

that while he had no difficulty whatever in getting his whole school to rise in apparent intelligent decision to follow Christ, it was absolutely impossible to persuade more than a few of them to join the church. This he candidly attributed to the wrong idea that seemed to pervade the minds of the scholars as to both Sunday School and Church. They apparently considered the School an end in itself and the Church as something wholly different and apart. He frankly and, in my judgment, correctly, condemned any teaching that makes the School a substitute for the Church. Yet in actual practice the idea seems to be spreading that if the children attend the School they need not go to Church, and if they rise on Decision Day or sign the cards then distributed, they need not therefore become Church members. Such thoughts must not be encouraged. The Sunday School is not nor can it ever be a substitute for the Church. It is the necessary part of the necessary Church organization for the realization of the highest well-being of its members. Failing to bring the scholars into vital Church relationship and to personally unite them with the Church in actual membership, it will miss its highest privilege and fall short of accomplishing its most imperative duty. Much of the weakness of Decision Day and the cause of its being severely criticized in many quarters arises from the failure of the responsible leaders to follow it up with wise and timely counsel through the medium of the Catechumen Class or Junior League, and there intelligently educating the young disciples in the privilege of a place in the Sunday School and League. Decision working forces of the Church. Decision for Christ without such subsequent training and enlistment is a questionable good.

The Use of the Lantern

I have been frequently asked of late if I think the use of the optical lantern for the projection of illustrative pictures on the screen is practicable in the average Sunday School and League. Most decidedly I answer, Yes. The value of lantern illustrations has not been questioned. Of this there seems to be but one opinion. But the initial cost and the expense of upkeep have been matters of doubt. In answer to many questioners I would say: The relative values of artificial illuminants are as follows—(1) electric light, (2) lime light, (3) acetylene gas, (4) spirit vapor lamp, (5) coal oil. The first is practicable only where there is electric light installed as the lighting system, and is of course available only when the power is on. The second is made by a union of two gases, hydrogen and oxygen, the flame impinging on a cylinder of lime and thus made incandescent. It is bulky and containing the costly, as the cylinders containing the compressed gases are not locally available outside of the large cities. The third is, all considered, the best form of illuminant for the average size building. With the electric or lime light a picture of practically unlimited size may be made. The acetylene light will give a satisfactory seven-foot picture, and by using slides that are of only medium density and a good objective lens, clear definition can be obtained on the screen. The fourth and fifth named above are not much used, the simplicity of the acetylene and its inexpensiveness giving it right of way among the lesser lights available for projection purposes. We are not advertising lantern outfits, but will best cheerfully give our opinion in the best procurable by personal letter if desired. As to the place of purchase and the price, we must leave these matters to the intending purchasers. Suitable slides are obtainable from many makers. I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. John Stokes, 128 Annette St., Toronto, as a thoroughly competent maker. He has

made many excellent slides for me from my own negatives, and his prices are reasonable. I shall be glad to answer any personal enquiries by letter.

The Brussels Juniors

It was my privilege to spend April 21 and 22 with our friends in Brussels, Ont., and great was my satisfaction to mark particularly the practical interest manifested in the church relationships of the boys and girls by the leaders there. Pastor, Sunday School superintendent and Epworth League officers are all alert and active to retain and train the young for Christ and Christian service. The Junior League furnished the singing at the morning service, and both by their presence and song these bright young people did much to make the service enjoyable. The Sunday School session was attractive and inspiring. Apparently both school and leagues are working in splendid accord in the interests of the young people of the congregation. On Monday afternoon a couple of hours were spent in profitable and practical conference with the friends of Brussels and of several adjacent appointments. A number from outside points gathered, and matters of mutual concern were studied as well as time and circumstance permitted. Another meeting with the Juniors followed. The accompanying group photograph was taken, and the Juniors, with their capable corps of efficient adult leaders and instructors, present, as you can see, a very fine appearance. A goodly number were out again in the evening to see my views and hear the "travel talk" on some phases of our work in British Columbia. Altogether my visit to Brussels was most pleasant, and the one brightest of all features that helped to make it enjoyable was the marked care and attention that the pastor is paying to his boys and girls. Dr. Oaten and his devoted band of Junior workers, with Mrs. McCauly as superintendent, are to be commended for their sagacity and practical wisdom in this particular, and

League is not doing anything. Our minister does not seem to take any interest in it, and I have not been able to attend but very little, as I have had great trouble this winter. . . . There can be no doubt regarding this case, and the tone of regret that pervades the communication of the President is evidently sincere. For years it has been a solid conviction in my mind that League success is very largely proportionate to the personal interest and leadership of the minister, and while perhaps the majority of our ministers are in practical sympathy with their young people and their work, it is a matter of utmost concern and fraught with grave danger that there are as many as there are who are like the brother referred to in the above extract. And the pity of it is that he himself is but a young man, with his future before him. Surely the minister who ignores or neglects his young people is hardly a true pastor. Our younger ministers should make their work tell in the development of others still younger than themselves, that these may in turn become leaders in their various spheres of influence. A wise and alert pastor-leader will ensure a following of young people whose supreme desire will be to serve their generation for God. An apathetic Circuit Superintendent will mean a careless and indifferent lot of young people. "Like priest, like people," applies at least in this regard.

Have You Told Anybody?

The article from the pen of Dr. Randall, on the next page, deals with what in my judgment is the most important of all phases of Epworth League education—the practical training of young Methodists in personal evangelism. It is not enough that our young people shall receive personal good from their weekly assembly together. They must be seized with the missionary spirit that goes out after others by personal intercourse, not merely through the medium of a proxy. Every League should contribute money for the support of missionaries who labor



REPRESENTING THE JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE OF BRUSSELS, ONT.

I cannot but express the hope that the time is not far distant when such careful attention to the conservation of our children to the church as I saw in Brussels will be the rule, and not the exception, throughout the whole of our church. Our priceless treasure, our greatest asset, is our children. We must value them supremely or become impoverished.

By Way of Contrast

It seemed peculiar to me that the very next duty that fell to my lot after writing the above paragraph appreciative of Brussels should be to read a note that was just come to hand, through the mail, from a League President in Quebec, and which read: "I am sorry to say our

far away; but it should also train its own members to do missionary work near at hand. In every neighborhood there are persons who are as indifferent to the Gospel as heathens in far-off lands. They should not be allowed to rest in any such careless state of mind. While it is not within any one's power to change another's mind against his will, it is our these unconverted souls as shall at least remind them of two things; first, they are in danger of absolute loss without Christ; and second, that such danger gives deep concern to us who have ourselves been delivered from it by the grace of God. Do you really care whether or not your young friends become Christians? You say you do. Then why not tell them so?