

pearance of the platform; a large white cross decorated with flowers was at one side of the rostrum and against the western wall the Epworth League Maltese cross, bearing the motto, "Look up! Lift up!" was suspended.

The credit for the decorations belongs to Mrs. E. C. Cutler and her committee.

Epworth League Picnic.

On the evening of Monday, July 25, the Meaford Epworth League held their annual picnic, one of the most delightfully successful in the history of the League. A goodly company were present, almost all being leaguers. The Epworth League baseball club have had for several consecutive years, through the liberality of a townsman, the free, exclusive use of a beautiful practice ground near the river, and on these grounds, under the trees by the river bank, the refreshments were served, after which a game of baseball was played.

Valued Member Gone.

August 2nd Avon Methodist Church witnessed the touching tribute of sorrow both from relatives and friends at the funeral of Henry Wiltise. He was born in Westminster, County Middlesex, in 1836, and came into this neighborhood when quite young and settled in Avon. He was an ordained local preacher of the Methodist Church, of which he was a staunch supporter, always prominent at camp-meetings, revival services, or at prayer-meetings. Latterly he was an active member of Epworth League. Pray that his mantle of spiritual earnestness may fall on some of our younger members. Rev. J. Pring preached funeral sermon, text—2. Tim. 4, 7, 8.

Just a Line or Two.

We have received very attractive Topic Lists from the E. L. of C. of E., in Queen Street Church, Kingston, the Epworth Leagues of Simcoe, Wallaceburg, and the E. L. of C. E. at Medicine Hat, N.W.T. The Editor would be glad if others would send their programmes.

The Epworth League at Zion appointment, on the Cambridge Circuit, presented their pastor, Rev. C. W. Barrett, with a beautiful gold watch and chain, previous to his leaving the circuit. The Bethel friends, on the same circuit, gave the same gentleman a sum of money.

Denver '05.

The committee on the Seventh International Convention of the Epworth League writes: "One year must elapse before the Epworth hosts come to Denver for their International Convention, but today the Denver 1905 committee and the citizens and business men are working as vigorously for this great gathering as if it were only a few weeks away. The visit of General Secretary E. M. Randall, of Chicago, to this city last week was a new source of inspiration to the committee. Dr. Randall hardly expected to find work begun in a systematic way, and instead found that the committee had been organized for six months, was planning already for the events of convention week, and was ready for the next step, whatever that might be. At a banquet given in honor of the distinguished visitor, the convention committee, business and professional men, railroad managers and the mayor of the city were present to welcome him and to extend the courtesies of the city, and make pledges of co-operation in doing everything possible to make next year's convention a success. Dr. Randall's reply was a splendid address on what the 1905 convention can accomplish for all concerned.

Provincial Convention.

The Provincial Christian Endeavor Convention will be held in the city of Toronto, October 6-8. We have not received any information in regard to the programme, but no doubt there will be a fine list of speakers. The day sessions will be held in the Metropolitan and Cooke's Churches, and the evening meetings in Massey Hall. A large delegation is evidently expected as 5,000 badges and programmes are being prepared. The local committee, under the direction of President Johnston, is making great efforts to ensure the success of the gathering. We hope that our Methodist Young People's Societies will be well represented at this convention. At the present time, when there is so much talk about church union, it will be a most appropriate thing to hold a religious assembly which shall be attended by the young people and ministers of all the evangelical churches.

Reading Circle in a Small Place.

Can a successful Reading Circle be conducted in a small place, where the membership is only about a score? The answer comes from the village of Schreiber, where, last season, a very fine circle has been carried on, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Petch, the pastor's wife. At the editor's request, a correspondent gives the following account of how the work was done:

"In the way of exciting an interest we have sought to show the importance of good reading as a means of information and as a factor in the formation of character. We have aimed to do this by personal interview and by a sermon once in a while at the regular Sabbath services. Another important factor is, what we call our "Literaries," three or four of which are given during the winter. They take the form of a public entertainment, are announced as "An Evening with Scott," or, "An Evening with Tennyson," as the author may be. An author is taken up each evening. The programme consists of an essay on the author's life and works, with selections from his works, read, recited, or sung, every member of the League taking part in some way. This leads to an acquaintance with the author, and a desire to read his works.

With an interest created for good reading, the way is made easy for organizing a Reading Circle. We announce a meeting to organize, which organization consists in enrolling members, ordering books, and arranging time and place for meetings. Our Circle meets twice a month, at the home of one of the members. A certain number of chapters are assigned in each book of the set to be read by the members during the two weeks. We find it best to take up two books at a time, assigning about two chapters in each. For each book a member is appointed to open the discussion, which consists in giving a brief review or explanation of the chapters assigned. The other members ask questions or give their own opinions, all of which tends to give a lively interest. The President is ever alert to arouse flagging interest, or cool it down if it should become too warm, or direct its course if it should wander from the subject. After the two books have been discussed, each occupying about forty-five minutes, chapters are assigned and members appointed to open the discussion for the next meeting.

This year we have tried as an experiment reading some poetry in connection with poems as "Lancelot and Elaine," or the discussion on the books assigned. The President reads aloud, for half an hour, such poems as "Lancelot and Elaine," or "Hiawatha," and continues the reading

at the next meeting. This adds interest and tends to secure regular attendance. Our experiment has been a decided success here.

Our meeting lasts two hours. We begin on time and close on time. Each year a personal canvass is made for members. Each member is expected to induce others to join, or to visit the circle. Visitors are always welcome and generally become members.

Our young people are delighted with the books that are on the course from year to year."

How to Rise.

A young woman recently found employment in a queensware store. She immediately began a course of study in her leisure moments upon glassware and china. She then read some recent works upon the appointments of the table, and in a short time, by applying herself to her business, became the most valued employee in a large store.

In the milliner's establishment the young woman who found time for reading a book or two on colors and their harmonious combination, found her own taste greatly improved and her ability to please patrons greater. She was soon a favorite with employers and customers.

The young woman who, to earn an honorable living, went into a lady's kitchen, and instead of gossiping every evening found time to read a few good taste and household papers, was soon too valuable a housekeeper to be kept in a subordinate position in the kitchens. She knew how a table should look for a formal dinner; she knew what dishes were in season; she knew how to serve a meal in its proper course; and more than that, she knew something about the food value of different dishes.—Woman-kind.

Book Shelf.

All books mentioned here can be procured from the Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

Fifty Literary Nights. By Robt. L. G. Ayres. Published by Eaton & Mains, New York. Price, 25 cents.

This is a series of valuable suggestions for literary evenings. It is the second volume which is even better than the first.

A new and very valuable feature is the introduction of material for carrying out the author's plans. This will be a great help to Epworth League chapters remote from libraries, although the books indicated are in many cases easily accessible. Mr. Ayres has done his work well in suggesting the programmes and their methods of treatment. But no one need hope to find that his plans will work themselves. If they would we should not recommend them. As it is, we do, and that most cordially.

Here are some of the "Evenings" suggested: an evening with "Joseph Addison," "John Bunyan," "Robert Burns," "Thomas Carlyle," "William Cowper," "John Milton," "Sir Walter Scott," "Autumn," "Winter," "Spring," "Summer," etc.

The Singular Miss Smith. By Florence M. Kingsley. Published by the G. N. Morning Co., Toronto. Price, \$1.25.

This book is a discussion of the servant question. The popular author seeks to show, by illustrations exactly the difficulty that exists between mistress and maid. The peculiarities of various kinds of employers are shown up in amusing and suggestive fashion. "The Singular Miss Smith" is a wealthy young lady who becomes a servant-girl and takes several lessons in order that she might discover why the girls who are sent to do work to domestic service. Considerable light is thrown upon the subject, and the book makes very interesting reading.