

Young People's Department.

A GIFT.

Lucy A. Bennett.

(Recitation by Young Band member.)

"Hark! the Christmas bells are ringing
Far away across the snow!
Are the herald angels singing
As they sang so long ago?
Will the shepherds be affrighted
As in those sweet days of old?
Will the wise men bring their treasures,
Myrrh, and frankincense, and gold?

"Can I find Him as they found Him
Lying there upon the hay,
With the swaddling clothes around Him?
Will a star point out the way?
If I seek the Saviour lowly
Shall I find the manger bare?
Do no angels pure and holy,
Linger singing in the air?
'Is there aught which I could take
Him?
Any spices rare and sweet?
Treading softly lest I wake Him,
May I worship at His feet?
If my money-box would please Him,
May I give it, and the key?
Oh, I want so much to thank Him
For His tender love to me!"

(Response by older member, or Band leader.)

"Listen, darling! Gentle Jesus
Is not now a Babe on earth,
But Christmas we remember
All about that wondrous birth.
If you seek Him, you will find Him,—
Not indeed amongst the hay,—
But He bendeth still to listen
To the very words we say.

"Though you cannot hear them singing
'Glory be to God on high!
Angels still their flight are winging
From His throne above the sky.
Though the manger now is empty,
Yet He lives for us above,
And His voice is just as tender
And His heart as full of love.

"Though we cannot bring the spices,
Neither myrrh nor incense sweet,
There are other sacrifices
We may lay before His feet.
Though the 'inn' no room afforded,

For the Saviour meek and mild,
He is pleased to make His dwelling
With the Christ-like little child.

"Though no glistening star befriend us,
Yet you need not miss the track;
Though no princely gifts attend us,
You an offering do not lack.
Listen to His voice of mercy,
Answer to His loving call;
Darling, give your heart to Jesus,
This will please Him best of all."

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR MISBANDS.

LESSON IX.

Suggestions—

Choose Christmas choruses.
Recite in concert Luke 2:8-14.

Have season of special prayer for a blessed Christmastide for all our missionaries at home and abroad.

The leader or pastor may give the Band a heart-to-heart talk on giving themselves to the Lord. God's plea is, "Son, daughter, give me thy heart." What better gift than this to Jesus at this time?

Make definite plans for the evening. A week beforehand, distribute wee envelopes on which are written the words, "Christmas gift to the Mission Band." These envelopes can be bought at a stationer's for about 10¢ per 100. Little collection baskets may be daintily trimmed with holly. Four boys appointed for collecting the gifts, come to the front. One tells in his own words the story of the visit of the wise men to Bethlehem. They then repeat together.

"Gladly now our gifts we bring
To our holy Saviour King;
Bless them, Lord, and let them be
Silent messengers for Thee."

The Band Secretary will send recitations to any who may request them. Excellent Christmas stories may be