

ANOTHER FORM.

Another way of conducting the consecration service is to request each committee of the League, through its chairman, to be prepared to respond, when its name is called by the roll, by means of some appropriate quotation from the Bible. The committee will rise and repeat the quotation in unison. The selection of the motto may be left to the chairmen of the committees.

THE PASTOR'S SERMONS.

A certain young people's society determined to make some use of their pastor's sermons, and so announced that the next consecration meeting, each member would be expected to respond to the roll-call with good things taken from the sermons during the month. There were many attentive listeners to the preacher, and a splendid consecration meeting.

QUESTION MEETING.

It is sometimes a good plan to have a question meeting, when such questions as these shall be discussed: "What is Christ to you?" "What has the church done for you?" "What good have you received from the League?" "What has the Bible been to your life?" "What do you know about experimental religion?"

THE PASTOR'S OPPORTUNITY.

The consecration meeting affords the pastor a fine opportunity of observing the spiritual growth of the members. "It will prove a watch-tower for the pastor from which he can look out month by month and see something of the advance of every young Christian. He can note the careless ones, the half-hearted ones, and those who are thoroughly devoted to their Master's service. He can use his knowledge to drop a word of counsel, of warning, or of exhortation where it will do the most good, and at the close of this meeting, each month, he will have a peculiar opportunity to reach the hearts and consciences of all the members."

In some Leagues the pastor takes charge of the consecration meeting every month, but in any case he should take some part in the service.

WITH BOWED HEADS.

One of the most effective exercises for a consecration meeting is the singing of a song, especially a prayer-song like "Nearer, My God, to Thee," with bowed heads. As the music rises softly, it seems to carry all hearts with it up to the heavenly throne. This, of course, should not be done more than once in the course of the evening, and may well be made the evening's climax.

ANNOUNCING THE MEETING.

One society announces its meeting by sending the following card to all the members:

CHRISTIAN CONSECRATION ENDEAVOR EVENING

DEAR ENDEAVORERS,—

Are we keeping the PLEDGE?

Would not more SERVICE AND SACRIFICE please Him whom we SERVE?

Haste the bloom of our sinners' PROMISES ripened into the fruit of PERFORMANCES!

Remember the Consecration Meeting calls for your presence SABBATH EVENING, MARCH 20TH. It is earnestly desired and urgently requested that every member be present.

PRAY before the Lord
PRAISE the Lord
PREPARE for better work by COMING.

Come, and bring some one with you. Come on time.

General Suggestions

THE SINGING.

The music of a League meeting is an important feature. Use the better class of the Gospel hymns, but do not neglect the grand old hymns of the church which have in them power of great spiritual uplift. Avoid mere jangling tunes and hymns with poor poetry. Its organist and leader should be in thorough sympathy with the aims of the society.

Sing with the spirit and the understanding, and do not drag.

Sometimes a dull meeting can be warmed back to life by a good, rousing song; sometimes a lesson may be clinched

or an impression be deepened by an appropriate hymn at the right moment.

The hymns should be carefully selected, in harmony with the topic, before the meeting.

Use solos, duets, quartets, occasionally.

Ask the members to commit a hymn to memory and then sing it at the meeting without looking at the book.

Do not permit long preludes or interludes on the organ. As a rule the chord is all that is necessary.

Now and then read a good hymn in concert. Every one can read. Not all can sing.

Many of the hymns, especially those which are in the form of prayers, should be sung with bowed heads.

New hymns should be occasionally learned. A few minutes could be set apart for this purpose, either before or after the regular meeting.

A short song service may be introduced, once in a while, in the middle of the meeting. It is better than at the beginning.

MOCK TRIAL.

One League held a Mock Trial, when the conveners of the various committees were indicted for neglect of duty. The case was conducted after the manner of a Crown case at an ordinary assize court. Three of the seven tried were found guilty, and the sentence was that they should discharge their duties more thoroughly and faithfully in future.

THE BLACKBOARD.

Every League should have a blackboard, which can be put to many valuable uses.

The outline of the topic for the evening, or a set of questions may be put upon the blackboard. These will suggest little talks from the members, and will be a strong stimulus to the meeting.

A striking thought relating to the subject may be written on the blackboard.

THE QUESTION BOX.

A pleasing and profitable novelty is a meeting set apart for asking and answering questions. Those may relate to the topics which have been recently considered in the prayer-meetings, or on any difficulty connected with the religious life. The pastor can be asked to take charge of this service.

ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE.

It is sometimes a good plan for a League to gather about the Round Table, in imagination, and discuss questions relating to the welfare of the society, such as: "How may we do better work?" "What plans shall we adopt, and what shall we undertake to do, this season?" There need be no set speeches, but everybody should feel free to take part in the discussion.

VOLUNTEERS.

The chairman of the Prayer-meeting Committee may occasionally call for volunteers for the next meeting. The invitation may be: "Let those stand who will lead in prayer at the next meeting," or "Let those rise who will have some words on the topic at the next meeting." In this way a certain number will be definitely committed to preparation during the week.

THE BENEDICTION.

The meeting may close with the usual benediction, or by the members repeating, in concert, the Mizpah benediction: "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

A very beautiful benediction from Numbers 6. 24-26 may be used:

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee:

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace."

COTTAGE PRAYER-MEETINGS.

If the society is small, the meetings may be held in the homes of the members. It is often much more cozy and comfortable than in the church.

Cottage meetings in the homes of the sick, or the aged, in addition to the regular services in the church, are often a source of much comfort to the shut-ins.

Cottage prayer-meetings as an evangelistic character are often a means of reaching people who are indifferent. It is well to hold such services, as far as possible, in the homes of people who do not attend church, and with a special view of influencing non-church-goers. At least half a dozen members should undertake to go to sing and pray and help make the meeting successful. To obtain the best results, one or two of the members should visit in the neighborhood, during the afternoon and extend personal invitations for the neighbors to attend the meeting. An evangelistic appeal may be made in the service if deemed wise by the leader.

Do not fail to follow up this work; visit these homes again and see if you cannot win the inmates "for Christ and the church."