

## "How We Increased Our Attendance at League Threelfold in Two Weeks"

F. J. E.

At the inspiring Epworth League Rally recently held in Carlton St. Church, at which the Premier of Ontario spoke, Mr. Lewis, President of the Toronto Epworth League Union, mentioned the splendid progress being made by the Elm St. League. In concluding his remarks he asked, "Are we downhearted, Elm St.?" The answer from the 250 members of that League present was such an emphatic negative that none could doubt it. "No!"

The reason Mr. Lewis made the remarks he did was that he had visited the Elm St. League on the previous Monday and had seen that the League was living up to its reputation as "a League that lives by doing things."

The "Thing" that we have just "done" was in the nature of a competition, and as it was attended with such results as to earn the warm commendation above mentioned, and as presidents of other Leagues are visiting us to ascertain fuller particulars, we have been requested to write an article explaining the scheme in full.

Previously to our commencing the competition, we had a membership at our League of about 180, consisting of the usual assortment of good, bad and indifferent members, common, I suppose, to every big League. The attendance was averaging about 100 for ordinary meetings. Some of us felt that this meant that there was "something wrong somewhere."

We thought of our Sunday evening services—a congregation of 1,500, mostly young people—and we realized that we should have nothing to boast about even if our League was 300 strong. We therefore looked round for ways and means of increasing our membership, and the scheme we have just completed was the result.

We divided our membership up into ten teams, each team being designated by a color. Over each team there were two captains—a lady and a gentleman. The teams were picked as evenly as possible—so many good, so many indifferent, so many bad. As far as possible where there were "cliques," we split them up, putting one person on each team. In this way many new friendships and acquaintances were formed.

We then had a meeting of all the captains, and it spoke well for future success when nineteen attended the meeting, the twentieth being out of the city. The captains were, of course, selected as carefully as possible, the ones chosen being people upon whom we could rely to willingly sacrifice any personal advantage for the good of the League.

Each captain was given a copy of the following rules and regulations, which explain the details of the competition:

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND PRESERVE.**  
The object of this competition is fourfold.

1. To get new members.
2. To look up old members who have not attended lately.
3. To give everyone some work to do.
4. To make members better acquainted with each other.

The competition can be made a big success if everyone works their hardest. While the aim of each team will be to win, yet let us remember that the general good of the whole League is what we should strive for. You will readily see that it is imperative that the rules must be strictly adhered to, and we are trusting to every member, especially to the captains, to see that this is done.

### GENERAL RULES.

(1) The competition will be held on every Monday night, beginning with Nov. 9th, and ending Dec. 14th, both dates inclusive.

(2) There are ten teams with two captains each. Every member can ascertain their team by consulting the lists posted in the school-room, and on the notice board, or by asking the League secretary, Miss Olmstead.

(3) The method of scoring is as follows:

For a regular member, each attendance, 2 points.

For a new member, first attendance, 6 points.

For a visitor, each attendance, 1 point.

**Note.**—Before a new member can be counted they must be received into the League. The night they are received into membership the six points are allowed; after this night they count two points as ordinary members, and join the team which brought them in.

(4) Members must report to their captains who will be in the Rest-Room (adjoining the school-room). Counting ceases at 8.10 p.m., when the lists must be handed to Miss Olmstead.

(5) All visitors must report to Miss Olmstead only, who will be in her usual place at the secretary's table.

(6) On no account must any canvassing be done in the vestibule on League nights. Any team which persists in breaking this rule will be fined ten points.

(7) In the case of any dispute, the judgment of the President, Mr. Eric Johnston, must be accepted as final.

sent and registered by 8 o'clock. In this way you can help very greatly to make matters run smoothly.

*Do not delay, but start at once. The competition begins Nov. 9th. Reception of new members every Monday night.*

Of course we had the ever-present pessimist who persisted that things would not work smoothly, pointed out where troubles would arise, etc., etc.

Just a word, then, as to the results. The lady captains kept the score for their teams, and when it was made up for the night at 8.10 handed it to the League Secretary. The gentlemen captains were the "policemen"—telling people where to go, keeping the vestibule and passages clear, etc. In not a single instance was a fine imposed or a dispute taken to the President for settlement.

The competition finished a week earlier than anticipated, so we had five Monday nights in which to work. The actual figures are as follows:

<b>First night, Nov. 9.—Missionary:</b>	
Old members present .....	113
New members received .....	62
Visitors present .....	75
Members, etc., too late to count or not registering .....	12
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<b>Second night, Nov. 16.—Programme by girls of Y.W.C.A.:</b>	
Old members present .....	162
New members received .....	44
Visitors present .....	109
Members, etc., too late to count or not registering .....	24
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<b>Third night, Nov. 23.—Literary:</b>	
Old members present .....	178
New members received .....	32
Visitors present .....	95
Members, etc., too late to count or not registering .....	10
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ELM STREET LEAGUERS ENJOYING AN EVENING OUTING.

### NOTES FOR CAPTAINS.

It is upon the Captains that responsibility must rest in seeing that the foregoing rules are observed—especially with regard to Rule No. 6.

If the Captains all do their duty, and we feel sure they will, the success of the competition is assured.

If a member on your list has left the city, or for any other reason cannot continue as a member, please report it once to Miss Olmstead. In this way we can get an accurate list of our membership.

**Important.**—If possible, please be in attendance each Monday night, by 7.45, and strive to have all your members pre-

<b>Fourth night, Nov. 30.—Citizenship (very stormy weather):</b>	
Old members present .....	160
New members received .....	17
Visitors present .....	82
Members, etc., too late to count or not registering .....	9
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<b>Fifth night, Dec. 7.—Christian Endeavor:</b>	
Old members present .....	201
New members received .....	28
Visitors present .....	98
Members, etc., too late to count or not registering .....	14
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