some of our young men have definitely decided for Christ as an outcome of our meetings. Our consecration meetings have been nearly all evangelistic, and being held on Sunday night, have been able to reach a lot of people. At each of these meetings the invitation is given, and while the numbers responding are not large, still the young people are having a larger vision of the Christian life. Since the new year we have held cottage prayer-meetings. These have done great good, and the attendance has been splendid for a small country place.

"Our missionary department is also doing good work. Last year our young people gave over \$16 to Forward Movement, and this year will contribute considerably above that amount. On March 1st we held a missionary rally, when our district vice-president gave a lantern lecture, our pastor a chart talk. Several recitations and plenty of music were added. Everyone seemed delighted with the meeting.

"Our Literary and Social, and Citizenship Departments have not had the chance they should have had, as our meetings are held on Sunday night, but during the year we have had several good meetings.

"Our Social Department is planning an Irish gathering on March 17th. We expect to get in touch with a great many young people in that way.

"On February 21st we held a pledge service. A splendid talk was given on our pledge, and those asked, who had pre-



WHEN THE SEASONS CHANGE.

Negative by W. Elliott Wilson, Hanover.

"One cannot be too careful in his remarks on some occasions," said a young clergyman, in speaking of a tour of inspection which he, in company with older divines, made of a penal institution.

"The leader of our little expedition, a truly good man, was so impressed by what he learned from the story of one young man imprisoned for burglary that he felt he should offer him some encouragement, of what kind he hardly knew. So, after many hems and haws, he delivered himself of the following:

"Ah, my friend, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are here to-day and gone to-morrow."

"You may be, sir," rejoined the burglar, "but I ain't."—*Harper's Magazine.*

viously received a pledge card, to sign their name while an appropriate hymn was sung. We secured some new active members and quite a number of new associate members. The solemnity of taking the pledge was felt by all, and the meeting led all to see that our active members' pledge was something that could not be lightly taken.

"Our prayers are that the work may go on and that our League may continue to look up and lift up for Christ and the Church."

There is ever a song everywhere—if we have the ear attuned to it.—*Charles Grant Miller.*