

YOUNG PEOPLE'S

Forward Movement for Missions

In charge of F. C. STEPHENSON, M.D., C.M.,
Corresponding member of the Students' Mission-
ary Campaign, 568 Parliament Street, Toronto.

The Country Epworth League
Difficulties.

The difficulties of the country League are many, while its advantages are in proportion to the earnest effort of each member to make the League helpful—socially, intellectually and spiritually, and thereby a training school for our Church, whose very life depends upon her obedience to the command of Christ: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." Our Church of to-morrow will be what the young people of to-day make it, and the great majority of our young people are in the country League, with all its difficulties. If wisely used and overcome, these very difficulties will prove stepping-stones for our members to greater usefulness.

LONG DISTANCES AND BAD ROADS.

One of the discouragements of the country League is the difficulty of getting to the meetings. Long distances with bad roads, for the greater part of the year, are a serious consideration. Sometimes the farm horses are over-worked, and to walk is impossible. Often the chores are not done in time, and sometimes the League member feels that he will not be missed, so the League meeting on that night is weaker for his absence. How can these difficulties be overcome?

1. By a consecrated determination to attend the League.
2. By a family council to plan for League night, by arranging the work so that those who are anxious may attend.
3. By dividing the neighborhood into sections, and having a member of the Lookout Committee over each section, who will plan, if necessary, to make up a load on League night, so that no one need stay at home.
4. By each member preparing thoroughly for the meeting by studying the subject for the night, then, if attendance is impossible, knowledge has been gained through study in preparing, and even the absent-at-home member has added strength to the League by keeping up with the topic by private study.

Difficulty in Preparing a Mis-
sionary Programme.

Some Leagues in the country have great difficulty in getting up a programme for their missionary meeting, and envy the city League with its many advantages.

- "It is so hard to get a speaker."
"We have so few missionary books."
"Our members are interested in missions, but they do not know enough about any one country to take a meeting."

"We have so few members that it is

not worth while organizing a missionary department."

These are a few of the difficulties we often hear quoted. Regarding the organization of the missionary department, if the League consisted of only two members, "Pray, Study, Give," is simple enough to adapt itself to their need, and also broad enough to meet the requirements of our largest young people's society. The faithful carrying out of daily prayer, systematic study, and proportionate giving, will overcome the difficulties of the missionary department. The prayer is individual, and does not depend on League organization. Regarding the study of missions, this requires careful planning. Each League should have its missionary programmes arranged for at least three months in advance, the parts assigned to each who will help in the programme, and, as far as possible, literature suggested or supplied. In order to help the Leagues, subjects for the monthly missionary meetings are arranged for a year. By following these subjects and programmes for 1909 our Leagues will become familiar with the missionary work of our Church. Letters from missionaries may be had by writing to Dr. F. C. Stephenson, 568 Parliament Street, Toronto. These are very interesting and helpful for reading at the League meeting, and lending to friends. Missionary Study Classes may be organized, and the study done at home. Missionary charts and maps, missionary scrapbooks made by League members, furnish work for a "bee," instructive and social.

Last, but not least, the Leagues should become acquainted with the great missionaries of the world by reading. Lack of books should not be a barrier to our country Leagues becoming authorities on missionary lands and missionary progress.

The country League cannot afford to be without a missionary library. Our Book Room, by giving very liberal terms, is making it possible for every young people's society to have a few books, if not a large library. In addition to the books, our *Missionary Report*, *Epworth Era*, and *Missionary Outlook*, furnish valuable missionary information, which will help solve some of the difficulties of the missionary department.

Notes.

SAYS Rev. N. D. Hillis: "Under God, the missionaries are the architects of a new civilization. They are the knights of a new chivalry."

WHEN a young man turns his back upon earthly fame and fortune that he may spend his life among the heathen, he shows the highest type of courage.

THE Christians have a pretty custom in Korea of putting out the little white Korean flags on Sunday over their houses. These banners show just where there are Christians living, and they show the world that it is a holy day.

WHEN a young woman gives up the pleasures of society and the association of cultured people that she may go to her ignorant and degraded sisters of other lands to tell them about Jesus, she shows the meaning of true courage.

It is always dangerous to pray for opportunities. We have already more than we are improving, and God's answers are sure to be in excess of our expectation. Ten years ago the Church was crying for more open doors. God gave them. All doors are open now save one, and because that one remains closed, the Church stands agliss before all the others until that one opens—the door of her own heart to receive the pity of God for the world and the power of God for its service.—*Robert E. Speer*.

It was Dr. Pierson who cried: "Sound it out and let the whole earth hear: Modern missions came of a symphony of prayer. Following the lead of the humble Baptists who, in Widow Wallis's parlor at Kittering, made their new covenant of missions, great regiments have formed and taken up the line of march, until the whole Church has joined the missionary army. And that which one hundred years ago was the motto of a despised few has become the rallying cry of the whole Church of God."

THE great argument for missions apart from the command of the Master is the misery of the unchristianized world. People who dwell in Christian lands and experience the beneficent and uplifting influence of a Christian civilization, even the non-Christians themselves, have no adequate conception of the degradation, cruelty, and sorrow of the masses in heathendom. A suffering world in darkness is mutely crying for the light, and if fully comprehended by those dwelling in the light, its appeal would be irresistible.—*The Christian Intelligencer*.

A STRIKING sentence occurs in one of Mrs. Isabella Bishop's tributes to missionary work. The great traveller says: "My journeys in Asia have given me some knowledge of the unchristianized Asiatic world. In those years I have become a convert to the necessities of missions, not by seeing the success of missions, but by seeing the misery of the unchristianized world. From the seaboard of Japan to those shady streams by which the Jewish exiles wept when they remembered Zion, and from the icy plateaus of northern Asia down to the equator, I have seen nothing but sorrow, sin, and shame, of which we have not the remotest conception."

TALKING with a lady of the progress that in the last hundred years had changed the number of missionary societies from seven to five hundred, altered the ratio of those who had the Bible in a language in which they could read it from one-fifth to nine-tenths of the world, changed the income of this work from \$15,000 to \$15,000,000, changed the foreign members of Protestant churches from 15,000 to 3,500,000, the answer that came back at once was, "And all this has been done without any help of mine." But this progress is only like the dawn before the full day. It is only a tithe of what will be in the years to come. Surely in the great religious organizations every member ought to know enough of this work and to help enough in it that she need not say, on hearing of the triumphs of the years to come, "And all this has been done without any help of mine."—*Silcer Cross*.