

would have been wrong to say "Yes!" It might have been easier at the time to do as the king's practice had been; but the brave boy kept his heart right with God, and trusted in him to take care of the future. . . . Make a summary of good reasons why we should never use strong drink. Let the Juniors suggest them, and teach them the late Dr. Guthrie's four reasons for being a total abstainer. They were: 1. My head is clearer. 2. My health is better. 3. My heart is lighter. 4. My purse is heavier. And he might have added a fifth—5. My friends are happier. . . . Before you close your meeting, see if all have taken the pledge of total abstinence. If not, endeavor to enlist all in the promise to never use strong drink. Let some one of your members sing, "Dare to be a Daniel."

Nov. 8.—"Little kindnesses we can do in Jesus' name."—Matt. 25. 34-40.

The trouble with most of us in serving God is that we ignore the common opportunities for doing good in hope of doing some "big thing" some day. Life is made up of little items—days, minutes, seconds fly rapidly by. Opportunities for large actions are not numerous; but every day gives us more or less openings for small acts of kindness. After all, the motive that prompts us is everything. Deeds are great or small according to the spirit in which they are done. (Make this very clear to your Juniors.) "For my name's sake," said Jesus. "Ye did it unto me," gives value to the most trivial act. Acceptable service to Christ is not confined to Sunday sanctuary worship. It includes every day. And the "between Sundays" is of greatest importance. . . . Again, not what we do so much as why we do it gives our actions value in his sight. "If we may be seen of men," we do so and so, then we "have our reward." But "God trieth the hearts"—that is, understands the motives that prompt us, and rewards accordingly. . . . To this clear, draw out your young members on their daily lives. What opportunity have they to do kind acts? Where may they best show a kind heart? The answer is—at home—there, in a multitude of ways they can please Christ. Make it clear that there are two ways of helping at home. One is, because they "must" do so—the other is because they "want to." This last is neither common or easy. . . . Only by keeping the love of Jesus in their hearts all the while, can the children and young people do their daily duties cheerfully and well. . . . Then there are lots of other things that we don't have to do, but choose to do for Jesus' sake. These acts are counted by us a privilege—such are the deeds of kindness referred to in our lesson. To feed the hungry, clothe the ragged, visit the sick, etc., as we can, is to choose the path that Jesus trod as he "went about doing good." To do what he doesn't have to do, because his kind heart prompts him to do it, is one of the noblest and Christlike things a boy can do. . . . Willing service was that which Jesus himself gave, and taught others to give for his Father's glory and the good of humanity. Let us follow him.

Nov. 15.—"Lessons of trust from Bible deliverances."—Acts 5. 18-20; 12. 6-9; 16. 25, 26.

This week's Topic affords a fine opportunity for three descriptive papers on the three deliverances from prison allotted to our study. Select three bright members a fortnight ahead to write these stories in their own words. Let them be read in your meeting, and at the close, summarize the lessons of trust illustrated by the various persons. . . . Take Peter's deliverance from

prison, for example. Make it clear that what Peter could do for himself he was expected to do. But what he could not do, God did for him. Peter could not shake off the chains, but he could "arise." He could "gird" himself and bind on his sandals. He could put on his cloak and follow the angel; but he could not open the iron gate. So by the union of the natural and the supernatural Peter was released from prison. God wants us to do what we can for ourselves, and to trust him to do the rest. Encourage home study and preparation of these three Bible stories, and you cannot fail to have a good meeting.

### The Junior Workers' Quarterly.

The Junior Workers' Quarterly, published by the Western Methodist Book Concern, 226 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, O., is an admirable manual of methods, issued quarterly at 30c. per year. It ought to have a nice subscription list in Canada; and single copies, 10c. Send for one and try it. The following excellent article appeared in the last number:

#### IS THE JUNIOR LEAGUE WORTH THE EFFORT?

"The children of to-day are the society, the church, and the nation of to-morrow; the boy with his whip and the girl with her veil will before long be real factors in Church and State, and will train real lives for the weal or woe of the nation."

How, then, shall all this power be directed? Perhaps some of us Junior League workers have found to our sorrow that all children do not appear to be made of "plastic clay"; neither are they "sheets of paper white," to be written on and filled out as we choose; but as the patient sculptor with his countless marble chisels of a bit here and rounds another bit there, so the faithful teacher must work, with infinite patience and skill, until she shall see as the result of her labor "a vessel fit for the Master's use."

In few Sunday-schools of to-day is there an opportunity for the close, personal work which can be introduced in a meeting composed entirely of children—the childish prayer or word of testimony, which means growth to a child as much as to an adult.

One of the greatest obstacles I have met with in carrying on a Junior League is the ill-behavior of the children. Some way, there seems to be nowadays little reverence for sacred things. This is more noticeable, perhaps, in the League and Sunday-school than anywhere else. I can not help feeling that, were our churches used only for sacred purposes, we would have less trouble in that respect. Children are not apt to be much impressed with the sacredness of God's house on Sunday if they have been there the evening before, playing boisterously at a social or listening to a troupe of minstrel singers, even though such things are given for the benefit of the church.

The Junior League should be a place of personal decision in favor of a Christian life for every child, a training-school for the development of character, a charge, a rescue station for neglected children, and a preparatory class for the Epworth League and the Church. Two boys stood looking at a huge locomotive, waiting to see it start off with its long train of loaded cars. They peered under and into it, eagerly watching and wondering. Soon the engineer mounted to his place, and opened the throttle. The sound of jerking and clanking links ran the full length of the train, and the boys saw the great iron horse move off with its ponderous load, Tom said, "Say, Sam, it's what's in it that makes it go." And so it is with the Junior League. It's

what's in it that makes it go. Our whole business should be to bring the children to Christ, then to train them up to love, serve, and obey him.

Some one has said, very aptly: "Save an adult sinner, and you save a unit; but save a child, and you save a whole multiplication table." When we realize how easy and natural it is for a child to accept Christ, does it not seem to you that we should have even one of our children leave the Junior League without having made a definite and personal decision?—Mrs. E. R. Martin.

One reason why some of our Junior Leagues are not more successful is the lack of interest in the League by the Church. The whole work and responsibility is left to the superintendent and assistants. Then, if things do not move harmoniously, the blame is laid to their charge. Happy the League that has the pastor as its counsellor, guide, and friend. I do not mean that he must carry the load; but he holds a peculiar position which no one else can fill.

To accomplish the best results, the Junior League should, if possible, do some kind of systematic work. It may be difficult to carry out a complete course of study, but by having a definite aim in view much more can be accomplished for each week. Of course the work will sometimes be discouraging, and our precious seed may seem to fall on rocks and by the wayside. But is it not infinitely better that a few seed fall into thorny thickets, than that no seed should be sown? Let us then take courage, and if the little maid is so very giggly, and the small boy so very, very wicky, let us remember that—

"A diamond in the rough is a diamond sure enough,

For though it may not sparkle it is made of diamond stuff.

Of course, some one must find it, or it never will be found,

And then some one must grind it or it never will be ground.

But when it's found, and when it's ground, and when it's burnished bright,

That diamond's everlastingly just flashing out its light.

"Oh, teacher in the Junior League, don't think you've done enough!

That worst boy in your class may be a diamond in the rough,

Perhaps you think he's grinding you, and possibly you're right,

But it may be you need grinding, to polish you up bright!"

—Mrs. E. R. Martin, Osage, Iowa.

### Beatitudes for Teachers.

1. Blessed is he who helpeth the little ones; he shall have peace in his day.

2. Blessed is he who loveth the little children; he shall be held in everlasting remembrance.

3. Blessed is he who possesseth faith, hope, and patience; for him the rough places shall be made smooth, and the crooked places straight.

4. Blessed is he who knoweth the child which is in the wayward child; he shall find his reward in the life of a noble man.

5. Blessed is he who hath brains, and knoweth how to use them; he hath the elements of growth within himself, and shall impart life to his scholars.

6. Blessed is he who knoweth good common-sense when he seeth it; his praise shall be continually in the mouth of children and parents.

7. Blessed is he who knoweth the secret paths which lead to the conscience of the child; for him the gates of peace shall hang on golden hinges, and the ending of his life shall be like the ending of exquisite music.—Arkansas School Journal.