

whose members average six cents per week. It has been noticed that the societies which do most for missions are usually the ones that are most prosperous in other respects. Nothing tends so much to impart life and energy to an organization like ours as the cultivation of the missionary spirit.

THE LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

The Epworth League aims at the consecration of the whole man, body, mind, and soul. Its third department has for its object the culture and development of the mind, and one of its most important features is a regular course of reading. We believe that intellectual development is not at all antagonistic to spiritual growth, but rather contributes to it, as zeal and knowledge, culture and Christ-likeness should always go hand in hand. The pioneers of Methodism used to carry good books in their saddle bags. Our methods of circulation differ somewhat from theirs, but the church still recognizes the importance of giving the people healthy and inspiring literature.

The Epworth League Reading Course began in the year 1895, with the selection of four books, specially suitable to young folks, bound uniformly, and sold at about half of the usual price. Its success was assured from the very first. During the past seven years 45,680 volumes have been circulated among the young people of Canadian Methodism. They have included such books as "Stalker's Life of Christ," "Torchbearers of Christendom," "Life and Conduct," "Social Law of Service," "Makers of Methodism," "The New Citizenship," "Making a Life." The unanimous opinion of pastors is that the Reading Course has been a source of great inspiration and blessing.

During the past year, the number of books has been reduced from four to three, and the price correspondingly decreased, which has resulted in a revival of interest. The motto of the Course is "Better than Ever," and the purpose is to make each year's selection of books better and more attractive than the last.

THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Much has been accomplished by the Social Department of the Epworth League. It has sought to develop a practical form of Christianity in welcoming strangers, visiting them in their homes, and interesting them in the church. The Floral Committee by its distribution of flowers

has cheered the hearts of many sick and discouraged ones. Services have been held for the old people in many places, where a number of aged saints have enjoyed the privilege of attending church through the kind attentions of the young folks.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

We are gratified at the success which has attended the summer schools held at Toronto, and Killarney, Man., for the study of the Bible and Missions, and would strongly recommend their continuance, and the organization of similar schools at other points.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

does for the boys and girls what the Epworth League is expected to do for the young men and women. It is in no sense a rival to the Sunday School, but rather the complement of it. The motto of the school is "Teach." The motto of the League is "Train."

The Junior League is intended to put into practice the knowledge gained in the Sunday School. The best way to keep the ranks of the Epworth League replenished is to conduct a live Junior League.

THE CONVENTIONS.

Our Epworth League Conventions during the past four years have been exceedingly practical and helpful, and show no signs of slackening interest. At San Francisco, last summer, the International League Convention touched high water mark in attendance and enthusiasm, and the London Conference Convention held in London last March was the largest and most successful Conference gathering ever held in Canada. The district organizations have, however, been the most valuable part of our machinery, and the interest in them has been well sustained.

THE LEAGUE PAPER.

The last General Conference authorized the publication of a monthly paper in the interest of Epworth League work. The Canadian Epworth Era has been well received by the young people, and has steadily grown in circulation. According to the statement presented at the last meeting of the Book and Publishing Committee, there are now 5,165 regular readers, an increase of 434 during the past year.

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