

## Review of the Year

The week of March 29th is set apart for a review of the year's work done by the local Societies. The programme for this meeting cannot be detailed here, but only a few suggestions can be made that are applicable to all our Leagues. The itemized programme as it will be given in regular order locally, should be prepared by the president and pastor in conference.

Such a "stock-taking" annually, as this meeting implies, should be made by every Young People's Society, the aim being to ascertain if the work actually done during the year is: (1) Appropriate to the aims of the society; (2) Suitable for the needs of the community; (3) Sufficient to satisfy all intelligent and reasonable standards by which the League is to be judged.

Without a preliminary executive meeting at which reports are presented by all the officers and committee chairmen, no such examination can be made. It is good for the League to sit in judgment on itself, and to pass its work critically in review. Perhaps the best criterion is its own past record. It is not always wise to set one society up against another in comparison; but it is good to compare ourselves with our own record for past years.

"Have we done good work as to *quality*?" should be the first question. Not the number of meetings held so much as their kind or character determines their value. A good man is a man who is good and who shows his goodness by *doing* good. So a good meeting gives evidence and proof of itself by its permanent influence for good on the lives touched by it. In this sense, "are we doing good in the community?" is a

very important question into which to examine.

Review the departments in order, asking such questions as are pertinent to each in turn, e.g.: Have we kept the Pledge before the members, or have we allowed our ideals of character to be lowered or compromised? How many persons have been personally asked to take the Pledge during the year? Has the Look-out Committee kept the pastor informed as to the religious prospects, spiritual condition, or church relationships of the young people? How far and in what way has the League helped the Sunday School? What visitation has been made to the aged, sick and shut-ins of the congregation or neighborhood? Has every opportunity for temporal relief been taken advantage of among the poor? All such questions,—and these are but samples,—are quite in order in relation to the First Department and its work.

Enquire as to the Second Department if the Missionary Committee has held regular meetings, made systematic collection of moneys, corresponded with the missionary being supported, had a Study Class, and above all if it is cultivating the prayer habit among the members. The second vice-president should be something more and better than a finance agent for the Missionary Society. He should be a recruiting officer for the mission field. To ask if any of your members are thinking about their life's work as a minister, a deaconess, a teacher, a medical missionary, etc., that your League may have the great honor of sending out someone to represent you in public service for God and the Church. Enquire into the work of the Literary and Social Department. What system-

atic topic studies calculated to improve the appreciation of God's Word have been followed? What books have you encouraged? What "Social Evenings" have you held? Have these been for amusement or passing entertainment only? Can you make your League more and more a Christian Social Centre for your community? Ponder these questions and plan for the year ahead as well as review the year gone.

The Citizenship Department should be examined. Have you taken steps to know your own community? Have you projected yourself into the neighborhood as a body of united young Christians for the uplift of the whole? If not, why not? That is what the Fourth Department is for. Get the young men at work on a local survey—enquiring into everything that affects the life of the neighborhood, whether it be in its health, happiness, or material prosperity. Get a high standard for the place in which you live and seek to realize it in every possible way.

How about the children? No Junior League? Why? The Fifth Department is the "base of supplies," or if you prefer the figure, it is the "natural resources" of the League; yes, of the Church itself. How can your Society be maintained as a young people's society without the boys and girls? See that a Junior League is indispensable. Have one.

By thorough self-examination, honest comparison with your past record, earnest purpose to excel, make your Review of the year a Pre-view of still greater deeds to be accomplished for the Kingdom.

Unless the will backs up our good impulses they will fall fruitless to the ground.



AFTER THE STORM

**T**HIS is an enlargement from a small film negative made by the Editor at Warwick, Ont., on Nov. 10th last, after the awful storm in which so many lives were lost on Lake Huron. Thousands of telegraph poles were blown down. The weight of snow on the wires was almost beyond belief, many of them hanging like cables under the tremendous strain. The team in the picture was the first on the road after the storm, and had a hard task opening it up for traffic.