

world all by themselves, but part of a big whole, and that though they may not know the officers of the general society, they are all partners, and the officers know exactly how their junior partners are progressing; that they are glad when we do our duty, and sad when we are careless.

We have tried also to bring our Band into sympathetic and helpful touch with sister Bands in the Association. Visits have been exchanged, and letters of greeting and kindly encouragement written and answers received, which are read aloud by the Secretary, as also letters to our student and missionaries. At our Associational gatherings the Band is represented by one or more delegates, the Secretary reading her own report. The purpose of Associations and Conventions is also explained.

Now let me describe to you one of our weekly meetings. On the platform are three little tables. At the first, to my right, and near the door, sit the ushers, whose duty it is to distribute and collect the hymn sheets, take the collection, and show strangers to seats, at the centre table sit the Superior-President and President, and on the left the Secretary and Treasurer.

The officers are always on hand ten or fifteen minutes before the hour, to talk over matters and make sure that the programme is all provided for, and carefully written out, so that there may be no hitch when the exercises are once started. Promptness in beginning and closing is one of our rules, and the minute the clock points to eight, the officers hasten to their places. At the sound of the bell there is a hush, and on every face a look of eager expectancy. The President rises and requests the ushers to distribute the hymn sheets. This takes but a minute. Then the first hymn is announced and sung most heartily, after which one or two of the members engage in prayer, or we repeat the Lord's prayer together. Instead of reading a chapter the Band rises and repents in concert some passages of Scripture, and the "missionary creed" which was published in the *Link* some time ago. The roll call, and reception of new members, reading of minutes, and taking of the collection follow. After the collection, the President asks for the report of the Treasurer, who rises and says, "Mrs. or Mr. President, I beg to inform you that there are so many present, and so many cents collection." If the Band consider the report satisfactory, they greet its announcement with hearty applause. The reason for the use of a stated formula by the Treasurer and others, in giving their reports, or making resolutions, is that it makes it much easier for them if they know exactly what they are required to say.

Now of course these dear boys and girls are nearly always timid, and shy, and nervous, and in many cases it would be utterly impossible for them to go through with their tasks, were it not for the close proximity of

the Superintendent. That gives them courage, for the Superintendent has confidence in them that they can do this work, and they are bound to try. They will not disappoint their leader, for they love her, and she expects such great things of them.

They require considerable training and practice, yes, and coaxing and encouragement, for somehow there seems a great difference between taking part in a programme, and performing the duties of an office; but they will learn, each week they grow stronger, and the voice that at the beginning of the term could only be heard by the few nearest, can at its close be heard by the furthest one in the room.

Perhaps some Band leader is ready now to exclaim, that "these are all the old, old methods. We have tried most of them many times, and yet our Band is not successful." It may be, dear sister, that there is something else needed even more than method and plans. These are certainly necessary, but there are other things that are absolutely indispensable. What about your own interest in the work? Does the Band know that in you they have a leader who will never yield to discouragement, that though you may not always be able to depend upon them, they can always depend upon you? Do they derive inspiration from your example, as well as from your teaching? Is your own heart all aglow with love to Christ, and love to the perishing?

"No," you say, "that is just what I lack. I do not love the children or the work; my only reason for taking it up at all, is because no one else in our church was willing to do so; and, besides, my time is so fully occupied, that I find it a great trial to have to give up an evening a week to those tiresome girls and boys, as well as the time that is necessary for preparation."

Well, that is a temptation that is perhaps common to all Band leaders. Let me tell you a thought that always helps me when this suggestion presents itself—I do it for *Christ's sake*: these dear young souls are those for whom Christ died, they are not very lovely or lovable, some of them, but they *need* love; and therefore He loved them. The same is true also of the heathen, so repulsive, and almost loathsome to us, yet not perhaps farther removed from us, than we are from the angels; and then they are part of the Bride of Christ, and must be made ready for the Bridegroom.

A young man came to me once, and said he would like me to try and be helpful to a certain young lady in whom he was much interested. I knew that, at that time, the young girl was not in any respect the equal of her friend, though doubtless he saw in her possibilities which I did not; but, for his sake, and because he asked me, I determined that his request should be honored.

The young girl was converted, and educated, and has developed into a noble and useful woman. Do you see