

President H. A. Moore, of Century Epworth League, Medicine Hat, Alberta, strongly advocates regular business meetings for officers, and attractive advertising of the League services. He also suggests a very important principle in putting "Christian" fellowship first, a social time second, not vice versa.

Have you ever tried an ex-members' meeting? Many who for good and sufficient reasons are not now actually united with the League, are in sympathy with it, and would doubtless be glad to contribute "for auld lang syne" to a programme made up of numbers in which the "old boys" and "old girls" only participate.

At Horning's Mills the League has found "plenty of literary work" profitable. Our young people should be encouraged to read, restate, review, and their comparisons made together in the meetings of the League should add to their intelligent acquaintance with uplifting and ennobling books. Do plenty of good reading this winter.

A President writes a request: "Do not make the Topics for next year as hard as this." Have you found them "hard"? Your honest judgment on "hard" vs. "easy" topics for our young people will be welcomed. If you write advising "easy" ones, be sure to explain what you mean by the word and why you advise such subjects for study.

A good suggestion comes from the President of Franklin League, Manitoba. Mr. White says: "Let the older Christians be the force behind the younger members, actively suggesting many plans and leading the young to work the plan. This is how we are making our League go." Mark the order—older heads for counsel, younger hands for work. Good!

W. H. Rumball, Victoria Harbor, Ont., makes the following three practical suggestions for local Leagues: (1) "Urge wearing the E. L. badge, it advertises and fortifies; (2) the use of circular letters or better, hand written, monthly, to the indifferent and non- church going; (3) Divide the field into districts, with a member of the Lookout Committee responsible for each, and have contact among the committees." Try them.

A certain President of a country League says that their meeting is on Sunday evening, and that they do not have the help of their pastor. She rather regrets this, but if she should be a source of satisfaction that if the pastor cannot help the League by his presence, the League materially helps the pastor by that Sunday evening service. Pastor and League should always maintain a relation that is mutually helpful.

The following statement of Mrs. D. A. Jones, of Mt. Pleasant League, Gordon Lake, Algoma, is worthy of a place in every leader's thought. With her words the most experienced among us will surely agree: "Quiet, persistent, prayerful work, with the personal interest always in front, is in my opinion the best way of keeping the interest of our young people. Keep meetings lively with the religious element predominant."

This reads well from Brooklyn, Newport, N.S. League: "Our young people take their turn in leading meeting. Always have a good attendance. Pastor leads once a month. President takes consecration service. At that service a collection is taken. We select readings from THE EPWORTH ERA." That last suggestion is a good one, and many a programme might be brightened if some of the varied articles from our paper were read supplementally to the regular topic and in addition thereto.

The Nanaimo B.C. League, does splendid service by conducting a monthly Sunday morning meeting in the jail. Mr. Manson, the second Vice-President has it in charge and with a full complement of ten members provide the service which the men much enjoy. Such work is full with good to all related to it, and might be prosecuted in kind elsewhere.

It is quite a task that one President sets when he advises "that our General or Field Secretary visit every League once a year." Read Par. 285 of your Constitution, brother; see there what is expected of the General Secretary; bear in mind that there are nearly 1,800 Young People's Societies and close on 4,000 Sunday Schools, and then explain how in the 366 days of 1912 they are all to be personally visited. It will give you some figuring.

A League President seems in a very contented frame of mind about her society and its work when she writes concerning it: "We give quite well to missions." Surely! But if that's all you do such snug satisfaction is not a sign of progress. Your League should do more than it has ever done for missions, but you cannot be a genuine Epworth League if you confine your work to raising missionary money.

The Wesley Memorial League of Moncton, N.B., issues a neat topic folder of eight convenient pages. The official topics are for the most part followed with an occasional special subject introduced. But the list is the only one coming to this office beginning with July and running for the full year. Would it not be better to make all such lists so that they run concurrently with the League year, commencing with May? Uniformity in this matter is very desirable.

A devoted worker well says regarding membership increase: "Individual prayer and effort on the part of a number, for one person, will be sure to bring him to the Society and thus increase our numbers and strength." There is a wealth of suggestiveness in that statement. Prayer alone is not sufficient; invitations given without prayer are perfunctory and formal; but when persons are moved by affectionate interest to both pray for and individually invite others, there is no question about increase.

Miss Browne, of Strathroy, makes a suggestion which ought to grow in favor of all Leagues. "In addition to the ordinary League services, which are often very brief, have a study class, preferably the Teacher Training Class, which would form part of League meeting and work—not a separate meeting afterward." The Canadian First Standard Teacher Training Course presents to our Leagues a splendid opportunity for self-improvement and preparation for practical service in the Sunday School. If you do not know about it, send your name and address to this office.

With so many complaining of how "hard" it is to get persons to take the weekly topics, it is refreshing to read this from the President of Morganston League, in a rural Ontario community: "They all get a number of the members to take part, thus all can be brought into work. This plan has worked real well. We have other subjects occasionally." The "they" in above extract refers to the several Vice-Presidents, who each take a meeting in turn during the month, the President being in charge of the fifth meeting when it comes. Wide awake Vice-Presidents can and do secure excellent meetings from the use of the regular weekly topics.

A very sensible and eminently practical suggestion is made by a friend that District Executives might easily carry out. It is "to hold an occasional conference with the Presidents of the Leagues, not altogether, but of some three or four. Make it informal; arrange a meeting at the home of one of the Presidents, and talk over the practical work." Thus in sections the Leagues comprising the District may be visited by one in superior office, and the local Presidents be stirred to increased activity and diligence.

The Central League of Windsor, Ont., reports: "We find that our Bible Study Class conducted by our pastor proves of great benefit to the Leaguers." We have learned of several other places where similar happy conditions exist. It is of great profit to any League when the pastor so arranges his work as to devote a definite portion of it to the instruction of his young people, and in all such cases we most strongly commend the First Standard Teacher Training Course. It prepares for definite service and must necessarily be of permanent profit to the students themselves and others whom they are thus better fitted to serve.

Of the Wellington St. Brantford, Epworth League, the President writes: "It has been our aim to bring the League into closer touch with all departments of Church work. We are planning to hold an Epworth League 'At Home' on the last social evening of the present term, at which we hope to entertain all the different departments of the Church. We have also tried to do away with the spirit of commercialism in connection with our social work,—that is, the raising of money by charging admission fee. We believe the fee system to be an encumbrance upon the Social department, which prevents them from being as useful as they might be in soul-winning." Wise words all!

The President who wrote me, "Many officers do not know what their departments stand for, do not understand the general purpose of Leagues and the distinctive work of each department," was correct, and to overcome such a state of ignorance, which he says is crippling some departments of Leagues all right, the Constitution has been strongly recommended for distribution and study in all our Societies. But if the sale of this valuable pamphlet is any criterion of the desire of our officers to inform themselves thoroughly, I fear many are quite willing to remain ignorant. The Book Room has done its part well, but neither the Book Steward nor the General Secretary can make the Leaguers and Sunday School workers read the booklet. If those who *should* know do not, we must disavow any responsibility at this end of the line.

A President whose League prepares their own topics frankly writes: "The regular Epworth League topics would be far more suitable for the young people." The prescribed topic list is not compulsory. It represents the best plan that the Committee of the General Board can outline for a year's study, and observation and written report show that those Leagues that most nearly follow out the course, derive the most permanent profit from the year's study. Of course some think them "hard"; others want nothing but Bible topics, etc., etc. but the Editor is deeply convinced that until the average young Methodist is prepared to do something for his own development and for the community about him that is not at first "easy," he will not grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The League topics have been chosen simply because they can be easily and quickly prepared, are sure to be as easily and quickly forgotten.