

"Another vigorous, and I think wholesome shake might be given at your approaching elections. Put in new officers. A change of this kind is usually a fine thing. It brings fresh ideas into the club and distributes the responsibility. And it's wonderful how responsibility develops a boy."

"Now what comes after shaking out the ashes?"

"Shovelling in the coal, I guess, sir," was the young leader's answer.

"Yes. And don't be too saving with your fuel, or you won't get warmth. I think there's hardly enough 'meat' in your programmes to hold the boys' interest. Try setting your boys studying some really good missionary book. Any number of topics will crop up for papers and debates. Your devotional exercises are good. I see you made a promising start with games. But it would probably be well to introduce some new ones. If you like I'll send over one of my head boys to help you some evening."

"What about opening the drafts pretty soon?" questioned the club leader, his eyes twinkling.

"Ah, you've touched on a vital point there, lad. Your fire, though heaped with fuel, would quickly go out if you forgot to put on the drafts. Plenty of enthusiasm on the part of leader and officers will help get the flame alight. But the main draft, the one which will be the real inspiration, is prayer. Earnest prayer on your own part, first of all. Then get your leading boys started praying for specific results in the Club's work. Get them also to pray for their fellow members. It won't be long before you'll feel the club begin to warm up and grow all alive."

"Now for one or two don'ts—then I must get home to fix my own furnace, or it will be accusing me of being more of a preacher than practiser of firing-up tactics."

"You know how fatal it is to a fresh fire to leave the door of your firebox open. I noticed to-night several of the boys making frequent critical asides. Sometimes their remarks were just, and sometimes amusing, but it did not tend to make boys ready to take part. I think you'll find that cold draft quickly shut off, if you get those boys each to lead a meeting soon."

"Another point. You can't make up the fire, and then forget all about it for another 24 hours. It would give you a pretty cold reception if you did. Do you catch my meaning?"

"I think so, sir. You mean that as well as planning ahead for a month or a season, one must be on the watch to add fuel as required or to adjust the drafts when necessary."

"That's it," was the reply.

"Now, I must go,—especially as I want to start a little earlier to-morrow morning, so as to order my next winter's coal on the way down town. Yes, I know it's only March," he said, in answer to the surprised look on his listener's face, "but it's none too soon to get my order in, if I want to be sure of a full coal cellar this fall."

"Which, I suppose, means plan now for next winter's club work. I think I'll try to get the boys to lay in a supply of good kindling, as well as coal—say a special speaker once a month."

"You'll soon be such a good furnace man," said his friend laughingly, as he said good-night, "that you'll be taking away my job at the Y."

Using the Older Scholars in the School Session

BY REV. W. M. GRANT, M.A.

"Give us more responsibility and we shall take more interest."

The complaint is frequently made by parents, Sunday School officers and teachers, that the older scholars drop out of the School and that, even when they attend, they show little interest, looking bored or showing that they are present under protest. How is this condition to be remedied?

The work of the Sunday School is not to create and maintain a beautifully running piece of machinery, spending our time and effort in keeping it well oiled, tightening up the bolts, etc., it is not even to have work done most easily and effectively; it is, rather, to develop character and train

workers. How can these ends be accomplished? Give the older boys and girls a share in the management of the School.

1. Occasionally, say once a month, let the superintendent ask one of the scholars to take his place for the day, a different boy or girl every month. Let the superintendent not sit idly by, but be the boy or girl for that day, a member of the class from which the substitute superintendent has been taken. This will be good for the superintendent. He will find it is not as easy as he thought to sit quietly for half an hour and listen. It will be good also for the scholars. It will give them more sympathy with the superintendent and increase their respect for his position.