

HOW TO WORK THE JUVENILE BRANCH OF THE C. E. T. S.

(From a Tract by Miss S. U. Gardner, Secretary of Juvenile Union C. E. T. S., Eng.)

Bands of Hope or Juvenile Branches of the Parochial Temperance Societies are becoming so universal, that it is almost the exception now, and not the rule, to find a well-worked parish where such an organization is not flourishing. Under these circumstances, it may be of universal interest to consider the best practical method of conducting the meetings, and of carrying on the work; and it may assist those who have not yet commenced, but intend doing so, if we begin with the question, How to start a Band of Hope?

How to Start.—In breaking up fresh ground where it is possible to unite all forces in the attack, the best plan for making the inaugural meeting known is to have it announced in the Day school, Sunday schools, and at the Mothers' Meeting, on which occasions the cards, badges, and ribbons should be shown, and the quarterly or annual treat promised. The attraction of a bright badge or a colored ribbon must not be despised. When we deal with children we must remember that we have to offer them what does seem in childish eyes to afford a counter attraction to the daily beer, the occasional sweet wines, or even to the sugar at the bottom of father's toddy. Our first effort must be to get the children to come to us, and to associate pleasant ideas with regularity and practical abstinence, and then when we have got them, our object must be to teach them the theory of Temperance, and to influence their reasons in the right direction.

The Meetings.—The first meeting need not differ much from those following. They should be held in as large a room as can be obtained, on the ground floor if possible, and the hour of meeting should be fixed which enables the children to have time to get their tea after school hours, and yet be in their homes again about seven o'clock.

Both Sexes.—The meetings must be held weekly, and should include both sexes, to secure the attendance of brothers and sisters whose mothers would not send them apart, and to make the meeting more lively than can be when the boys' meeting is held separate from the girls'. The boys should be seated on one side of the room and the girls on the other. The girls, in all cases, should be dismissed a few minutes sooner than the boys.

Requirements.—The requirements for the work of a Band of Hope are not many. A Superintendent's bell of the same kind as used in the week day school. *Song books*, which should be covered, and sufficient in number that each child can be provided with one to itself. *Cards of Membership and Payment Cards*, on which the subscription, usually a penny a month, is entered; envelopes,

in which these should be kept, with the child's name and number on the roll written outside. A *punch*, or clip, to mark the payments on the cards. The advantage of a punch over any other method is that its impression cannot be imitated, and also that the children enjoy having the little round holes made on their cards. In one Band of Hope the subscriptions were more than doubled by the use of a punch instead of a pencil. A *book* in which all the members' names and addresses are entered with their subscriptions, and an *attendance book*. Two small *books*, in which their numbers on the roll are marked down by the door-keepers as the children enter. These should be compared by the lady acting secretary with the register, which is marked from these during the address, so that any wrong number given can be noted and rectified at once. It saves trouble in this way if all the boys are given even and the girls odd numbers.

(To be Continued)

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