

Practical Plans.

Literary Programmes,

FOR USE IN THE LITERARY DEPARTMENT
OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Quite a number of our readers having asked for suggestions on the Literary Department and how to conduct it, with special reference to the preparation of Literary evenings, we herewith publish a number of programmes, which may be helpful to those who are interested in this important department of our work. It will be noticed that the regular prayer meeting topic has a place in each "evening." It is not intended, however, that it shall take up much time.

I. "THE NINETEENTH CENTURY."

1. Devotional exercises.
 2. Regular prayer meeting topic.
 3. Essay—"Bird's-eye view of the course of history in the century."
 4. Essay—"Great inventions of the century."
 5. Essay—"Progress of the Church during a hundred years."
 6. Essay—"Great discoveries of the century."
 7. Essay—"Progress of social reform during the century."
- Programme to be varied with music, vocal and instrumental.

II. "EVENING WITH FRANCES R. HAVERGAL."

1. Hymn—"I gave my life for thee."
2. Prayer.
3. Reading Scripture lesson in unison.
4. Short paper on prayer meeting topic.
5. Hymn—"I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus."
6. Paper—"Life of Frances Ridley Havergal."
7. Solo—"Not your own, but his ye are."
8. Quotations from works of Frances R. Havergal.
9. Duet—"As thy day, thy strength shall be."
10. Paper—"Consecration Hymn."
11. A few stanzas say of "Consecration Hymn."
12. Song—"Singing for Jesus."
13. Reading—"Misunderstood."
14. Hymn—"Now the sowing and the reaping."

Each member present should read a quotation—the quotations being written on slips of paper and distributed. A better way would be to have each member select his own quotation.

III. "AN HOUR WITH THE HYMN-WRITERS."

1. "John Wesley as a Hymn-writer."
2. "Charles Wesley, the Poet of Methodism."
3. "Isaac Watts."
4. "Dr Doddridge Composer of 'Oh happy day that fixed my choice.'"
5. "Horatus Bonar, one of Israel's sweetest singers."
6. "Frances Ridley Havergal."
7. "Bishop Heber, Composer of the Missionary Hymn, 'From Greenland's icy mountains.'"

Arrange a programme of hymns to be sung. Let the hymn following the paper on the hymn-writer be taken from his works.

IV. "FIVE CELEBRATED JOHNS."

John Foxe—Author of "Book of Martyrs."
John Bunyan—Author of "Pilgrim's Progress."

John Milton—Champion of liberty.
John Wesley—Founder of Methodism.
John Howard—The Philanthropist.

V. "AN EVENING WITH WESLEY."

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Prayer meeting topic, briefly presented.
3. Paper—"The Epworth Parsonage."
4. Paper—"The mother of the Wesleys."
5. Paper—"The father of the Wesleys."
6. Paper—"Outline sketch of the life of John Wesley."
7. Paper—"The class meeting."
8. Paper—"Wesley as a preacher."
9. Paper—"Prominent doctrines of Methodism."

Interperse hymns and music, giving prominence to Wesley's hymns. Necessarily, the papers suggested in the foregoing must be brief.

VI. "LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY," OR "OLD FOLK'S EVENING."

An admirable way to spend an evening, especially if your society belongs to an old and long-established church, is to devote it to the study of the history of the local church. Search through old books, and old papers and find how much information may be collected. Especially get reminiscences from older members of the congregation.

1. "Founding of the Church and its subsequent history"—a brief outline.
2. Then may follow papers or brief addresses, chatty talks, about the different pastors of the church, the more prominent members, the work of the societies of the church, and revivals and their results. Bring in the old folks to tell of the earlier days.

VII. "MODES OF TRAVEL."

1. Paper—"The old locomotive and the new."
2. Paper—"Odd conveyances of different countries."
3. "Street railways—horse, and electric power."
4. "Navigation, ancient and modern."
5. "Horseless carriages."
6. "The Bicycle."

Arrange for a bright musical programme in connection with the foregoing.

VIII. "A TOUR THROUGH PALESTINE."

1. Devotional exercises.
2. "Geography of Palestine with map."
3. Paper—"Jerusalem."
4. Paper—"Bethany."
5. Paper—"Hebron."
6. Paper—"Nazareth."
7. Paper—"Samaria."
8. Paper—"The Dead Sea."
9. Paper—"The Jordan."

IX. "GREAT MEN OF OUR DAY."

The programme to consist of several papers or short addresses on the careers of prominent men of the present day in the various spheres of activity—in educa-

tional, political, ecclesiastical, commercial, and industrial pursuits. The programme to be varied by music, vocal and instrumental.

X. "THE CHRISTIAN SOVEREIGNS OF THE WORLD TO-DAY."

The programme will consist of short papers or essays on the life of the Christian monarchs of the world. This will give a most interesting evening, enlarging, no doubt, the information of many of the members as to the influence of Christianity in the higher spheres of life.

XI. "CHILDREN IN LITERATURE."

Arrange for a few papers on some of the famous child characters in literature. Have a number of poems on child-life either read or recited. Some of the sweetest poems in literature are written on child-life. The musical part of the evening could be made attractive, sweet and tender by having lullabies interspersed between the literary selections. Have quotations also by roll-call or otherwise, on "What the poets say of children."

A delightful evening might be spent with "The Children of the Bible" in addition to the foregoing.

XII. "FAMOUS MEN OF THE BIBLE."

Evening with famous Bible characters, including "Moses, the first great statesman;" "David, the Psalmist King;" "Saul, a ruined life;" "Daniel, the loyal youth;" "Paul, the courageous missionary;" interspersed with suitable music, and quotations from the actual recorded works of the men themselves.

XIII. "FAMOUS WOMEN OF THE BIBLE."

Two evenings could be arranged, one on "Women of the Old Testament," the other on "Women of the New Testament," and a paper prepared on the condition of women in early times as contrasted with the present.

A Query Meeting.

A very interesting literary evening at Galt recently took the form of a "Query Meeting." A number of questions, such as the following were written out and handed to different members of the League the week before: "Why do you love Methodism?" "Should a young Christian work on Sunday to provide gas, electric light, water-works, etc.?" "Should the Church take the saloon-keeper's money?" "Why should the Supperannation Fund have the hearty support of every Methodist?" and several other such questions. Each question was given to six or seven different members to write out brief answers. All the answers were handed in, and at each meeting the different answers to each question were read out by one person, the members of the League not knowing who had written the answers. It is needless to say that considerable diversity of thought and opinion was expressed in some of the answers. Many members were induced to write answers to the questions who could not be persuaded otherwise to take part. The programme of the evening was interspersed with special music. It proved to be a profitable, instructive, and interesting evening.