

The Home Study Quarterly

E. Douglas Fraser, J. M. Duncan, Editors ; John Mutch, Associate Editor

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Putting Your Shoulder Under

By Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D.

The farmer throws the bag of grain on his shoulder when he is carrying it from the threshing machine to the granary. The hod carrier uses his shoulder when he mounts the ladder with his load of bricks. The other week I saw an ice-man carrying a huge block of ice on his shoulder from his wagon in the street into an ice-cream parlor. The shoulder is the place where the heavy load goes. A man puts his shoulder under it, when he has a hard job which means a strong, steady lift, into which is to go his whole strength. The tips of his fingers or the end of his tongue serve the mere dawdler or talker. The shoulder must come in if there is a real job to be put through.

And every real boy or real girl wants to be something better than a dawdler or a talker. That is what energy is for—to be set in action. "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong," John says. His notion of the Christian life was that it is a doing something, a doing something worth while, a doing something that gives one the joy of putting his strength into action.

Of course, in the Christian life, study and prayer are necessary. They come first. They are the basis of strength, just as solid food and plenty of it, and fresh air and abundance of it, are the basis of physical fitness. But all food, and no work, all out-doorness and no exercise, will make the soundest frame gross and flabby. It is only work that can develop muscle.

The tasks that the teen-age boy or girl can do, in the Christian life, are numberless. Everything that the adult Christian is responsible for, the boy and girl in their teens are responsible for, in their measure. The atti-

tude of these to Sunday School and Y.P.S. and church and community should not be—"What are *they* going to do about it?"—those same grown people; but "What are *we* going to do about it?"—we who are young and fresh and strong? "Whatsoever he saith unto you, *do* it," said the mother of our Lord to the attendants at the wedding feast at Cana. I pass the word on to you all who have "named the name of Christ," who have called yourselves his servants. To *do*, at his word, is as imperative as to sing or to speak, or to pray.

And put your shoulder under the task he sets you. That is what it means to give your whole selves to this great Lord and Master.



"Class 17"

By James B. Ross

The older boys' class in St. Matthew's Sunday School, Montreal, known as "Class 17," has long had a high reputation. All went well until the fall of the year 1914. Then the War broke out and within the first year the older boys were no longer seen in their accustomed places. For some time the activity of the class was in a great degree lessened, and the Sunday School officers had almost decided that the only thing to do was to wait "till the boys came home" for them to once more take their place in the School.

In September, 1916, two members of the class, which now consisted of 16 and 17 year old boys, went as delegates of the Sunday School to the Annual Boys' Work Conference, held at Knowlton, Quebec. As a result of the information and enthusiasm gained there, it was decided to organize the boys along the lines suggested by the Conference speakers, and to form a Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests group in the church.