

necessary to remember that these things are only means to an end, not the end itself. At every meeting, there should be not only something said or done; but that something should be prominent, and should be said or done as well as possible; 1. to teach the audience the truths about the effects of alcohol, and the necessity of abstinence; 2. to answer popular objections; 3. to encourage the members to be faithful; and 4. (most of all) to bring the Christian sanctions, motives and affections to bear on the Christian work. There is nothing incompatible in the mind of a child, and there need not be in ours, between a hearty laugh and afterwards a solemn prayer.

The music should be selected, not to shew off a favourite child's proficiency or the elegance of her dress; but to inculcate temperance truth and any other good things to which sweet melody and harmony can add their attractiveness and impressiveness on the memory. The shew-off songs should always be held subordinate to those in which all can use their voice, and especially to spirited temperance choruses. The patriot who said that others might write the books and make the speeches, if he might write the songs, knew well the power of music in fixing truth and in kindling the pure emotions.

One objection frequently outweighs all other considerations in this age of steam and electrical life:—"Granting all that can be said in favour of this work, I have not time to do it myself, and I do not know who can." In answer we would urge that a clergyman who has not time to work a Temperance Society, can preach a temperance sermon at least once among the hundred that he preaches in the year; and can enforce temperance arguments and motives, and take temperance illustrations, in many another sermon. And so with the Sunday School Teacher. Even in those schools where every lesson for each Sunday is exactly defined, it will be found that at least one of the lessons opens a door for temperance truth; and there are always intervals, or periods before school, in which he can speak of whatever occupies his mind. And as to the difficulty of finding workers to carry on a Band of Hope; if the work be of God, the worker will appear if he be properly searched out, and prayer be rightly offered. It will often be found that young persons are fitted for this work, whose sympathies cannot be enlisted in other more serious occupations. But it is necessary that careful oversight be kept up, lest a holy and useful Christian work degenerate into merely worldly concerns. The heart of all Temperance work must always be in the love of God, and the desire to do good to men. If the branch be severed from the vine, it must needs wither.

Among the indirect advantages arising from the general establishment in schools of Bands of Hope, may be mentioned the share they have in preventing the exclusive, sectarian feeling which too often separates Christians from each other, and (so far) from the Lord. It is natural that there should be an interchange of reciters, speakers, or singers at the different meetings, just as of ministers in the pulpits. Occasional general meetings will unite all together in a common cause. And the young can easily be taught that in a free country, where the law allows a majority of votes in each locality to make the sale of drink illegal, they may have the high honor when arrived at manhood, by the strength of union, of shutting up those open mouths of hell which at present disfigure our fair land.

The following suggestions are offered simply as the result of tolerably long and varied experience.

1. Adults who cannot enlist the sympathies of children by cheerful activity and self sacrificing love, are out of place in working a Band of Hope. Those should (if possible) lead, whose very look and manner makes them general favourites.

2. The older members (called in the North of England "big lads") should by no means engross the operations of the Society; but a due proportion should be allowed to each sex and to the varied ages, so that all should feel themselves represented.