

of all, attractive notices in the local press. Printers' ink costs a little, but it pays every way. Let each one of these P's receive it fair share of attention, and success is more than half accomplished.



An Unfair Procedure

An old gentleman who was asked on one occasion to open a meeting with prayer, made special petition for all who were to take part in the programme, and closed by saying, "May the Lord have mercy on the last speaker." It was a most appropriate prayer, for the last speaker is very often placed in a most embarrassing position. It frequently happens that the most valuable part of the evening is frittered away by starting late, by irrelevant remarks from the chairman, prolonged and unnecessary announcements, etc., so that the speakers have little opportunity of delivering the addresses which they have prepared. Take our Epworth League and Sunday School conventions, for instance. Usually two persons are asked to speak at the evening session, but no arrangement is made as to time. The first man often gets interested in his subject, and forgets the flight of time. The chairman is good-natured and does not like to call him down, with the frequent result that the last man is called upon when it is nearly ten o'clock. If he is sensible, he will decline to speak at that hour. Of course, the audience is disappointed and disgusted, many going home making very uncomplimentary remarks concerning the management of the meeting.

How often it has happened at the Friday evening Reception Service at our Conferences that the seconder of the resolution has had only a scant ten or fifteen minutes to speak to a departing congregation, after the mover has occupied nearly an hour, and the young men and the President have consumed the other hour. This sort of thing is entirely unfair.

When there are two speakers on a programme there should be a distinct understanding as to the length of time each is to have, and the chairman ought not to be at

all hesitant about informing them where they ought to stop. The commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," applies to time as well as money.

At the International Epworth League Convention in San Francisco, Rev. Dr. Buckley, of New York, was on one of the evening programmes with two other ministers, each being allowed twenty-five minutes. Dr. Buckley came second, and was just getting nicely under way when his time expired. The chairman did his duty without fear or favor by ringing the bell, but the audience refused to allow anyone else to speak but Dr. Buckley. When the chairman arose to introduce the third speaker, his voice was drowned by cries of "Buckley, Buckley." The doctor was equal to the occasion; rising, he declared that he would not go on with his speech until the other gentleman had been heard and allowed his full time. "Then," said he, "if you want to hear me, I will talk as long as you like to stay." The offer was accepted, and the programme carried out as arranged, when Dr. Buckley proceeded to give a second address, to the great delight of his admirers. This was simply dealing fairly with the "other fellow," which, however, is not always done. Chairmen of conventions will do well to take the position that the programme, as printed, must first be carried out, before miscellaneous business, solos, or any other matters are introduced. This is only justice to those who have taken the trouble to prepare speeches.

The Secret of Success

Not long ago we had an interesting conversation with the teacher of an Adult Bible Class in an Ontario town which has succeeded in developing a membership of nearly one hundred in about six months, largely composed of men who had not attended Sunday School for years, and many of them out of touch altogether with the Church. Nearly all of them had been secured by going after them. The most striking thing about the campaign was that quite a number of men responded to the personal invitation to attend the class with the greatest readiness, and seemed profoundly impressed that the Church really wanted them. It is probably true that in almost every community there are people who have the idea that the Church does not care for them, and as a consequence they never attend its services. Let us undeceive them as to this, by showing personal attention, and assuring them that they will find a cordial welcome in the Church of Christ.

An Important Change

These pages were almost ready for the press when, by action of the Book and Publishing Committee, the Editor of this paper was elected to take charge of the Sunday School publications, as successor to the late Dr. Withrow. As these number six magazines, and four papers, they will require the whole of his time, and therefore his relation to THE EPWORTH ERA must cease almost immediately. Who will succeed him is not yet known, but it will be announced as soon as possible. There is no space nor time just now for any valedictory words, but something will appear in the next number concerning the past ten years of Epworth League history. Who will edit the next ERA, we cannot say, but our readers can count upon it appearing on time and full of good things, as usual.