

forth in the Pledge; (2) to give all young people some measure of training for a life of Christian usefulness, as provided by the several departments.

Only as this double purpose is achieved through the League, may we hope to realize as much in our young people as is desirable in the realm of character, or have accomplished by them as much as is possible in the sphere of practical service.

And these two words may be considered a summary of League efficiency—*character and service*, goodieas and good-for-some-things. The real alone is insufficient for the highest development of the individual life, the latter without the former is ineffective of greatest results in the related life of society. The young Christian, singly, needs the League ideal for the attainment of the largest measure of Christ-like character, and young Methodist Christians, together, need the League machinery for the practice of the widest possible Christ-like service. The young Christian, in his individual life towards God, is brought into a spirit of glad obedience by loyal adherence to the principles of the League pledge, and in his daily life of intercourse with his fellows is trained in practical ministry by the use of the League organization and activities.

If these propositions be true, the Methodist Church is under obligation to make the utmost possible use of the Epworth League, or, if the propositions

be untrue or their demonstration and proof be impracticable through the media of the League, with all its machinery, the Church must find and use something better adapted to attain the desired ends.

Several conclusions have been forced on my mind recently from observations I have made. (1) Where the Epworth League has been given the thought and attention necessary to make a success of any Christian enterprise, it has abundantly proven its fitness for the work in hand. (2) Where the Epworth League has failed, it has been, most frequently, as the result of indifference, inefficiency, or criticism on the part of those who should have sympathized and helped in its work. (3) Where the Epworth League has been adjudged a failure, nothing superior has been introduced to adequately deal with and solve in any more practical or effective way, the problem of our Methodist youth.

We have repeatedly asked those who have permitted their League work to dwindle and die, to tell us how they are conducting their young people's work in any better way than the League provided, or how they are more successfully meeting and solving the problem of their critical young people; but, far too enlightening communications have come to hand. We need the League until some thing better is devised, and the day of that has not yet dawned, as far as the writer knows.

## The Epworth League and the Christian Endeavor

IN view of the campaign to revive and strengthen Christian Endeavor societies, now being vigorously prosecuted in Ontario, the question has been asked, "What is the relation of the Epworth League to Christian Endeavor?" The reply is simple. The Epworth League in Canada stands in the same relation to the Christian Endeavor organization that it has occupied for the past seventeen years. In 1894, at the General Conference held in London, Ont., the whole question of the young people's work was thoroughly discussed. Many will remember the important debate that ensued, for the time being, the attention of the Conference so exclusively. The decision then reached was that "The Epworth League" should be the official Young People's organization of the Methodist Church. There was nothing in this action, however, that was in any way a reflection on Christian Endeavor, and to permit the fullest possible harmony between the distinctively Methodist organization and the C. E. societies in other denominations, an article on affiliation was introduced into the General Epworth League constitution. That article, which has never been removed, reads as follows:—"Any Christian Endeavor society, whose President is a member of the Methodist Church, and approved of by the Quarterly Official Board, may become affiliated with the Epworth League by adopting the name 'Epworth League of Christian Endeavor,' and any Epworth League may become affiliated with the Society of Christian Endeavor by adopting as a local name, 'Epworth League of Christian Endeavor.'"

It will be seen at once that this article is neither mandatory nor advisory, but simply permissive. The title "Epworth League of Christian Endeavor" is a local, not a denominational one. The only official title of the Young People's Society of the Methodist Church is clearly set forth in the first article of the General Constitution: "Name: (1) The name of our organization shall be 'The Epworth League of the Methodist Church.'"

The local name, with its dual significance, was taken by a large number of our societies in the early years; but year by year there was a decrease in the number bearing the double name, and since the General Conference of 1906, the schedules have combined all under the one general heading "Epworth League or Epworth League of Christian Endeavor." Whether this change in tabulating the societies was the result of the decline of Christian Endeavor in this country, or its cause, we do not risk an opinion. Certainly, there was no good reason for the church to keep its record separate, when apparently the C. E. Associations, Unions and Conventions had largely ceased operations. So that it is impossible for the General Secretary to tell how many separate Epworth Leagues and Epworth Leagues of Christian Endeavor there are in the Methodist Church to-day. In the five Central Conferences, which are, for the most part, comprised in Ontario, there were reported on the schedules for last year, 965 E.L. or E.L.C.E., 298 Junior, 76 Young Men's, and 97 other Young People's Societies. How many of these are eligible for affiliation with the Christian Endeavor, the General Secretary has no means of telling, and, as the C. E. records do not seem to have been kept systematically in Ontario for some years past, it is impossible for anybody else to tell. What the General Secretary was asked by a representative of the C. E. in Ontario to supply the necessary information as to Methodist Societies eligible to a call to the C. E. Provincial Convention, he was quite unable to do so, and, unless our C. E. friends tabulate their own statistics, it will be impossible for the General Secretary to do so for them, as far as the Methodists are concerned.

As to the desirability of re-forming defunct C. E. unions in our towns and cities, we have nothing to say. That is not our work, and whether or not our local Epworth Leagues shall unite in such Unions rests wholly with them. We have never been out of practical sympathy with organized Young People's work in any of the

Churches; but have helped, wherever time and occasion have warranted. Speaking personally, the writer has been, and still is, so busy with the responsible duties of his own office, that he has not had, and does not expect to have, time for additional outside work. Whether or not the officers of our Conference, District, or local Leagues find enriched and fulfilled respective spheres to keep them everlastingly busy, he does not know; but with the knowledge of the conferences that he has, he is of the opinion that responsible Methodist Leaguers have plenty to do in winning their own organizations and seeking to equal or surpass the splendid record which the Epworth League has placed to its credit in the past, as a live Denominational Young People's Society at work in this country.

### All the World Over

A PLAN to promote unity of spirit, and of universal comradeship among young Methodists, was worked out during the recent Ecumenical Conference in this city. A number of official and representative members met together in fraternal council, and the plan which had been presented by Rev. W. B. FitzGerald, the General Secretary of the Wesley Guild, to whom, indeed, much praise is due for the origination of the plan, a committee to work out the details was formed. Mr. FitzGerald, Rev. Dr. Randall, General Secretary of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the writer. This committee met in our office and the following is the outcome:—

A series of articles to run through the year, issued once a month in the leading young people's papers and magazines of the Methodist world, will be provided. The first of these will appear in our January issue, from the pen of Bishop Quayle. It is an eloquent appeal in the characteristic style of this unique preacher and lecturer, and will surely quicken us all to the work of February. The titles of the articles to follow are: "The Heritage of Young Methodism," "Prayer as a Bond of World Comradeship," "The Spiritual Value of Social Work," "Young Methodism and Individual Work," "The Ministry of Athletics," "The Young Methodist and His Bible," "The Spiritual Ideals of Young Methodism," "The Value of Junior Work," "Young Methodism and Citizenship," "The Young Methodist and his Books," and "Young Methodism and World Conquest." The names of the writers will be given in the February message which will be from Mr. FitzGerald. This series should accomplish much good. Each writer, with his message aglow with some earnest and vital purpose, will touch not only the young people of his own particular branch of the Church, but the youth of several Methodisms, and, in so doing, will bring them into closer fellowship and more intelligent co-operation in all things common.

The second project is also co-operative, even more so than the above. The plan is to devote a week to the study of the organized work of young Methodists in other lands. The time suggested is the week commencing March 21, 1912. By a happy co-incidence, our official topic for that date is already eminently appropriate, and, instead of making merely a local review of the work our own Leagues are carrying on, we shall be able to study something of value to us, in that being accomplished by our fellow-workers throughout the Methodist world. The subject will be, "The Universal Comradeship of Young Methodists," and the General Secretaries will supply their co-workers, through the papers and magazines concerned, with up-to-date informa-