

the family, enjoying its companionship, sharing its responsibilities, and assuming their part of the duties and labors to be done for the family welfare. There must be mutual sympathy between old and young, and the spirit of hearty, practical co-operation must always prevail.

Young men must be encouraged to take more responsibility in church affairs than has been customary. Unless they are used they will be lost. When church boards study how they may utilize the young men in actual work, as thoroughly as they have too often criticized them for leaving work undone, there will be more accomplished. One of the best ways of developing strength in a young man is to set him at work after other young men. Here is where the value of the organized League, Brotherhood, Club, Bible Class, or other industrial church society ought to manifest itself. These must increase in numbers, influence and enthusiasm by the introduction of new members regularly, or they will fail, and after dragging their weary length along for a few monotonous months, entirely cease to be.

And the weekly programme of meetings in all these societies should be a strong one. Young men know a good thing when they hear it, and can likewise place a correct value on a programme that has cost nothing in preparation. The average Epworth League programme does not appeal to young men because it is too weak. Mere "goodness" on the platform or "giddiness" in the audience will disappoint if it does not soon disgust them. But a strong vigorous thoughtful programme, thoroughly prepared and well presented, will reach and interest them, and bring them back again to the next meeting, whether the leader be a man or a woman. You may gain the attention of young men by a "cooky" bill of fare once, but you cannot hold them without strong meat. Quicken his appetite with attractive "tid-bits" if you will, but you must feed the young man well if you would keep him. Make the service inspiring from beginning to end. Many a programme has been ruined by its opening hymn. A young woman, frequently a leader of the League meeting almost invariably began the exercises with her favorite hymn, "Are you weary, are you languid, are you sore distressed?" We need hardly say that there were few young men there. But in another League we know, the majority of the company are almost invariably young men. "More young men than young women at an Epworth League service?" you ask. Yes, sometimes sixty young men to fifty young women. But in that church the minister is a man's man, the church officials are in hearty co-operation, the League services are bright and strong, the young men are out after young men as recruiting agents for Christ's fighting forces in that town, and in and through all there runs a happy unifying social element that binds all together in cordial Christian affection. Given these factors, and above all the Spirit of the Master, the church need not fail in its effort to reach the young men in His Name.

A Double Misconception

Two cases have very recently come to our table in which wrong conceptions seem to prevail as to the Epworth League and Sunday School, and both of which go to prove the timely nature of an article in our January number on "The Sunday School and Epworth League—their relation defined, their co-operation explained."

One case is that of "J. P. W." who in a contribution to the "Methodist Recorder," of Victoria, B.C., says, "The Sunday School organization is almost identical with the League. Then why both?" The other is that of a minister much nearer Toronto, who, in commencing a convention address, said that the Epworth League "was to be a sort of missing link between the Sunday School and the Church."

We desire to remove these misconceptions by saying that the Sunday School and Epworth League are not identical. They differ both in purpose and methods. Each has a distinct and separate work to do, but both as vital parts of the Church.

There is no need of a "missing link" or any other kind of a "link" between the Sunday School and the Church. The Sunday School is an integral part of the Church and not a separate organization. And similarly, the Epworth League is not a foreign society appended to the Church, or connected with it by any fictitious or artificial tie. The Sunday School is the Church assembled for the regular and systematic study of the Bible. The Epworth League is the young life of the Church in organized training for service.

Whether the time will or will not come when the necessary work for which the Epworth League was brought into existence shall be incorporated into the Sunday School, and form a part of its programme, we cannot say; but, as we pointed out in the article referred to, neither Sunday School nor Epworth League has alone successfully accomplished our whole aim for our children and youth, "and as our work is now carried on, both are needed, and the church or pastor who ignores or neglects them—either one or the other—will surely suffer loss in the damage thus done to the young life of our congregations of to-day, and consequently to the church of the future."

Brevities

—An inner choice to do right is much better than an outward restraint from doing wrong.

—Listen to the man who speaks of what he knows better than you do. He is competent to be your teacher.

—When you see a man busy following his own advice, keep him company. He is not otherwise a safe counsellor.

—The proper discharge of duty to-day is the best preparation for the performance of larger tasks to-morrow.

—Christianity is essentially a social religion, and the young Christian errs sadly who thinks to maintain faith without fellowship.

—Do your best! Work that is indifferently done may cost little time and labor, but it is the dearest in the end. Only thoroughness really pays.

—When a young man prides himself that he is the victim of but a single vice, remind him of Bishop Hall's remark: "Vices are seldom single."

—A youth with only ordinary talent, but extraordinary diligence will likely accomplish more than one who has been considered a "genius" by his friends.

—How long since you tried to get a new subscriber for our paper? If you think it worth half a dollar for three hundred pages, recommend your friends to subscribe.

—Edison was once asked by a youth, "Do you not think that genius is inspiration?" The electrical wizard replied, "No, not inspiration, but perspiration." Do you persevere?

—We have known many fathers, "good, bad, and indifferent," but we never knew one who did not want his son to be a better man than his sire, no matter how good or how bad he himself was.

—The first book a boy reads is not the Bible, but his father's life, and it is a sad thing for the son, and a sadder thing for the father if when the lad grows and reads the Book, he finds that it contradicts what he has already read in his father's life.

—Is your pastor preparing for Special Services? If so, remember that he has a right to expect your practical sympathy and assistance, and that as a loyal Leaguer you will not fail to give him your support. Every active member should be really active in local evangelism.

—Perhaps Special Services have already been held in your church this winter. If so, has your league followed them up with a personal canvass of the converts for active members in your society? If not, don't blame the young Christians if they become lukewarm. Exercise is essential to health in the spiritual as well as physical life, and the league is a good place in which to provide work for all who are willing to serve Christ.