

on the platform of that fine meeting-place for all the leaguers who were trying to warm up for the coming service, but there they were, dotted all over the spacious apartment, and practically spiritless and asleep. We plead for more attention to the service of song. We deplore the constant repetition of a few pieces that, however good they may be, have done exclusive service too long. Enlarge the number of your hymns, practise new pieces, put heart into your praise, use wisdom and discretion in your selections; but don't sing yourselves and others to sleep.

A Business Fit for Men

In many Sunday schools the most important work to be done is in holding the older intermediate boys. They are too young to unite with the organized Bible class, and they disdain being treated as "kids." Many of them, fourteen or fifteen years old, are held in the school with difficulty. Here is a sphere of influence for the organized adult men's class. Let the men make a specialty of the boys. Not patronizingly, not officiously, not professionally, but in the spirit of the big brother, the men may cultivate the growing boys and help to hold them. A boy, while he will resent what he deems anything like interference with his "ights," and will reject with scorn any manifest spirit of dictation, responds readily to any evidence of real and genuine comradeship. Men in the Sunday school may make the school stand for something big and worthy in the eyes of the boys, and draw them to it as well as keep them in it. If they are wide-awake and alert. To the younger men in the organized classes there is abundant opportunity here, and perhaps the benefits would be as great to the men as to the boys concerned. "We cannot allow the boys to grow indifferent to the school without earnest and prayerful effort to both interest and hold them, and remain guiltless before God. Women doubtless do exert a gracious and good influence over the boys of our intermediate grades, but young men of the right stamp can reach them between Sundays in a score of ways that a woman cannot use. Therefore, we plead for a spirit of big brotherly interest in the boys who, while not bad, are likely to "go to the bad" unless some strong, restraining personality reach and influence them, and the virile force of a manly Christian character guide them to their salvation. To the men we say: Study the boys, have faith in the boys, cultivate the boys, go after the boys, and make it your business to keep them within the fold of the school, that they may soon voluntarily join the flock that intelligently and lovingly follow the Good Shepherd. Yes, that is not too strong. We must make a *business* of it in our Saviour's name."

How About Our Boys?

Several suggestive articles on enlisting our boys are found in this number. We rejoice that much attention is being given to this subject. But addresses and sermons are not enough. We heartily endorse the ringing appeal of Mr. Robb when he says, "Now, Leaguers, wake up and do something to win the boys." The air is full of theories about boys, but boys, not theories, we want. The preachers must lead the way. We have been long convinced that our boys need more preacher and less preaching. A boy soon sizes up a minister who does not know him on the street or who never seeks to cultivate any personal acquaintance with him. The preacher's business is to know his boys and to let them know that he knows them, and is personally interested in their welfare. It is easier to preach about boys than to talk to a boy himself. But the latter counts most. And the leaguers must really "wake up" as Mr. Robb exhorts. What is there in an average League meeting to attract and hold growing lads and young men? What is your League really offering them? Droning singing, spiritless music, insipid prayers, pointless testimonials, dull programmes,—none of these things will draw or interest an ordinary youth. And we have too many of these elements and ingredients in the ordinary League meeting.

But there is no necessity for them, and we rejoice that not all Leagues suffer from them. With a wide-awake Exec-

utive, with alert, enterprising leaders, with well thought-out programmes, there is no such monotonous dullness.

But after all, what is your League doing about this ever-present boy problem? Not what you know about boys, not what you admit you ought to do; but what you are *doing*. Is supreme for good or ill. Neglect a boy and he will probably go to the devil, not because he belongs to the devil, for he does not, but simply because someone who should have sought and won him for Christ, his only rightful Owner and Lord, passed him by and perhaps Pharisaically said: "He's only a boy."

Hence our emphasis: "do something to win the boys." Study again Mr. Thomas' article in our January number; read carefully what this issue says about the matter, and then resolve that you will practice the good British maxim, "What we have we hold," and by Junior League, Boys' Brigade, Boys' Club, or whatever way be best suited to your need, win and train your boys for Christ and noblest Christian manhood. Theorize no longer but "do something," and do it soon.

Let Every Sleeper Awake!

In one of our exchanges recently we read the story of a prominent preacher as he told it on himself. Returning from the preaching service to the home where he was being entertained, he sat in the car with a little daughter of his host on the seat by his side. Thinking over the service just closed, he had not spoken for a few minutes. Suddenly his quiet was broken by the little maiden, who said as she respectfully touched his arm. "My, what a lot you might do if you would only wake up." It set him thinking harder than ever, and he wondered if he was really awake. What a transformation would be effected if people would only "wake up!" An American novelist tells of people who are asleep half the time and not awake the rest of the time. Are there any such in our churches, Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies? There may be many; but it behooves you and me, dear reader, to be gentle in our criticism of others until we have severely shaken ourselves, and are absolutely sure that we are actually wide awake. If, as we saw placarded the other day, "there are no sleepers on the railroad to heaven," we must not form the somnolent habit that steals so easily over the majority of Christians. Might not we do a lot if we would only wake up? Then "up, watch, and work, and pray."

Are We Teaching the Bible?

Teaching the Bible is something more than talking about the Bible. It is not merely dissecting it and explaining its construction. It is not simply giving the historical or geographical facts contained in the various books that make up the whole Book. In short, the Bible is never really taught until its vital message is conveyed to the understanding of the pupil. A teacher may be a veritable walking and talking encyclopaedia of facts about the Word of God and yet fall utterly to impart the living truth it contains. There is no teaching by the teacher unless there is learning by the scholar; and this means that until the Bible becomes a living Book of vital truth to the teacher he can never properly teach it to his class. The Bible is the Book of Life—not life distant and future, but present and actual, *now*. Not to get the student ready to die but to instruct him how to live, is its chief mission. Failing to interpret it so, knowledge about it may be but useless lumber; but when its message to present-day problems is heard as clearly as when first given in the long ago, we prove it to be the Book for the twentieth century, and its influence and power for the solution of pressing needs are abundantly realized.

It is said sometimes that "the world wasn't made in a day." In many ways it is not yet made. So with your young people. So with your League. Both are in process of making, and for the proper results, time, thought, plan, purpose, prayer, all are required. Then your young people and your League will be able to help make the world what God wants it to be. Do your best work, and take time to do it.

"The greatest minds have always acknowledged a Greater."