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Missionary

"An Aggressive Religious Force."



HERE can be no doubt that the Epworth League has not only kindled a more positive and devout religious life among hundreds of thousands of young people, but has also in many places stimulated the pulse of evangelistic efficiency and achievement and of contributions to our great benevolent collections. Its future must depend on its fidelity to the great purposes announced by the General Conference in founding it, namely, "promoting intelligent and vital piety among the young people of our churches and congregations, and training them in works of mercy and help."

The League has some function of social entertainment and of innocent recreation, but should never be allowed to degenerate into a mere social club or committee on amusement; and it should in every place furnish intellectual stimulus by suitable literary exercises; but its great office is always and everywhere to be a positive, aggressive, religious force.

Its leadership should be such as to bring the League into constant and vigorous co-operation with the pastor, with the class-leaders and other officers of the Church; and in no case should attendance at the League meetings cancel in the minds of the members their obligation to the regular morning and evening preaching services, nor to the regular midweek prayer-meeting, which summons and needs the co-operation of the entire membership of the Church. If the Epworth League evermore rallies round the Cross, and points young people to the Saviour, it will live and grow.—From the Bishop's Address at the recent General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Social



Literary