

monstrously perverted when they have been made to teach that in every case, whatever the natural disposition or early training, there must be a sudden, conscious, terrible wrench from old ways of living; for it shuts out all childish conversions, and makes a youth of sin indispensable to an old age of godliness. This explains many of the terrible revelations which praying parents have had concerning their sons and daughters. They have looked and longed and prayed for a sudden, thrilling conversion and experience for their children, rather than for a very early turning to God and growth in grace. This sudden, thrilling experience never came, but ruin and disgrace and heart-ache have come, because the parents have not practically believed in a religious childhood. We believe that the Bible teaches that it is not necessary for young, innocent children to agonize over their sins, and mourn and weep like gray-haired offenders, and then come out of a terrible darkness into a marvellous light. We need not look for any such experience. The dawn comes gradually, the lightning with a blinding flash; but the daylight is far more useful than the lightning's glare, and he is a foolish parent who says, "I will not believe that my child has any light until the electric flash strikes him blind with its dazzling rays." It depends very largely upon Christian parents whether the day-dawn from on high shall come into their children's lives while they are very young and illuminate all their eternity. Let us plan for this, pray for this, expect this, and to our children will belong the blessed experience of never knowing a time when they were not Christians.—*Selected from "Children and the Church."*

THE CHURCH AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE.

BY REV. T. ALBERT MOORE.

JOHAN WESLEY wisely said, "Unless we take care of the rising generation, the present revival of religion will last only the age of a man." Our discipline in Chapter III, section 2, speaking of the relation of baptized children to the Church thrusts upon all ministers a responsibility regarding the children of our people. With all our work and wisdom in the glorious revivals that have marked our history, we seem to have overlooked the training and caring for our own children and conservation of their life and service as members of the kingdom of Christ. As a result there has been a constant leakage from our forces, and much less intelligent work and worship among the children within the church than there should be. The Junior League aims to stop this leakage and to repair this damage. Article III of its constitution says, "The object of the Junior League shall be—to promote in its members an earnest and intelligent spiritual life, and train them in works of mercy and help."

No society in the Church ever had so clearly in view the training and service of all the children of the Church, so that they may fill their places as members with enthusiasm and force as has the

Junior League. Applied teaching and actual work holds and conserves more than any other method. In practical results there is no department which has yielded larger and more blessed results than the work in the Junior Leagues. It

many Juniors have easily distanced their seniors in the service of their Master. The Junior League is not creating little hypocrites. More faithful servants of Jesus Christ cannot be found anywhere than in our Junior meetings. Such



TABLEAU BY MISSION BAND WORKERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, SIMCOE.

is now about ten years since we began to organize the children into these societies, and there are in many churches splendid workers whose skill and proficiency were gained in their early youth in the Junior League Committee work. Parents have seen their children living better lives and making home more pleasant; Sunday-schools have been much benefited, and even some churches that had a "name to live" have experienced the truth of the old promise—"A little child shall lead them."

Self-propagation is an important thing in church development. It is surely the duty of the Church to care for the children. They shall soon assume all the obligations of the cause of Christ. Into their minds should be instilled a proper understanding of their duty to God and to their fellow-men. This is done, I hope, in the home, in the Sunday-school, and in the church service. But pre-eminently, I believe it is done in the Junior Society, where the children are brought in such practical ways of Bible teaching to all their Christian duties. In systematic Bible study; in earnest efforts to always display a Christian spirit, and in strenuous endeavors to win others to Christ,

straightforwardness in testimony and directness in prayer would wake up many a class and prayer-meeting.

Junior Leagues are among the most willing and energetic workers in the Church. Ten years of experience have proved them, and the Church must continue to realize blessing, and be helped forward by these youthful servants of Jesus. In home mission work, temperance work, distribution of good literature, bringing in the sunshine to sorrow-clouded homes, and many other ministries for God, by persevering cheerful and capable service they have enlisted the sympathy and given increased animation to the congregations where they have been organized.

Hamilton, Ont.

"THE Junior League opens up a field of labor of the greatest importance and full of the brightest promise. It is one of the best agencies ever put in operation for the enlisting and training of the young in the service of Christ and the Church. No Church, where at all practicable, can afford to be without a Junior Society."—*Rev. J. W. Churchill, Barrie.*