

Junior Department.

All communications for this Department should be directed to REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Box 216, Napanee, Ontario. He invites the co-operation of all our workers in making these pages both "right and profitable."

Junior Topics.

Nov. 9.—"Kindness to Animals."—Jas. 4. 17.

Children are sometimes thoughtless, and so become indifferent to the claims or feelings of any save themselves. Our domestic animals have claims upon us and we should not forget that they have keen feelings also. No boy or girl has a right to either neglect or ill-use a cat or dog, and every pet should be well cared for. Don't forget your dumb friends. If you have them take the best care of them for your own sake as well as theirs, for kindness to animals is a good way to grow more considerate of the needs that are all around us. A boy who is cross and ugly to his dog will find it very easy to be so with the family around him. A girl who teases "kitty" will become a general tease almost before she knows it. So for the sake of yourself as well as of your pets, be kind. It pays every way. The animals appreciate it, and will return the compliment. Many an angry dog who would become more angry by blows, is subdued and quieted by kind and gentle words. Many a horse will resent blows and "hulk" who will pull sturdily when encouraged by kindness. Animals are in this, like ourselves. "Speak gently! It is better far to rule by love than fear." There is nothing like kindness to win others—whether human beings or dumb brutes. Be kind then for our habits stay with us. If we "get into the way" of speaking harshly, it will soon be hard to speak any other way. If we "get into the way" of forgetting even so small a thing as to feed or water a canary, not only will the bird suffer and possibly die; but we will soon forget more important things. It is not a little thing to feed the chickens regularly. The fowls are the better for it, and so are we. So kindness to others is the best form of kindness to ourselves. Cruelty breeds cruelty, and a boy who can delight in pelting a dog with stones will soon be pleased if he can do harm or give pain to another boy. So it runs all through life. Keep your hearts tender and do so by never refusing a chance to "do good." "A merciful man regardeth the life of his beast," and there is hope for any boy or girl who has a warm and kind heart for any kind of household pet. Parents should encourage the young folk in having some such a canary, dog or cat, chickens or indeed any kind of animal or fowl, and properly treat them, without being the better for them. And our Junior Leagues should have a "Band of Mercy" pledge in which our children are bound by voluntary promise to be kind to all dumb creatures.

Nov. 16th.—"Temperance Lesson."—1 Cor. 9. 25.

Temperance means self-mastery, control over one's self, so that we can say "No!" and stick to it, whenever we are tempted to do any wrong. "Temperate in all things," says our text. That is, in everything that makes up life, if we are going to win we must be able to master our selves. If you read the 24, 25, 26, 27th verses together you will see that Paul is writing about men who want to win. Athletes came from all parts of the country to Corinth to take part in the games

there. Races, tests of strength and endurance and various forms of athletic contests were held, and it was considered a rare honor to win the prize for fleetness of foot, or strength of body. "To win, the young man knew he must be in very best of condition, and he could not be this if he had not taken the best of care of himself. So for long weeks and perhaps months of preparation, he would be exceedingly careful of himself, and in his training never eat or drink anything that would be likely to do him the least harm. Such was his way of living because he knew it was best for him, and would bring him to the 'Field Day' in the best possible physical condition. Now, Paul says, if they would be so careful of themselves in the hope of winning a crown of victory that would soon fade, how much more careful should we be who desire to win a crown of eternal life. Our boys all know that although training now calls for the same plain and substantial food as it did in St. Paul's day at Corinth or Athens or Rome. No young person can be at his or her best on examination day who has not taken good care of the health. All habits then, that in any way work us injury under temperate habits. Idleness is intemperance. So is gluttony. So is gossip. In short, anything that takes from us one atom of goodness, or moral, or physical strength is intemperance. We cannot afford to be idle, to talk slang, to tell lies, to be self-indulgent either in eating or drinking. Nor can girls. We must all be frugal of our time, of our speech, of our money, of our meals, indeed of all our habits of life, or we will become slaves to our own lower and baser selves. Resist evil. This is temperance. As Daniel did in the king's palace, so do you—purpose in your heart that you will not defile yourself and the most dreadful foe to our boys today and the most dreadful foe to our girls today, is cigarette-smoking. A boy who learns to smoke, soon swears, and will so lose his sense of right that he will find it easy to lie, steal, break the Sabbath, and soon form the drinking habit. Cigarette smoking weakens the body by sapping the boy's vitality at every point.

Nov. 23rd.—"Thanksgiving Lesson."—Psa. 92. 14.

The first verse of our lesson says, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." Is it? If it is, why are we so slow to thank God? Is it not really because we think so little of the goodness of God? "Think" and "thank" are from the same root-word. And "it truly thank unless we think. And "it is a good thing to give thanks," because it shows that we have been thinking about God. The main trouble with most of us is "I didn't think." Thoughtlessness means thanklessness. So morning and night, by prayer and song, by voice and instrument, the Psalmist says, "it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." It is good, too, because it encourages gratitude. We are always getting from God, and very often we cannot more. Be grateful for what you have, and do the best with it. Thanksgiving shows politeness also. It is very bad manners to take a gift without saying "thank you." And if we aim to be polite to our earthly friends we should not fail in politeness to our Heavenly Father. But the best way to show our thoughtful and polite gratitude is by giving ourselves to God. Paul says (Rom. 12. 1) that His mercies are so many and great that it is only reasonable that we should give Him our bodies to be a "living sacrifice." True gratitude thus gives one's self. This is what our Heavenly Father wants. We can never pay him for all His kindness; but we can give Him the best we have in return. That giving is thanksgiving. Not what we say so much as what we do tells whether or not

we are truly grateful to God. Not in the church nor on Sunday only; but everywhere and always we are to show that we are thankful. "It is a good thing to give thanks," because it cultivates a spirit of contentment. Many times we grumble when we have no right to do so. "There is "a silver lining to every cloud," and to look on the bright side is the best way to go through life. "It is a good thing to give thanks" because it makes others happy besides ourselves. It is pleasing to God. It is helpful to others.

Nov. 30.—"Praise Service."—Psa. 95. 1, Psa. 100.

Thanksgiving and praise! Last week's topic and this combine into a service of praise. Abundant material is offered below. Let the superintendent or president assist the leader in the preparation of a Bible study. Select such references as you think best for your purpose, supplementing with thoughts and Bible verses of your own. Intersperse with suitable hymns and you must have a profitable service.

Thanksgiving!—

1. Exhortations to.—1 Chron. 16. 8; Isa. 12. 5; Psa. 92. 1; Eph. 5. 20; 1 Thes. 5. 18.
 2. For Christ and His Salvation.—Luke 1. 68-70; 1 Cor. 15. 57; 2 Cor. 2. 14.
 3. For the fulfillment of promises.—1 Kings 8. 15, 56; 2 Chron. 6. 4; Psa. 28. 6; 66. 20; 89. 1, 2; 115. 1, 2; 118. 21; Exod. 18. 10; Psa. 18. 17; 27. 6; 31. 7. 8.
- Praise!—
1. Due to God.—Exod. 15. 2; 1 Chron. 16. 9, 24, 28, 29, 36; Psa. 71. 8, 15, 23, 24.
 2. In public worship.—Psa. 9. 14; 26. 12; 35. 18; 68. 26; 89. 5; 100. 4; 107. 32; 118. 19; 134. 1; 135. 1, 2; 140. 1.
 3. Doxology of praise.—Psa. 72. 18, 19; 106. 48; Rev. 1. 5.

DECEMBER TOPICS.—"THOUGHTS FOR WINTER."

Dec. 7.—"The treasures of the Snow."—Job 38. 22. ("Treasures" is the word in the R. V.)

Looking into the snow's treasures what lessons are suggested to us. Among others notice these:

1. Wonderful diversity of form yet a beautiful uniformity in all. What variety in the snowflakes when seen through a microscope? Triangles, squares, stars, arches, bridges, castles in amazing combinations yet with wonderful grace in each one. Each snowflake has a beauty all its own. What a lesson for us. God has great variety everywhere. The church is made up of many where, yet each one, old or young, is to be glorious for Him.
2. The snow is used as an emblem of brilliancy. (See Dan. 7. 9; Matt. 28. 3, and Rev. 1. 14.) The brilliancy of a Christly soul we should all seek. The snow reflects the light the better because of this brilliancy. So may we.
3. Snow speaks of purity. (Read Isa. 1. 15; Lam. 4. 7; Psa. 51. 7.) Yet the snow may become defiled and then it is repulsive. So the soul. What more lovely than a pure heart? Keep clean! Avoid impurities.
4. Snow teaches us of charity. How the tiny flakes cover up earth's rubbish. "Above all things put on charity."
5. The snow teaches us how great strength is in combined units. A child may blow away a single flake; but millions together block up the roads, stop heavy traffic, trains, and make travel impossible. So together we may be strong. Every Junior is a single snowflake, the League is a combination of means, strength, etc.