

# OUR ROSTER

"Can you suggest a plan to get every one to take part in the meetings?"

Strange that the second communication read, after the one from which above question was taken, contained this sentence, "The secret of success in League work is to interest the greatest possible number in every meeting by giving them something definite to do." Let that suffice as an answer. It "touches the spot."

"Do you consider it wise to have a lady president of the society?"

Yes, if she is the best person there for the place. No, if there are young men who could fill the position better. It is not a question of sex, and sometimes the best man is a woman. Fitness is the first essential, not sex. Some young fellows are old women, and some young women have splendid executive abilities. "It all depends," you know.

"How can we get our members to come to League on time?"

Be on time yourself. Start on time. Get through on time. Go home on time. Lateness is a habit. So is punctuality. If you have only a few present, go ahead. You will not need to give many such lessons. Don't preach about it. Practice! If your meeting is over a time or two, before your late-comers get to the place, never mind; teach them by example and they will catch the habit of punctuality before long.

"We intend holding a mock trial, charging the vice-presidents with negligence. I think it will help the League."

This statement is made by a president. The mock trial will doubtless be interesting and perhaps profitable; but why not have a real trial each and every month? That is what a well conducted business meeting is. The department and committee "heads" are to give an actual account of their work. They are on trial before their peers, and if such systematic business methods were introduced and practised, no president would be under the necessity of having a mock trial, which at best is more or less a burlesque, and seldom if ever is taken seriously.

"What course would you advise me to take with young people who let everything and anything interfere with their coming to the League meetings?"

Are you not just a trifle severe in your judgment? Everything and anything are very strong words. However, if I were in your case I think I should work a look-out committee and if that were impracticable I should personally interview the irregular ones on the matter. Why do they prefer other exercises to those of the League, or turn aside so easily from the place of meeting? Are there elements lacking in your services that would appeal to them? If so, why not introduce them? When they come do they find a congenial atmosphere, a pleasant greeting, an inspiring service? Do you aim to distribute your exercises among many rather than to concentrate them in a few? It may be that there is a measure of blame in the leaders. If so, it can be easily remedied. But if the fault is in the lack of sincerity and solid purpose in your young people, the trouble

is more deep-seated. Still prayer and personal effort can remedy it. Try both.

"How can I get the officers to do the work the position they hold demands them to do?"

As president it is your business to see that they do it or know why they do not. Call them to kind but strict account at a regular monthly business meeting. Accept excuses only once, apologies only twice, and kindly insist on work being actually done. Set a good example of thorough-going activity yourself. Don't scold. Encourage, but do not put up long with paper officers or sham committees. Live people are necessary to run an Epworth League. Dead ones should be buried.

"Do you not think it a good plan to have each Department take charge of the meeting one night each month?"

That is the very plan we do believe in, and if you study the year's Topic list given in this issue, you will see that provision has been made for just what you ask. This is necessary if we are to have Epworth Leagues that will be worthy of the name and an honor to the Constitution and organization. An Epworth League is a Young People's prayer meeting, and more. An Epworth League is a Missionary Society, and more. An Epworth League is a Social and Literary Circle, and more. An Epworth League is a Young People's Club, and more. It is Young Methodism learning the principles and practicing the methods of personal Christian character and united Christian work for the inbringing of the universal reign of Jesus Christ. Every department must play its part in perfecting the work of the whole. Give each one its proper place.

"Which plan do you consider the best, to fax each member a certain amount per month or to take up a collection?"

The latter plan certainly! If your members have some income, and are really trying to be stewards of money for God, they will give. Some will readily give a voluntary, stated sum, no doubt. Others may be able to give only occasionally; but by their freewill offerings your members will support your funds. If they do not, it will be probably through some oversight; and the use of envelopes to encourage system and regularity will be advisable.

"Do you think a League will flourish under a president who, although a good Christian, is not a capable leader?"

No! Not every "good Christian" has the essential qualities of leadership. Read the duties of a president as given in answer to another question in this section this month, and draw your own conclusions. Every president should be "a good Christian," of course; but he needs many things that may be lacking in the equally good in character, but not equally capable. We will give you an article on this next month. Look out for it!

"What is the best method to hold a League together?"

By attraction from within rather than by compulsion from without. Bind the

members together by one common purpose, unite them in the enthusiasm of one great act, combine them by co-operation in helpful committees, prevent distinctions by magnetism rather than by constraint. Don't say, "You ought to," but "Let us"; and if that means that your leaders are ready to lead in the working out of some definite plan, you will hold your League together all right. Lack of purpose, disjointed machinery, unsystematic methods, prayerless leadership, absence of enthusiasm, these are some of the things that spell disunion and decay in many a League. Avoid them, and then practise Heb. 10: 24.

"Do you think it is good policy to have unconverted members lead the meetings?"

Much depends on the character of the meeting and on the good sense of all concerned in its management. No wise officer would ask an unconverted person to lead a consecration meeting, and no sane unconverted person would think of leading it. The work of the unconverted in a Literary programme, a Social evening or even a Missionary meeting. There are some things an unconverted person may do. Let him do them. There are others he would not think of doing. Do not ask him to do them. Your unconverted members probably have as high a standard for your League as any of the rest of you. Do not ask them to lower it or to compromise by doing what they cannot conscientiously do.

"We have just sufficient workers to form an Executive. What should be the best plan to pursue?"

Work them! You are to be congratulated if the members of your Executive are really "workers." Too often the committee exists on paper only. Undertake what you can do, and do it. Do not try everything if your numbers are but few. I once knew a League of twelve members which was a splendid success because that number represented about all the available members in a small community, and every one meant business. If you have young people unconverted by your League, seek them out and add to your numbers, but do not think that even a few cannot do effective work for God.

"Will you kindly suggest a practical method by which the entire membership may be induced to take part in the Christian Endeavor Department?"

What you ask is impossible as long as one person is expected to "take the topic" and either read a paper, deliver an address, or preach a sermon on it. How can "the entire membership take part" if one person monopolizes all the time as is quite generally done? If you follow the monthly studies in Bible biography in some such plan of treatment as is always given on our Christian Endeavor pages, you will arrange for a goodly number to assist in the meeting. If you want a general participation in the meeting you must plan and prepare accordingly. Your Consecration meeting ought to mean something more than a prayer-meeting with a few people on the call-roll; but positively there is no mechanical plan or method to make it so. The great need is life.

"Has the Epworth League ever had a 'Week of Prayer' for the whole Dominion of Canada? If not, could not one be arranged?"

Not that we know of. It might be arranged, and if it helped to develop a spirit of unity and conformational loyalty it would be worth while. It is a doubtful matter if the leagues generally would observe it. An enlarged spirit and practice of prayer every week would be a great