

"This doesn't concern you," she replied; yet her tone was not as icy as she had tried to make it.

"Just leave your parcels and clear out. Come around to-morrow afternoon and have Christmas tea with Billy."

The Doctor came, but what was that noise he heard as he neared the place? Surely one small boy could not make such a hubbub, nor did he, for when the good Doctor got inside he found a score of merry, romping, happy-faced children as well as the minister and his wife.

"Oh, uncle, uncle, he comed, he comed!" shouted Billy.

"Well," said Cynthia, when asked to explain, "I thought Billy would enjoy his first real Christmas more if he had company. The house seemed too large for one little boy to enjoy it all alone. So we borrowed some children for the occasion. The minister helped. The old place has been empty, but it shall never be so again."

The children departed, each with an ample parcel, and the old people sat down. Billy snuggled into the Doctor's

arms, "Oh, uncle, he really comed; Santa Claus really comed."

They talked on and on with happy hearts, and as Billy slumbered he occasionally murmured, "He comed, he comed."

"Yes," said Cynthia, as though talking to herself, "he came, and not only Santa Claus, but Christ came again to me. I have been religious, but I fear I have not been Christian. I have observed the letter but not the spirit. I have had faith but not works. But I think I have been converted. I have been a church member. That was my boast, but I fear I have not been a Christian. Hiram, you were right; being a church member is not everything."

"Yes," said the minister, "but being a church member sometimes helps a lot," and he glanced at the Doctor.

Billy roused in his sleep, "He comed. He really comed."

Widow Gregory was silent.

"Thank God," said the minister, and as the Doctor hugged the sleeping Billy he murmured, "Amen."

The Cause and Cure of Dull Meetings

MISS EDNA LINDSAY, OWEN SOUND.

I have often asked my friends, "Why don't you come to the League?" I have been answered, "Oh, the meetings are dull and uninteresting;" "no one makes me feel welcome;" "the other young people get off into cliques, and I feel so left out that I wish a hundred times that I was at home."

Perhaps too often these replies represent the truth. Why should it be? We can make the stranger and timid feel most happy and welcome if we try, and they will want to come to each League meeting, and join our membership. The first thing necessary for brightness in our meetings concerns the place where they are held. A bright, well-ventilated, nicely-decorated room is required. Nothing is more apt to induce dullness than a damp, close, dimly-lighted and cold room. Have an atmosphere of gladness pervading everyone, from the time the young people enter the door until they leave.

There is a tendency, especially of the young ladies, to get off into cliques, and laugh and talk of what happened last night, and what is going to happen to-morrow; consequently those who are not interested just sit and look on, and are not thought of at all. No wonder they do not enjoy themselves.

Then again, we have the same method each evening of conducting our meetings. It gets monotonous and tiresome to have generally the same half-dozen or less on the platform, and give the topic the year round. Why fear to try some new plan? A very common truth, presented in an uncommon way, may arouse interest, and even gain in force, by the method employed to make it known.

Have some meeting without a leader. Give out the subject a week or two previous, requesting all to carefully study the topic, as they may be called upon. Someone appointed has the programme written upon the blackboard, with names of participants, and the meeting will prove interesting and helpful if each will do his or her best readily.

Have a leaguer, occasionally, to take notes on the sermon, to be read and discussed at the next meeting of the League. This will brighten both preacher and congregation, and will appoint different Leaguers to conduct in turn a song service before the regular

meeting, and especially have bright, crisp singing; not slow, dragging notes, that almost put one to sleep. Have a capable, active pianist, or organist, and if she does her part the singers will have to keep up with the music.

Hurried-up programmes make our meetings dull. Many a meeting, for which intelligent preparation had been made, many days ahead, is conducted "on the spur of the moment," and is killed before it has well begun to live. Good programmes require careful planning ahead of time, ought to have definite purpose in view, begin promptly, call for edification rather than mere amusement, never last long enough to tire or weary the audience, and should enlist and train new talent, as well as enjoy the old.

When selecting names for topics leaders, some name is suggested, and the reply may be, "Oh, I don't think he could take a topic;" and perhaps that very person is just overflowing with talent, but no one knows it. How can we find out? Get each member on our roll to do something, for all Leaguers should be on some committee where their talents may be developed, and definite activity. When one feels he is part and parcel of a living, moving organism, that throbs with vitality, and that it is only perfection as he fulfils his part, then he is nerved to put forth his best effort.

To hold our League, and prevent dullness, we ought to bind the members together by one common purpose, unite them in the enthusiasm for one great cause, combine them by co-operation in helpful committees. Don't say, "You ought to," but "Let us." Lack of purpose and systematic methods, and a leadership, absence of enthusiasm, is sure to deaden a League.

If an interesting programme has been prepared, and we hope for a crowded meeting, how are we going to reach the young people and let them know, and get them interested, if we do not advertise? The stale, unattractive pulpit announcement is forgotten almost as soon as heard. Appeal to the eye as well as to the ear; do not be afraid of printers' ink, or a pen and ink post card invitation. Or have an alert young man or woman at the church door to give a cheery verbal invitation.

Awaken inquisitiveness on the part of

your members, and do not disappoint them when they come. Be pleasant. A story is told of a young Swede, who, not understanding English, stood at the corner of the street and gave out printed invitations to the passers-by to attend services in a mission. He had a happy smile, and showed a white and beautiful set of teeth. If they thanked him, he smiled; if they cursed him, he smiled. He did not understand, and people thought him so good-natured, and gave him the more inclined to accept the invitation. They were really smiled into the church. Let us be like the Swede, ever ready to smile. "Laughter is contagious. Be cheerful and you make everybody around you happy, harmonious and healthful. Laughter and good cheer make love of life, and love of life is half of health."

Our League is sure to become dull without the social department coming to the front very frequently; and yet there is a danger of changing our services into entertainments only if we indulge too freely in those merely social evenings. Entertainment has a lawful place in the League; but it is a subordinate place, and comes incidentally, not as the main object or purpose of the meeting. Social evenings are splendid for becoming acquainted, but what we want is to cultivate a taste for something permanent value. Seek to sweeten and purify lives; use handshakes, smiles, greetings; seek personal acquaintanceship; cultivate the head and heart together; pray, study and think on a high moral plane. Don't forget your aim is to reach the heart. Remember the League motto, "Look up, lift up."

When League members are absent, show them their absence has been noticed, and it will let them know that their presence the last time was felt. If members leave town, follow them with a letter to their new abode, that the Church or League there will be glad to hear from them.

To keep our society alive we must be devoted, wide-awake, and looking for opportunities for all sorts of work. Have a real live president at the head of the executive, and insist on each convenor carrying out his or her allotted work, with as many new inspirations as possible to brighten and cheer and interest the young people. To have an enthusiastic meeting we must come—readily, attentively, seriously, merrily, and eagerly.

Are you ready to do the little thing—
The hand to pass the song to sing;
The cheery word to give a friend,
The helping hand you oft might lend?
Remember, 'tis the little things that
count,
E'en pennies will make a great amount.
And a welcome smile from our Saviour
Kiss.
Will surely not be a little thing.

Seeing Double

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon an old German and his youngest son were seated in the village inn. The father had partaken liberally of the home-brewed beer and was warning his son against the evils of intemperance. "Never drink too much, my son. A gentleman stops when he has enough. To be drunk is a disgrace."

"Yes, father, but how can I tell when I have had enough or am drunk?"

The old man pointed with his finger. "Do you see those two men sitting in the corner? If they should see four men there you would be drunk."

The boy looked long and earnestly. "Yes, father, but—there is only one man in that corner!"—Lippincott's.