

ago, a decrease of 2,078. There is this to be said of our League membership. I believe it to be more correctly kept than any other part of our church. The League rolls more nearly report the exact and true membership, I think than any other membership rolls in the church, being more thoroughly revised year by year than even the Sunday School rolls are. I think we actually have over 50,000 Leaguers. For this we are thankful, but there are approximately 50,000 more that we ought to have. I find that where Conference and District League organization are active there is growth. In other places stagnation breeds disease and decay. The Sunday School is not to any great extent supplanting the League. At present, in my judgment, it cannot effectively do so. Our need is more effective League leadership, and failing that we cannot expect to retain our young people among us for service.

Young Men's Clubs now number 122, a small increase of 12 for the year. Present membership, 4,985, an increase of 342.

I find a decrease of 27 minor Leagues. There are reported only 400 Junior Societies, which number is far too little in such a Church as ours. There are 18,398 Juniors enrolled, a decrease of 652 for the year.

Taken all in all, there are 1,967 Young People's Societies reported, a decrease of 49. The total membership is 50,240, a decrease of 1,558. It will be seen, therefore, that need exists for more strenuous efforts on behalf of our organized young people's work.

The finances show about the usual amount raised for local purposes, an increase in the General Missionary Fund and a decrease in the livings to the Forward Movement. Only the treasurers' reports of moneys actually received, however, are dependable on these Connexional Funds, and as far as I can learn the Leagues are about normal in the matters of finance.

FIELD WORK.

Last winter I conducted quite an extended correspondence, seeking to find out from each District League officer what was being actually done. I regret to say that my investigation showed conclusively that many of our District Leagues are altogether too inactive, that most of them seem quite content with holding the Annual District Convention, and that often of a joint character with the Sunday School, and frequently simply as an adjunct to the Financial District Meeting. On but few districts is anything like a systematic yearly investigation of the work on the various circuits carried on by the District Executive, or any kind of campaign conducted for the extension of the work. I am glad to say that in many places the promise of greater activity is being made. In my judgment, as our work is now organized, the District Executive is the most important factor and should be the most influential in the extension of the work, and unless it can be made operative and aggressive we can not look for growth.

I have found it a handicap in superintending the work that we have no system of reports from the district officers to the Central Office. I would advise that this Board direct the preparation of some form of Report Blank to be personally filled half-yearly by every district officer and forwarded to the General Secretary, in order that we may know specifically what is being done or neglected in the prosecution of the work.

I advise also that we counsel our District Leagues to hold their Annual Conventions wholly separate from all other interests. The combination of Sunday School and Epworth League concerns

within the usual compass of two short sessions invariably means a most superficial study of each and little if any gain to either. Both of these great interests are worthy of serious consideration, separate and alone.

I think, too, that we should hold the Conference League Executive responsible for the more thorough and systematic oversight of the districts within their bounds, and that the Annual Conference Epworth League Committee be exhorted to pay more careful attention to the state of the young people's work within the bounds of the Conference from year to year. At present there seems to be such a division of responsibility that the interest suffers rather than increases. It has so occurred to me frequently.

In my judgment, it would be wise to seek through the Conference and District Executives to secure something approximating a systematic campaign for the increase of our League membership, and where no such Executives exist to make such other arrangements through the Annual Conference Epworth League Committees as will ensure a more attentive oversight of the interests of our young people do not mean that we are in our field work paying too much attention to Sunday School interests, but I fear that in the greater popularity of Sunday School concerns, we may neglect the vital well-being of the Epworth Leagues.

As far as I can learn, the general life of the Leagues is wholesome. The various departments seem to be well sustained and the interest in the average League meeting up to the average of past years. The Topic studies are followed about as generally as usual, and the young people as a whole are active in Church work.

THE EPWORTH ERA.

I have given as much time as possible to the editing of this important paper. In the judgment of the Book Committee it has a place that no other existing church paper can well fill, and I have endeavored to make its ministry as effective as possible. I have been somewhat disappointed that the circulation has not materially increased, and if you can suggest any ways and means whereby the popularity and usefulness of the paper may be increased I shall be very glad. The paper has never been self-sustaining, and it seems doubtful if it ever will be. Still it is indispensable for the work.

INTERNATIONAL EPWORTH LEAGUE CONVENTION.

A Committee of Secretaries has already met in Chicago to commence arrangements for this important gathering. It will be held at Lake Junaluska, N.C., from July 2nd to 6th, 1913. Unless otherwise decided by you, I shall continue to represent our section of the Church on the committees yet to be held, and if you prefer to appoint a committee to arrange speakers, etc., I shall not object. Otherwise I shall do my best to secure a good representation of our workers on the programme and as large an attendance of delegates as possible at the Convention.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the fidelity of our Field Secretaries to their arduous work and to attribute the larger part of whatever success the year's objects have been to their hearty co-operation in prosecuting the general policy of the Board.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. T. BARTLETT,
General Secretary.

The Field Secretaries read their reports for the year. Several recommendations were made in them and were later dealt with by the Board, as will be evident from the resolutions passed, and which are reported further on in this article. Only lack of space prevents us from printing the Field Secretaries' reports in full.

A deputation from the Presbyterian S. S. S. Assembly Conference met in session at the time, was received. After the members had spoken, the following resolution was heartily passed:

"That we have received with cordial satisfaction the visit of Revs. Dr. McGillivray, McIntosh and Guy, representing the S. S. and Y. P. interests of the Presbyterian Church, emphasizing as they have done the identity of this great work as it is now undertaken by their Church and ours, and we desire to assure our brethren that their wish for more complete recognition of this unity and identity coincides with ours.

"We stand as a Board without boasting of and without apology for the attitude of our Church on the question of Union, as set forth in the several decisions recorded by our Conferences and our membership, and when the time comes for fuller definition of the policy of co-operation as proposed now, we are sure that our Executive Committee will be found ready to enter fully into the larger opportunity which may thus be afforded for the complete development of our Sunday School and Young People's Societies' forces."

The report of the Treasurer, Dr. W. E. Willmott, was read and adopted. The thanks of the Board were tendered the Treasurer for his painstaking work. As this report will be of general interest, it is given in full. Should there be any part or parts of it that are not fully intelligible to any of our readers, the Editor will be glad to answer any questions to the best of his ability.

(See Financial Statement on pages 234 and 235.)

THE MATTER OF FIELD SECRETARIES.

The resignation of Rev. J. A. Doyle as Field Secretary was presented. On motion, and with expressed regret, this resignation, which had already been presented to the Executive, was accepted, many of the members expressing their sorrow that Mr. Doyle had felt it necessary to withdraw from the work. A hearty vote of appreciation, as has already been printed in our paper, was unanimously passed, and the hope expressed that Mr. Doyle may be long spared for useful service in the pastorate. A long discussion followed as to the advisability of appointing additional Field Secretaries for the Western Conferences. The resolutions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta Conferences, each asking for a Field Secretary for its own territory exclusively, were read. It was deemed inexpedient to appoint at the officers' request, and after extended study and consideration of the needs of the whole work, it was resolved to appoint a Field Secretary for Manitoba and Ontario, to reside in Winnipeg, and another for Saskatchewan, to reside in Regina. The Rev. Mansel Doyle, of Killarney, Man., was unanimously chosen for the former position, and the Rev. Frank Langford, Regina, for the latter. The solution of this most important matter occupied the time of the Board until midnight of Wednesday.

The following resolution in relation to the Alberta Conference request was passed: "This Board regrets that we are not in a financial position to appoint a Secretary for Alberta alone, but we hope that in the very near future our finances