

"But you are such a busy person. How do you find time for preparation?"

"Oh! if I couldn't prepare the lesson while I do the routine work of the house, I'd never manage at all. The first time I can get to myself after the meeting is over I take the study book and any material I may have gathered together and make a general plan for next lesson. I put this away back in my brain to simmer, and it is amazing the ideas that bubble up as I wash the dishes and make the beds. I often find myself energetically holding forth to a phantom Mission Band when there is no one there to overhear, but I always find when I face my own Band that I have something ready for the children and I have not neglected the work of the house either."

A young woman, leader in C. G. I. T. groups, who was most enthusiastic and much beloved by her girls, showed a marked reluctance to link up with the work of the Missionary Society. She was delighted to help the girls with any practical missionary work, but when it came to having a missionary meeting once a month, her enthusiasm deserted her. In time we learned the reason. When she was a little girl she had always been sent to Mission Band and it had proved such a drab and uninteresting experience that she never wanted to link up again. Truly a serious indictment against the Mission Band, and although it was, I am sure, an isolated experience, it brings us face to face with the fact, that boys and girls receive their first contact with missions through the Band and we must see to it that their introduction to this great work is a happy one.

"Well," you say, "if I were to consent to take the leadership of a band, I might manage the study meetings, but what about those work meetings?"

Scrapbooks and quilts! You hold up your hands in horror. "Is there no new thing under the sun?" Well, it is true that there are not many things that little children can do well enough to be of real value, and the despised scrapbook is one of the exceptions. I think that it is we, the leaders, especially those of us who have been years in the work, who find the pasting and stitching so mon-

otonous and uninteresting. It may be the one hundredth scrapbook we have supervised, but it may be the very first that the eager little Mission Bander ever had a part in making! We have established a point of contact between the small worker and those for whom he is working, and forged a bond of sympathy invaluable for the days to come.

— One of the delights of working with children is their responsiveness; once they realize a need, they are eager to meet it. We tell them of the children in the school homes and hospitals or in centres remote from civilization, we talk to them of the boys and girls in far away lands, many of whom have so little to make their lives happy. We tell them that our missionaries are depending on **them** to provide the gifts that shall make a real Christmas for the little people. And if the appeal is convincing enough, they are filled with enthusiasm and put their whole souls into the work we plan for them to do.

There are many other activities for these work meetings which might well find a place in another article. In the meantime, get in touch with your Mission Band Secretary, who ought to be able to give you help and information.

There is another phase of Mission Band work that is always successful—the pageant and play. Children are born actors, and how they love to take part! Mission Band leaders are quick to see the educative value of the play, for the children cannot help imbibing an immense amount of information concerning the manners, customs and beliefs of the people they are trying to imitate. So let us not grudge the time and the work involved in the presentation of such. Plays are good too, because co-operation with the mothers is essential, thereby bringing them into touch with the work, and the presentation of them introduces the Band to the congregation.

Let us not miss the opportunity of having our Band take part in the larger missionary gatherings where possible. It is good for the boys and girls to realize that they are part of the great organization and that many other boys and girls are one with them in the work.