

entirely to fiction, for the most part of a very inferior quality. On railroad trains, steamers, street cars, everywhere, people are seen poring eagerly over imaginary adventures, imaginary loves and woes. An instructive article is sandwiched in occasionally between the stories, but this is regarded by many as merely an incidental feature, to be passed over.

The effect of all this cannot be otherwise than harmful. There is nothing elevating or improving in it, and it must be regarded as simply a waste of time. Indeed it may be said that very little would be lost if the modern magazine, with very few exceptions, were banished entirely from our homes. A strenuous effort should be made to induce our young people to read something else than stories.

"How long he lived!" was remarked of the late Senator Wark, who died recently at the advanced age of one hundred and one. Perhaps he did, for the Senator was a good man, but life should not be measured altogether by months and years. Some men live more in thirty years than others in threescore and ten.

MR. JOHN PINK, librarian of the Cambridge Free Library, says that the young people of England do not value books as they used to do. "It is all cricket and football now, anything, in fact, but study." So much the worse for the English young folk. Recreations like cricket and football are all right in their place, but when they crowd out mental improvement they become a curse rather than a blessing.

THE first set of this year's Epworth League Reading Course was ordered by a young man in one of our towns, who called at the Central Office of the Epworth League while in Toronto. He said that he already had a library of two hundred volumes, and was adding to it gradually as he was able. A case of this kind is a fine contrast to the one mentioned last month of the young fellow who confessed that he had never read a book in his life.

ONE of our pastors, in speaking of the summer schools, said he went to one this summer, feeling that they were scarcely worth while, considering the great amount of work involved. At the close of the services, however, his opinion had entirely changed, for he felt satisfied that many people had been helped by the school, who had gone home to help others. If this has been the general result, who can estimate the influences for good sent abroad by these schools?

THE Wesleyan Methodist Church in England and the Methodist Episcopal Churches in the United States have recently published new hymnals which embody the best of the new hymns, together with the old standards that have been sung for so many years. In each case the work has been done well. Now we ought to be able to publish a better book than either for our Church, by taking the best things from both. We certainly need such a book.

FOR two years a Presbyterian church in this city was without a pastor, the pulpit being supplied by candidates who remained only for the Sunday. During that time the Christian Endeavor Society of the church looked after the devotional services, visited the sick, and generally attended to the pastoral work, and did it so successfully that at the end of the two years the membership had actually grown. This is an illustration of the great capacity for useful-

ness there is among Christian young people. If such fine results could be reached without a pastor's aid, how much better work might a young people's society do under the guidance and inspiration of an energetic minister? The wise pastor will use his young people.

OCTOBER is probably the most valuable month of the year for Christian work. Much of September is occupied in preparation. There are programmes to be made, plans to be outlined, and committees to be appointed. By the first of October, however, everything ought to be in full swing. If this precious month is allowed to pass without doing anything, the loss will be irreparable. Whatever you propose to do during this season, be at it with all your might during October.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is entitled to great credit for the part he played in bringing about peace between Japan and Russia. If he never did anything else, this alone would entitle him to grateful remembrance on the part of the civilized world. It is a splendid thing to have a man of his moral and intellectual calibre at the head of a great nation like the United States. One would suppose that even Democratic members of Christian churches would vote for him. But party ties are too strong for that.

"SAME old thing," said a hearer, as the pastor announced his text: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." "We have heard ever so many sermons on that text," was the remark made in an undertone to one who sat at his side. What a shallow nature is indicated by such a flippant comment! For those who breathe the same old air, eat the same old bread, and warm themselves in the rays of the same old sun, to complain of the Gospel because it is not new is inconsistent and ridiculous.

AT the reception tendered the Rev. W. H. Hincks at the Parkdale Methodist Church, Dr. Gilmour, who occupied the chair, remarked that it was a very nice thing to welcome a new pastor, but he felt more interested in giving the old pastor a good send-off. There was, in his opinion, a striking contrast between the enthusiastic manner in which young ministers are received into the Church at their ordination and the indifferent way in which they are allowed to drop out of the ranks at the close of a long and faithful ministry. There is much pertinency in this remark.

"We have not enough probationers coming into our Conference to supply the work," remarked a preacher a short time ago. A similar condition of affairs exists in other conferences, and is, perhaps, general throughout the Christian world. Many reasons have been assigned for this. Perhaps one is the fact that ministers, Sunday-school superintendents, Epworth League presidents, have not been as alert as they might have been in looking out for suitable young men, and encouraging them to enter the work of the ministry. The late Bishop Joyce became a Methodist preacher through the urgent solicitation of the Rev. Granville Moody. Had this man of God not met young Joyce when he was a school-teacher, the probabilities are that the great gifts of the evangelistic Bishop would have been lost to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Some men have done their best work for Christ by stimulating workers more gifted than themselves to put on the harness for Christian work.