

The Methodist Church

Its Constitution, Government and Institutions

By REV. S. J. ALLIN, PARKHILL, ONT.

HERE are nine things about the constitution, government and institutions of the Methodist Church that Junior Methodists ought to know:

1. THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.

The organization of the church begins with the individual member. Anyone may become a member who turns from all sin, confesses Christ and follows him.

2. THE CLASS.

The individual members constitute a class or classes. A class may be composed of any number. Our new Discipline says: "At least once a year all the young people who give evidence of true repentance and saving faith in Christ shall be received into the membership of the Church, furnished with rules and formed into classes." Each class has a leader, and, if necessary, an assistant leader.

3. THE SOCIETY OR CHURCH.

The members thus formed into classes constitute a society or church. Each church has its officers known as stewards, representatives, etc., who represent the members in the management of affairs. Each church, too, has a board of trustees, and a quarterly official board. Then there is the pastor or superintendent, who is the presiding officer.

4. THE CIRCUIT.

A number of churches within a short distance of each other form what is called a circuit, and may be under the care of one superintendent. If a circuit is too large for one minister, then an assistant is provided. The officers of the several churches forming the circuit constitute one quarterly board, with the superintendent of the circuit as presiding officer.

5. THE DISTRICT.

A group of circuits in one part of the country make up what is called a district. A district meeting, usually held twice a year, is composed of all the ministers within the bounds of the district, and a lay representative from each circuit. The presiding officer is known as the chairman of the district. There is also a financial secretary and a Sunday School secretary for each district.

6. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

A number of districts united form a Conference. There are now twelve annual Conferences in Canada, including one in Newfoundland. There is also now one in Japan. Each annual Conference is composed of an equal number of ministers and lay delegates. The lay delegates to the Conference are elected by the laymen present at the preceding district meeting. The chief officers of the annual Conference are a President and a Secretary, who are both elected yearly by a general vote of all the members present. All the

pastors of churches and superintendents of circuits receive their appointments from the annual Conference each year. The task of making those appointments to the several circuits is often a difficult one and is performed by what is termed the Stationing Committee, composed of the Chairman of each district and one other minister elected to the committee by each district meeting.

7. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The twelve annual Conferences all have representation in the General Conference. The General Conference meets once in four years. Delegates to this Conference are elected by the members of the annual Conferences in the ratio of one minister and one lay representative for every twelve members. Thus, the last General Conference held in September last in Montreal, was composed of 306 members, one-half being lay delegates. The one who presides over the General Conference is called the General Superintendent. The General Conference alone has power to make laws and regulations, and the legislation applies alike to all the conferences and all the churches. What is called the "Discipline"—a book containing more than 500 pages—contains all the rules and regulations that the General Conference authorizes, and by it all conferences and churches and meetings are directed in their deliberations.

8. CONNEXIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Missionary Societies; (b) Sunday Schools; (c) Epworth Leagues, including the Junior League; (d) Men's Leagues; (e) Temperance and Moral Reform; (f) Deaconess Society.

9. CONNEXIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria University, Toronto—Rev. Dr. Burwash, Chancellor; Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B.—Dr. Allison, Principal; Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal—Rev. Dr. Shaw, Principal; Wesleyan College, Stanstead—Rev. Dr. Flanders, Principal; Albert College, Belleville—Rev. Dr. Dyer, Principal; Alma College, St. Thomas—Rev. Dr. Warner, Principal; Wesley College, Winnipeg—Rev. Dr. Sparling, Principal; Alberta College, Edmonton—Rev. Dr. Riddell, Principal; Columbian College, New Westminster, B.C.—Rev. W. J. Sippell, B.D., Principal; Methodist College, St. Johns, Newfoundland—S. G. Herrington, B.A., Principal.

In addition to the above list of our Educational Institutions it may be of some interest to junior Methodists to know that we have some other institutions of an educational character under direction of the Missionary Society, such as—Anglo-Japanese College, Tokyo, Japan—Dr. A. C. Borden, Dean; Mount Elgin Institute, in Middlesex County, Ont.—Rev. T. T. George, Principal; French Institute, Montreal—Paul Villard, Principal, and Industrial Schools at Red Deer, Alta.; Chilliwack, B.C.; Port Simpson and Morley. Then the Woman's Missionary Society support homes and Schools at Tokyo, Japan; Crosby Home, Port Simpson; Chinese Rescue Home, Victoria, and three French schools in Quebec province.

Boys

By REV. W. McMULLEN, B.A.

BOYS are not little angels, but we like them better than if they were. They are not even little girls, and we would not wish them to be. They are simply boys. We have known a good many of these chaps, and we never knew one who had not a lot of good in him.

What are the things we like to find in boys? Well, we like to find a boy with lots of sugar in him. Boys should be like the sugar-maple, with sweetness always on tap. The boy should have sugar on his tongue, sugar on his hands, sugar in his eyes, but he should not be sugar-coated only. If he doesn't have the sugar all through him, he will be like some very nasty pills we have tasted, sweet till you get to the real article, and then too bitter to be pleasant. If a boy has the

sugar all through him he will be full of smiles and cheerful words, full of kindness day and night—kind at home, kind at school, kind at work and kind at play. Boys should be living human sugar bowls, passed around to help sweeten other lives, not just kept on the shelf or in the china cabinet to look at.

Some boys have vinegar instead of sugar. Their looks are sour, their words are sour, their deeds are sour, they are sour inside and out, and you can detect the vinegar a long way off. There are many people who like pickles; but we never knew one that cared very much for pickled boys.

Then, boys should have grit as well as sugar. There are some boys who are the best rain-makers you ever saw. If any little thing goes wrong, the rain begins to fall from their