

What constitutes a fair standard of success with the District work? This is a fair question. We think the following is reasonable and simple analysis in the case.

(1) A well-organized District and (2) a well-worked organization.

The first count calls for an Epworth League where possible, and a second for every existing League to be made as efficient as possible. It is therefore the business of the District League to do what may well be termed home missionary work in seeing that there is no place on the District without a League unless there be abundant reason for its non-existence. And the only sufficient reason for the absence of a League in any community is that there are not enough young people there who call themselves Methodists to form one.

One of the main aims of business, therefore, for every District League, to perform is local organization of Leagues in the various congregations. This item is not attended to as it should be on many Districts. Indeed, it is quite too common for reports of Leagues becoming extinct to be sent at Annual Conventions, and no effort to follow for their revival or re-establishment. In this way more than one District League has itself ceased to exist. Other results could not be looked for, and the District President who is content to permit the individual units that compose his League to drop out one by one without making strict investigation into the circumstances and a strong attempt to restore health and vigor, will soon find himself the nominal head of an uninflated and effete concern. If this appeal for more thoroughgoing business methods in organization is heeded, we may expect to prevent the sad record of local League demise that too often has taken place because the poor patient never received the attention and help that the District League is in duty bound to render. The fact that no District Executive can, without both blame and loss, neglect to examine carefully into the state of every circuit within its bounds in order to secure the formation of a society wherever young Methodists congregate. Is your District officially blameless in this particular? If so, you are to be both commended and congratulated.

Having a District organization effected as thoroughly as possible, it becomes the business of the Executive thereof to put forth every reasonable effort to develop efficiency in every existing League. This has been done in various ways on different Districts. Conditions may make it difficult to give personal attention to every League, and yet it is not impossible in the majority of cases for the Executive to arrange somewhat for a representative to visit the different societies in person throughout the year. If this really cannot be done, certainly the mails go everywhere, and no League is without the facilities of correspondence in this way.

Every Vice-President of the District League should feel some measure of personal responsibility for the development of the local society in all matters that are connected with that Department of work. Yet more than once we have known District Officers who actually did not know that they were in any official position. The Annual Convention had been held, the routine business had been put through, the Convention had closed, and with its closing the whole matter had dropped until the time drew near for another annual gathering. How can we look for progress under such conditions? You cannot violate every law of healthy life and long continue in health. And this is as true of an Epworth League as of an individual Leaver.

Perhaps we have suggested the chief

difficulty. Too few of our District officers take their appointments seriously enough to do serious work in them. An officer that looks upon his position as only honorary is of little practical use and the sooner he changes his mind or his relation the better for all concerned. And too many District Executives count their work done when they have held the Convention. Really every such annual gathering should be for both reviewing the work done and reviewing the field to find out the work still to be done. If provision is lacking there will be no adequate provision for extending and perfecting the work ahead.

All we ask for is that the District Executives will make an honest effort to bring their territory up to that point of excellence that will merit a hearty "Well done" from the General Board and give good ground for the General Secretary being glorified with the progress made. Is not that reasonable and right?

A standard of excellence is necessarily ideal, and you may say it cannot be realized. Even so, we are all the better for aiming to excel, and no more warlike spirit of ambition could be cherished by any District officer or combination of officers than to make the territory for whose cultivation they are responsible as fruitful in individual goodness and collective service as it has capacity and power to become. Let every District Executive do this and we shall see a year of unprecedented prosperity in our young people's work and a corresponding growth in numbers and influence throughout the whole connexion. Will you do your part? Then begin to-day.

Notes

Our congratulations are tendered Rev. Dr. Crichton, for the most excellent service rendered the Church in the publication of the daily "Christian Guardian," through the sessions of the recent Ecumenical Council. Thousands of files of this series should be preserved in Methodist homes. The contents of the papers will provide the very highest class of reading for our official members, young and old, and certainly no more profitable investment of a dollar could be made than in the purchase of this splendid issue.

Many District Conventions are being held during the current month. Detailed reports of these are quite impossible in our pages; but we should be thankful to receive from all District Secretaries brief statements of any outstanding features of these important assemblies. What new plans are projected, what successful work has been accomplished, what special enterprise for District improvement have you in hand? Tell us of these things to stimulate and encourage others.

The Epworth League Rally, held in the Metropolitan Church on Friday evening, October 12th, set a mark that will stand for a long while as a standard of attainment. The spacious church was altogether too small for the gigantic crowd. Every inch of available space was occupied. The Lecture room was also crowded. Two simultaneous meetings were held. While Sir George Smith was speaking in the church, Bishop Quale addressed the meeting in the hall. While the Bishop was speaking in the church, Rev. W. B. FitzGerald addressed the overflow gathering in the 3500 Epworth Leaguers were present. They came from their home churches in special cars as well as by the ordinary methods. Never before has so large a local meeting been held in Toronto under any denominational auspices. The meeting was in every way a success

and demonstrated beyond question the vitality of young Toronto Methodism. Our congratulations to the Toronto Epworth League Union are most heartily tendered.

It is a pleasure to present to our readers the photograph which appears on our front cover page this month. It was the Editor's good fortune to meet the two gentlemen portrayed, at the entrance of the Metropolitan Church recently, and the picture is one of his results. Prof. Jackson is well known. His book, "First things first," from which the three excerpts given have been taken, should be read by all young Christians. Principal Smythe is a new figure in Canadian Methodism, having been recently chosen as the Head of our Theological College, in Montreal. He will receive a hearty welcome on the part of the Church generally, and the young people will doubtless profit by his more intimate acquaintance.

In Bishop Quale's address given on succeeding pages of this number, a reference is made by him with may need some explanation. It relates to young people going home after the League meeting instead of remaining to Church service. No such complaint as he refers to could be made in Canada, where with few exceptions, the League meetings are held on a week night. In the United States, it is almost universally the custom to hold the League meeting immediately preceding the Sunday evening preaching service, and it appears to be the practice in some places for the young people to rest content with their League service and abscond themselves from the public worship following.

In June last, it was my privilege to attend a bright and profitable League meeting in a San Francisco Methodist Episcopal Church. Before the gathering dispersed, the President strongly advised the young people to remain to Church service in the Church and I was so surprised at his counsel and admonition on the matter that I asked the Pastor of the church afterwards, if it was customary for the Leaguers to retire from the building altogether at the close of their own service. I need not report the conversation, but the good Pastor congratulated me on the more satisfactory condition of affairs prevailing in Canada. He told of a visit to Toronto, and expressed himself much pleased at the large numbers of young people he had seen in the Sunday evening congregations.

Whether or not the Canadian Epworth Leaguers are better church-goers than their fellow Methodists across the line, I do not care to say, but I rather think that there is a danger of providing a too heavy Sunday bill of fare for the youth. However, if we need it in Canada, we find that the problem of the young people between Sundays is being helped by the Epworth League just as that of the same young people on Sundays is being helped by the Sunday School. We have no advice to give our friends across the border; but the experience of the Canadian Epworth League is that there is sufficiently big programme provided for them on Sunday by the Church preaching services and the Sunday School teaching service, and that through the week the League gives abundant scope for meetings in which provision is made to meet the varied needs of the youth and opportunity given for them to work out what they know. We have no idea that anything like a general change from our present course in favor of Sunday evening League meetings would meet with approval among our young people in Canadian Methodism.