

Suggested Methods

Book Circles.

THE following suggestion comes from one of our bright comrades laboring under the Southern Cross. Se formed a book circle with forty-eight members. This number was divided into four groups; at the beginning of the twelve months all members purchase one book each, taken from an approved list. This book passed from hand to hand each month, so that at the end of the year all got their own books again, and had had a chance of reading eleven other books also. A great many who were not Christians had joined the circle, and it is hoped that they will be influenced by the reading.

A Society Prayer Book.

Another suggestion emanating from Australia, and gleaned from a recent number of *The Golden Link*, is thus put in the words of its author, the Rev. W. J. Eddy:—"I would emphasise the keeping of a prayer book for each society. Ask for requests for prayer. Written requests should be handed in and laid before the Lord, then entered in this book by the person who has charge of it, the date of the request for prayer, and on the other side the date when the answer is sent. Open this prayerbook at meetings, and go through these requests. You will always have something definite to lay before the Lord."

A Novel Method of Choosing Leaders.

A novel way of selecting leaders is in use in the society in Add-Ran Christian University, Waco, Tex. Four or five members are appointed to lead the prayer meetings for the month. No one knows which of these will be required to lead until he reaches the chapel. As all are prepared, each can better contribute to the meeting.

A Klondike Social.

A Klondike social! Yes, and a good warm time, notwithstanding the name. Have your room appropriately decorated. Get some one to talk for a few minutes in a bright, suggestive way on "The Bible as a Gold Mine, and How to Get at its Wealth." Have a large number of Scripture nuggets written out on cards and distributed about the room. Omit where they are to be found in the Bible; but number them, and keep a separate numbered list with the chapter and verse of each recorded. Set your Endeavorers to work with Bibles, paper, and pencils, hunting for gold nuggets. No concordances or indexes allowed, and the one locating correctly the largest number to be awarded a prize. Close with appropriate refreshments,

One Way to Help.

Connected with every congregation are many who are not able to be present at all the church services. Sickness, old age, caring for the young, and other causes keep a considerable percentage of the congregation at

home. Christian Endeavorers could do something to carry to such the helpfulness of the Sabbath services. In many societies there are those acquainted with shorthand who would be willing to "take" the pastor's sermon. From this, ten or a dozen copies could be written at once upon the typewriter. If these were neatly bound and given to the Good Literature Committee for distribution, they could be circulated throughout the congregation, wherever, indeed, they would be likely to do good. This is a service that would be appreciated, and could not but be productive of the best results. A list of hymns, songs, and the portions of Scripture read could also be written in. This is an idea worth working.

An Interesting Meeting.

Do not allow the prayer-meeting to become stereotyped in form. The principle of variety may be worked to excess, but the danger with most societies lies in the opposite direction. A very bright and helpful meeting may be secured by having an evening with hymns and hymn writers. The following account of such a meeting will show how one society did it, and how it worked: One Sunday evening we met with Gospel Hymns 1-6 as our text-book. Sandwiched between the songs, "Pull for the Shore," and "He Knows," came the thrilling story of the life, work, and death of P. P. Bliss in a paper presented by Carrie Offstruhel. Dean then told of Ira Sankey's start in Gospel-singing, his world-wide travels and soul-melting success; and Kathryn, our popular soprano, with all her heart sang, "There were ninety-and-nine that safely lay." "That broke me all up," said Sam, who was a little wild and had been drinking hard lately. However, he can sing the last verse as loud as any now, thank God! For the first time many learned that Fanny Crosby was blind, that Frances R. Haver-gal was a cultured English lady of a highly musical family, and had written a shelf-full of books and songs for her King. Anew and aglow we sang—

"Take my voice and let me sing
Ever, only, for my King."

I was touched with Will's story of the "Bishop's Burden of Sacred Song," especially of the writing of "Greenland's Icy Mountains" and "Rock of Ages." I had a notion that our Methodist missionary secretary had composed one, and an old mediæval monk the other! Last of all, the minister spoke to us of John and Charles Wesley, and the many stories told concerning the origin of grandma's favorite, "Jesus, Lover." We stood to sing it and praise the Lord for a real good evening with sacred songsters.

☞

If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsellor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius.—Addison.