

Monthly Consecration Meeting not only looks back and gives God thanks for what He has done; but it looks ahead and anticipates what His child can do. The consecration resolve is the commitment of the child to the Father's will; it is the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign Command of the Divine Captain of our Salvation.

In the olden days of chivalry the youthful knight spent whole hours in the chapel watching his armor ere he entered into knightly service that was to bring him renown. It might not have been easy or pleasant to pass the night thus when companions elsewhere would give him hearty welcome to their joyous circle; but his solemn vigils bound him to his high enterprise, and though the ghostly sounds of the long weary hours of darkness had none of the enticing music of the revels, they were more wholesome for him, as he consecrated himself to the responsible duties of his knight-hood. He looks beyond to fields of mighty endeavor and commits himself to the only course that can bring either reward or renown.

So, our young Christians, enlisted in heroic enterprise for the King of kings must feel their hearts stirred with glowing enthusiasm as they renew their vows of allegiance, and in loyal devotion, go forth clothed in fitting armor for spiritual conquest in Christ's name. From the chapel of prayer into the broad light of a day of conflict that will end in the glory of conquest, we should go, to do the will of Him who has called us to be His valiant soldiers.

This is the true consecration principle and practice, and the one condition of present victory and future glory.

No monthly meeting where this is made prominent need be cold or formal; but should be bright and attractive, inspiring and helpful, to every sincere and loving heart.

### Keep Your League Young

We recently heard a young looking lady say of herself as one of an Epworth League gathering, "I really felt quite ancient. They have got so many girls and boys into the League, it made me feel quite old, and somewhat out of place."

On enquiry from another, we learned that this lady had been a Leaguer for at least a dozen years, and had grown into an age that suggested the "ancient" sensations to her when she got into the company of the younger set. Of course we all will get old in the passing of the years. That is unavoidable in the process of living. But none of us "ancients" should look with anything but hearty approbation on the introduction of recruits from the ranks of our Sunday School girls and boys. The League is as much for them now as it was for us ten or a dozen years ago. We were thankful for this lady's observation, not for her own sake of course, but for the welfare of the League of which she was speaking and which is evidently working along right lines.

The League that does not grow stronger numerically by the addition of the more youthful members, will surely grow weaker by the changes that necessarily come from the advancing years of those who have been young but now are old—or "old" at least as far as active League membership is to be counted.

Another lady said sometime since, "I don't like you." Now that made us feel badly for several reasons, and naturally enough we asked "Why?" "Because," she replied, "You said that there is no place in the League for old maids!" She was in error. There is a place in the Epworth League for all the "old maids" and "old bachelors" of the congregation. There is a place for the fathers and mothers, yes, and the grandparents too, but old people must not constitute the majority of the League's working force.

There is an Honorary Members' list on which should be enrolled most of those who are no longer on the sunny side of forty, and yet are in sympathy with the League's work.

These may have graduated from the League where they served their apprenticeship in Church work, and are now measurably proficient in the doing of it.

The actual work of the League must be done by the younger men and women if the League is to remain a Young People's Society.

Members who have occupied official positions off and on for a dozen or more years, should feel a joy in stepping out of the ranks of the officers in actual charge; and giving place to the younger members, be content to counsel and advise, to sympathise with and help, as occasion may arise and they may be asked. But when the average age of the League members runs above twenty-five years, there is danger ahead. In our judgment the age of the actual working members of the League should average about twenty-one years. This will allow many to remain in the Society's ranks as active workers who are some years older if care is shown in adding the young people from fifteen to twenty.

Some one may read this and feel aggrieved. But that is unreasonable. The League wants you whatever your age; but for its own preservation it needs a constant accession of "young blood," and if you have had your turn, give some other person, who is now where you were ten or a dozen years ago, an opportunity to carry on as you cannot now, with youthful ardor and abounding spirits, the work for which the League exists.

And as they do so, let the "ancient" ones form a solid background of earnest, prayerful, sympathisers, encouraging the young ones to do their best, applauding them when they do well, criticizing kindly when they might have done better, but making them feel "this is *your* Society, in which you are to learn how to do by doing, to become efficient in service by serving, and grow increasingly useful as the years go by."

Yes! keep your League young, by going after your growing girls and boys.

### Our Next Year's Topic Studies

We have given considerable time and thought to the preparation of the weekly topic list for 1910. Instead of adopting any course already provided by any other Society, we have arranged one that we believe will be very helpful to our young people generally.

The list includes the monthly missionary study, which this year is based on the new book, noticed in our last issue, by Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A., entitled "Our Share in China." It will be our aim to help our readers in the study of this book from month to month. The Monthly Consecration meeting is provided for by choice studies that should materially assist our Leaguers in the growth of spiritual life. Four Temperance and Good Citizenship topics are given, and the coming of age of the Epworth League is remembered.

The remaining studies, twenty-five in number, are devoted to an effort to ascertain what our Lord taught on the great essential truths of life and character, of service here and destiny beyond. They are not by any means exhaustive; but an examination of the list will show them measurably comprehensive and as complete as the number of weeks at our disposal permitted. If our young people will intelligently use their New Testaments throughout the series, we think they will find the teachings both enjoyable and profitable.

The Junior Topic list has also engaged our earnest attention and study. The main theme of the year's studies is the Companions and Friends of Jesus, and the story of our Lord's life may well be woven around this central subject from week to week. The missionary travels in many lands will continue from month to month. We have striven to so outline courses for both the older and younger Leaguers that they may regularly add something of permanent value to their store of Scripture knowledge, and at the end of the year realize that they have gained a better working acquaintance with the Gospels.

Both lists are on sale by the Book Room, and we recommend their general use by all our Young People's Societies, whatever their name may be.

The Epworth Era will contain in each issue the most suggestive treatment of these topics that the Editor can prepare or secure from others who in his judgment may be better qualified to make these topics luminous and fruitful.

Do not adopt any other list until you have examined our own. We think you will be convinced that it is a fitting one in each case and full of promise to any thoughtful and earnest student.