

From the General Secretary's Mail

Pointed Paragraphs for Practical People

Note.

If nothing from your league has yet appeared on these pages, it is probably because no correspondence has been forwarded to the General Secretary from your society. Sit right down and write him a letter now.

Good for Enniskillen!

They read the *Statesman* out there, and then they have a Jewell for a pastor. Are these the reasons that Mrs. Lee writes that the subscription list for that village League has been increased to thirty copies? And she says it is "easily" done. If Enniskillen can take and profitably use thirty copies, how many should your League receive?

Jingling Sleigh Bells!

Sackville, N.B., to Amherst, N.S. We have advised intervisitation between adjacent Leagues; but when did a League drive out of its province to visit a sister society in an adjoining province? All right! Inter-provincial visitation if you will. It does young people good to call on their neighbors thus, and the merry jingling of the sleigh bells is good music in such a happy company.

A Good Motto.

"Advance is our motto for this year." So writes Miss Cora B. Ferguson, Auburn, Ont. This is an expressive word. It is significant. It is prophetic. Any league that applies itself may achieve something at least of that for which it stands. We commend the principle, if not the exact word, to all our societies. Remember the message of our front cover page for January, and "Go Forward!" Let there be an advance all along the line.

Uses the Duplicator!

President Pugsley of the Thornton league makes good use of the hectograph in his local work. He recently sent us a sample committee form used in developing interest in the prayer-meeting and topic discussion. The judicious use of such mechanical aids to local advertising is very profitable, and the various appliances for manifold or duplicating letters are so reasonable in price that we wonder our young people do not utilize them more generally.

Splendid Growth!

When did organized young people's work ever lag or decline under the wise leadership of such a pastor as Bro. Jos. Philip? His League in Essex "has, during the past two months increased in membership from 35 to 123. A Junior League has also been organized with a splendid lot of officers and a membership of 65, and still they come." This cheering note gives assurance of the vitality of the League, and shows its appropriateness, especially after a religious awakening such as Essex had not long ago.

Convention Fruit!

From William Harrison we learn that Burford begins (mind only begins) the new year with twelve subscriptions to the *Era*. Salem, on the same circuit, is sending in six. The League there has also organized a Mission Study Class of six. "These are some of the good results of the District Convention, together with a little personal work."—Mark the last words, please! Conventions that are

followed by "personal work" produce "good results." Those that are not may have plenty of fire-works, but like most pyrotechnic displays they end in smoke. Follow up your Convention with "personal work."

Fear of the Pledge.

"The young men of the neighborhood are of good moral character, but seem to have a fear of the pledge, and though we have a good attendance at Social or Literary functions, the regular services do not seem to hold their interest." This is from an Ontario League. How far do these conditions prevail? We would like to hear from any correspondent regarding this pledge, "fear." Is it genuine? Is it well grounded? Are the provisions of the pledge too stringent? Would a less intricate statement be better? Could the pledge be made more simple? We shall appreciate any candid statement of the case, so do not fear to write us freely.

Of Course They Should!

Brer. James, of that influential journal, *The Canadian Statesman*, is a dis-

criminating man, and cultured enough in his tastes to appreciate a good thing when he sees it. Here is what he says of our last number: "EPWORTH ERA for February, it seems to us, is just a little better than any previous issue. If it keeps up this pace of improvement it will soon be a model in religious journalism. Editor Bartlett is receiving well-deserved praise on every side. All young people should read every line in it."—But they should not borrow the paper. Lending it is all right, but borrowing when it is only 50cts. a year,—well!

Yes, it's Sure Death!

"It seems to me that a long, slow topic will kill the best interest that could be in a League meeting." This statement comes in a newsy letter from the Cor. Sec. of the Queen St. E. L. Lindsay. It is absolutely correct. Many a meeting has been killed as far as interest goes by the process indicated. To "get a paper

Evangelistic Bands both among the young men and the young women of this League are giving valuable assistance to their pastor, Bro. Reel. This is as it should be. The League that is not ever at the pastor's right hand for practical service in local evangelism is not likely to count for much as a soul-saving agency, and the first business of the League is to save souls. Let us never forget it.

Our Older Members.

An experienced leaguer wisely writes: "We must always seek for the older members at the league. What could we do without them? Their very presence is an inspiration, but they should be there to stimulate effort, to encourage timid ones, and to fill up the gaps if any occur; not to take the entire responsibility upon themselves. Experience has taught us that young people do not like too much interference with their plans but are always grateful for wise counsel and helpful guidance. The problem of keeping the young man in the Sunday School is being solved by giving him something to do. The same should be true of the League even to a greater degree.

If we can convince them that they are needed we have not only secured their



OUR HEADQUARTERS. CALL AND INSPECT. 35 RICHMOND ST. WEST

interest but have added eager willing workers who may be counted upon for any line of service for which they are adapted."

A Splendid Standard!

"We intend to double our missionary gifts this year." We hope you will. The young people of our church have done well, but have by no means reached their limit in giving to missions. Many Leagues would be much the gainer by doubling their missionary contributions. Would you know the best way? Just give twice as much as you gave last year. Systematic canvassing, business-like and regular collections, clear-cut and frequent reports will all help. More than any other, perhaps, the missionary department needs good business management. Do not think that anybody will make a successful Second Vice-President. Your most thorough-going and aggressive member is necessary for the office.

"Daily drudgery may be heavenly drill."