

daily acts of His children. Keeping in right relations with Him and seeking to do His will in all the experiences of daily life, we need not hesitate to look ahead with glad expectation, for He never disappoints his own. And they are his who seek to do his will to-day. Well may Dryden transpire Horace and say,

Happy the man, and happy he alone,
He who can call to-day his own;
He who, secure within, can say,
To-morrow do thy worst, for I have lived to-day.

Questions for the President

Are your Departments well officered?
Do your Vice-Presidents really work them?

Are the various Committees in your League active?

How many Committees have you that exist only on paper?

Do you regularly meet your Executive Committee for counsel?

Are your Business Meetings conducted according to the Constitution?

Is yours a one man's League or do many take part in its weekly meetings?
Are you doing all you ought to cultivate the field of young life all about you?

If your Pastor does not help you as you think he might, do you help him as he thinks you ought?

Is your League of any real practical assistance to the Sunday School in your church? If not, why not?

Have you learned the fact yet that one can sometimes do his best work by getting somebody else to do it for him?

As President, are you aiming to do all the work yourself, or to make such a division of labor as will develop your workers?

Do your meetings begin on time, run on time, end on time, and are they held all the time? Or is yours just a six-months' League?

If these simple questions do not suggest some improvements in your plans of work, will you not write the General Secretary and name some more pertinent and practical questions for the next issue?

Concerning this Paper

Not this issue only, but every one of the year's numbers, is in our mind as we write these lines. There is something of value in every one of them. Not all articles are of equal value, nor are all equally appropriate to all people or all Leagues; but there is perhaps something of some worth to all in each issue of the paper. Why not preserve this something if you do not care to keep the whole paper? We have recently had numerous requests for information that during the past few months has been prominent in our pages. Some of our friends have confessed that they wish they had preserved their papers and have asked for the missing number. We cannot often supply these, much as we might like to do so. Others have apparently been wholly unaware that the facts for which they have made enquiry have passed through their hands within a short time. These are careless readers, and we do not know just how far we are under any obligation to answer their letters. In these pages we seek to present from month to month the best information and the most inspiration we can, and if our readers would get the most permanent good out of our pages they must preserve them somehow. It would be a small matter, taking only a few minutes and practically no expense, to make a folder in which

to keep our successive issues. Or the scrap-book plan might be followed, and every article that may prove to be of any future usefulness may be thus preserved. The only drawback with this plan is that one never knows just what is going to be needed in the coming days. A fact, a reading, a plan, a programme, a score of needs may arise unexpectedly and immediately, and unless you have the information close at hand the need cannot well be met. Certainly those do not get the most out of the Era who simply skim its pages over hurriedly, but who, in some way of their own, retain it for future reference. An Epworth Era file in every League for constant consultation will become an increasingly valuable article as the months pass by. Why not have one in your League?

A Good Start

From all reports reaching this office the Epworth Leagues of the various Conferences are starting out with excellent prospects for a vigorous season's work. In some of the larger centres splendid Fall Rallies have been held. The Toronto Epworth League Union held its Annual Rally in the Metropolitan Church on September 30th, with a splendid representation of the League comprised in its membership. This Rally was followed by four very profitable Institute sessions on the following evenings of the week, fuller report of which is to be found elsewhere in this issue. On the same evening, September 30th, it was the Editor's privilege to attend the Epworth League Union of the city of Montreal, and from the large representative gathering and the enthusiastic spirit shown, it is very evident that the young people of Montreal Methodism are bound to be an increasingly useful force of earnest workers for the good of their city. Numbers of letters received in the regular course of office correspondence, tell of good local rallies in many places; and, taken all in all, the Fall Season has apparently started out well.

The benefits of such a good start are manifold. It is wise to get into the full swing of League activity before the many distracting influences of the holiday season make themselves felt. If the life of the League in the local community is active, and provision be made for the various needs of the young people, the problem of the winter's pastimes will be largely met before it becomes difficult to arrange. The majority of our young people, if interested early in the activities of a real live and active League, will prefer to make it the social centre rather than drift off to other and somewhat doubtful places and forms of pleasure and amusement. But if the spirit of League attendance be not formed in the early part of the season, it is doubtful if it will be formed at all. For this reason, if for no other, the League Executive should have weeks ago mapped out the winter's programme and made provision for a full season's work. If your League has not so done, perhaps there will be some consolation in the old adage, "It's never too late to mend"; but you have no time to lose in getting matters related to your League's success well under way. If, therefore, you have not made the early start we commend, do not be a day later than is absolutely necessary after you have read these lines. An early start is a good start, but it does not necessarily follow that a late one must therefore be a bad one. If it has not actually been as good as it might have been, do not by further delay make it less good than it must needs be now.

The Winter Evenings

Our reference to this subject here is of course in relation to the League. Primarily, the home should be the cosiest and most attractive spot on a winter's evening. But even then there are occasions when the young people naturally and properly desire the company of their kind. Where shall they get it, and how make the most of the time when they do come together? Our judgment is that in many respects the League can provide adequately for these associations of like-minded young people who want to come together and something that is not only all or always fun. We believe in fun, have no sympathy with those gloom temperaments which would forbid all romp and play, all frolic and gaiety to the young folk, and would make abundant provision for the natural and wholesome gratification of the sportive instincts and tendencies of every growing child and youth. But we believe that such provision should be always under the protecting restraints of either the home or the Church. The home can best provide for the first wants of the child, but even the best home cannot make an adequate provision for the young as he grows. Our young men and maidens, no matter how good and wholesome their home surroundings may be, cannot be kept at home all the time. Why should they find the Church closed against them at any time? Why may it not be the social centre of every young community as the people congregate together outside the portals of their own dwellings? The old-time Methodist tea-meeting provided ways and means through which thousands enjoyed with profit the social fellowship of their neighbors and friends. It has been a mystery to us oftentimes to find persons who were quite agreeable to such a tea-meeting opposed to an Epworth League Social evening. Where is the difference, save that perhaps in the tea-meeting the Church realized some scores of dollars for the treasury? Candidly, we would sooner see a party of young people assemble within church walls for an evening of happy sociability, without the thought of financial gain, than see an abundant bill of fare presented as the drawing card, with the direct purpose of making money for Church purposes out of the gathering. The League ought, in our humble judgment, to make provision for occasional socials, without asking any fee from those who attend, but directly and definitely to bring all the young people of the congregation together for friendly intercourse and good-fellowship. And the more homelike these gatherings can be made, the less formality and red tape there is about them, the better for all concerned. The making of money, no matter how deserving the cause may be, should never in our opinion be the paramount purpose of any Epworth League Social Evening.

But there is more that the League can do to help the young people spend the winter evenings both pleasantly and profitably. There is no good reason why a Reading Circle should not be organized. The fact that we have no longer a set of books on sale as a Reading Course need not prevent any League arranging one of their own. The courses of years past were received with favor and read with a measure of satisfaction by many, but it is impossible to prepare any such set of books that will please everybody or meet all the needs in these days when of the making of many books there is literally "no end." It is a simple matter to settle among yourselves on a few choice books which you agree to read together, and over