

Make this season memorable by some fresh undertaking.

Aim not only at more service but better service.

If the old method has served its day, adopt a new one.

Insure success by planning wisely and then by wisely carrying out the plan.

Put more into the work—more thought, more energy, more patience, more faith, more hope, more love, more prayer, more consecration. Pay the price of success, and, with God to direct and strengthen, success will be certain.

Working Principles.

IT has been well said that in spite of all the improvements made in machinery in our time, there are certain mechanical principles and appliances which are found in all. The machine may be never so unique, but there will still be need of cogs and pinions, axles and journals, pulleys and belts.

So in the working of societies. They may vary in a multitude of ways, but there are certain practical principles that must remain constant through all.

To secure effective service in any society, there must be knowledge—knowledge of the society's possibilities, and of the opportunities of work.

It is here that knowledge is power. It is the duty of every society to keep informed with respect to the needs in all departments of church activity, and seek to measure up to its opportunity. Facts furnish fuel, not for missionary fires alone, but for every good cause that requires assistance. Lack of interest in any department of work is due mainly to lack of information. The missionary and benevolent work of the churches would be very much more enthusiastically and generously supported if a knowledge of the important and far-reaching character of the work being done could be imparted to those who are now uninformed. This is seed that pays well for the sowing.

Another means of strengthening the work in our own society is system. Accession of power is frequently a matter of improved methods. Knowing "how" in many cases makes all the difference between a vigorous and a run down society. A mob and an army is distinguished not so much by courage or numbers as by method.

While it is true that we are dependent always on the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is also true that we must furnish the proper channels through which the Spirit may manifest Himself. The prayer for power is an idle prayer unless there is with it the use of the best known means for the accomplishment of the work.

On the bank of a rushing river, we do not need to pray for water so much as to set to work to provide a water-wheel. Many societies would do a great deal more than they are doing if they planned their work more carefully and then worked their plans. One society's contributions for missions increased in one year from six to

eighty dollars by adopting the principle of systematic giving. Best work always requires best methods.

Another principle that is required for effective service is the adaptation of the proper means to the end in view. Much labor is expended needlessly, and much enthusiasm frittered away through ill-adapted means. The maxim, "Be sure you're right, then go ahead," is a good one for all Christian workers.

If you want the bees to hum on your lawn, you cannot secure their presence by wishing their advent. If you want the birds to cheer you with their songs, you will not gain your desire by calling them from your doorstep. But if you will plant the elms and the maples, provide the honeysuckle and the clover, the birds and the bees will come of their own accord without your invitation, and they will delight you with their drowsy hum and cheerful melody.

Any society will gain in power which employs the appropriate means to secure the desired results. Spiritual harvests, no more than natural harvests, "just happen."

Work That Tells.

THE most important society in the world for any individual is his own. It is there that he should concentrate his plans and prayers and efforts. It is there that duty guides the willing feet and furnishes the best opportunities for service for willing hearts and hands. It is there that our work tells the most for the progress of Christ's cause.

Mrs. Jellyby had handsome eyes, but they had the curious trick of overlooking the nearest need and present duty. She could see Africa, and longed to furnish balm for all its woes, but the urgent claims of her own family were persistently disregarded. She was deeply interested in schemes for colonizing surplus population on the Niger, but her own children grew up dirty, ignorant, and uncared for, while her husband became bankrupt. There is continual danger of passing by the opportunities that lie nearest home.

The society that has the greatest claim upon us is our own society. No special enterprises, no campaigns against this or that evil can justify neglect of the work which is distinctly and emphatically "our own."

And in considering the claims of the society, it is well to remember that they are identical with those of our own church. Like the Ladies' Aid Society, or the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, the Young People's Society exists for the church; and it justifies its existence only as it exalts the church, promotes its efficiency, and labors to realize its plans. It is an expedient adopted by the church for the development of its young people. As soon as it becomes an end in itself, it has forgotten its mission.

Loyalty to our own society means first and foremost unequivocal loyalty to the claims of Christ within our own church. Numerous side-