

## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE AS A TRAINING SCHOOL.

BY MISS BESSIE HARRYETT.

**T**HE Junior League offers a better training school for the children than any other department of the work of the Church.

Properly conducted, the Junior League goes further than Sunday-school or the Catechumen Class. It seeks the conversion of the children, their instruction in the Scriptures and in the doctrines and

ceed in getting thirty or forty children fully awake and interested in missions and missionaries, what shall the end be? From the boys and girls of our Church are to come the future volunteers for the mission fields at home and abroad. The training cannot be begun too early.

Some senior societies have their special mission work. They may be supporting their own missionary or teacher in the foreign field or educating one or more youths in a distant land. Why not give the Juniors an interest in the work? Let them pay a proportion of the cost

this character tends to develop in the boys and girls that loving sympathy which only comes from active effort in behalf of others.

We have been looking at the Junior League as a training school in a general sense. Specifically it ought to be, and is, a preparatory school for the Senior League and a door into the Church.

Junior members should be promoted into the senior society when they reach the age of fifteen or sixteen. Their training in the Junior League will make them more intelligent members of the senior.



A JUNIOR LEAGUE IN MEXICO.

history of the Church; and in addition to this it calls forth all the activity of the children, makes them workers—trained workers, as neither the Sunday-school nor the Catechumen class can do. It appeals to every part of child nature. There is work in it for heart and head, also for the hands and feet. In fact the more work you give a Junior to do the more he is both willing and able to do. Let us glance at some of the departments.

The Christian Endeavor, as in the Senior Society, is essentially the department of the "Heart." By taking part in the meetings of this department the little ones are taught to pray aloud. They are trained to think and to express their thoughts. By being allowed to conduct their own meetings they feel more responsibility, and greater interest is taken in the society. It is their own. The meeting should be in the hands of the Juniors, even when the Superintendent and assistants are on hand prepared to assist, direct, and in every way possible make bright and helpful. At every meeting the superintendent or assistant may give a short, instructive talk, or follow up some special line of study. This can be done without taking the chair or assuming actual leadership of the meeting.

The Missionary Department can be used to enkindle a missionary enthusiasm which will never abate. When you suc-

ceed in getting thirty or forty children into their hearts. Whatever finds a lodgment in a child's heart soon finds expression upon his lips; so the knowledge of missions gained in the League, and the interest taken in their *own* missionary has the effect of training the child and also awakening and sustaining interest among the older members of the family and circle of friends.

The visiting committee offers a wide field for training the boys and girls in active work. The work of this committee is "to visit the sick, try to render relief to the needy, distribute flowers and perform such other deeds of mercy as they can."

In cities and towns where such institutions exist, the society might hold an occasional choral or flower service in the Orphan Asylums, Homes for the Aged and Prisons. They can make up scrapbooks to be sent to sick children, collect back numbers of magazines and send them to lumber camps, to the jails, etc. They could carry on the circulation of missionary booklets. The boys might be formed into committees to undertake to cut wood for some old lady, or shovel paths for such an one after the winter storms.

In some societies at Thanksgiving and Christmas times contributions of food, clothing and used toys are solicited and distributed by the Juniors. Work of

One who has served in office in the former will have a clearer conception of the duties of a senior officer, and will be more fitted to perform those duties than one to whom the work is entirely new. Very often we hear new officers say after election: "What have I to do? I don't know anything about the work." Of course he begins to enquire into his duties, and makes himself master of his department. But given the preparatory training afforded by the Junior League, he might have entered intelligently upon his work at once.

If early impressions are lasting, and we believe they are, the Epworth League of the future, and the membership of the Church will be better fitted to carry on the work of the Lord as a result of the training now being given the children in the Junior League.

Ottawa, Ont.

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**H**ERE is a group of bright and happy faces in Aztec land, with their superintendent, Senorita Ernestina Sanchez, and their pastor, Senor Jose Rumbia, and family. They are a happy little band, fifty strong, and make regular reports to the quarterly conference, of which the following is a sample, after it