

A little girl said to a League visitor: "I had such a nice time talking to the Pansy faces. They made me forget the pain." No League should neglect this department of work. It would pay our church officials to place a liberal sum of money in the hands of the young people to be used in floral distribution.

An Excuse for Laziness.

"No great interest has been developed in either phase of the Twentieth Century Movement here. *We long for something spontaneous.*" So writes a correspondent in one of the *Advocates*. In most cases this sort of talk is simply an excuse for laziness. Such people usually wait a long time for something "spontaneous," while unsaved men and women die around them. It is, of course, a good thing to have a spontaneous revival, but there are many advantages in a general movement which is deliberately planned by the church. The subject of revival seems to be in the air. It is talked about and prayed about in all the churches, so that ministers and people feel impelled to do something to reach the unconverted. We look upon this as many degrees better than quietly waiting for something to happen.

San Francisco, 1901.

Representatives of the three branches of Methodism interested in the International Epworth League Convention met last month in Cincinnati to arrange the programme for that great gathering. The place selected is San Francisco, and the date July 18th to 21st, 1901. A very pleasant and harmonious meeting took place, and an exceptionally strong programme was outlined. "The Opening Door of the New Century" is to be the key-note of all the addresses and discussions, and special prominence will be given to questions relating to young Christians in the dawning century. It is intended to put forth every effort to make the programme so interesting that it will itself be an attraction strong enough to induce the Methodist people to cross the continent, apart altogether from the marvellous scenic beauties which the trip affords. It is too early yet to announce themes or topics, but it will undoubtedly be the best programme yet arranged for one of our International Conventions.

We hope that every reader of this paper will carefully peruse the excellent article in this issue by Rev. G. Edwards. It is a most effective answer to those who aver that the Epworth League movement is declining.

WHAT AN amount of money many of your young people squander on little things that do not add materially to the sum total of their well-being! A young man, in Toronto, upon being asked to subscribe for the Epworth Era, excused himself on the ground that he had spent so much in picnics during the summer that he could not afford it. It is a good thing to plan our expenditure so that amusements shall not have more than their fair share.

If the Church of God could be induced to campaign this country for souls in the same energetic and systematic manner that the politicians are now working for votes, the greatest revival Canada has ever known would ensue.

UNDOUBTEDLY the world moves. Shaftesbury was violently opposed when he proposed a ten hours day for working men. Now the demand, everywhere, is for an eight hours day, and it will probably come before the twentieth century is very far advanced.

THE Earl of Shaftesbury's last words were, "Thank you," addressed to his attendant, who did something for him. It was an indication of the instinctive gentleman, one who always was considerate of the feelings of others, and who found a real pleasure in making those around him happy.

DR. F. E. CLARK says that the members of the Christian Endeavor Society in Foochow, China, call the organization "The Drum up and Rouse up Society." A very good substitute indeed, for Christian Endeavor. Much of the work of a Young People's Society is to prevent stagnation in the church by "bringing on the rousements."

THE first of a series of illustrated articles on California and the Great West appears in this month's issue. "The Yosemite" is one of the wonders of the world, and doubtless many who go to the convention next summer will plan to visit it. It is not too early to begin to save up money for this trip. It will have an educational value almost incalculable.

REV. DR. DIXON, of Galt, upon his return from a visit to the United States, repeated to the local newspapers some disparaging remarks concerning the Epworth League, which he had heard during his journeyings. Mr. John Taylor, jr., ex-President of our Epworth League, replied to the Doctor in the *Galt Reformer*, and certainly he did not come out second best. Mr. Taylor showed that the statements made by Dr. Dixon were without foundation in fact.

NO PART of the Epworth League pledge should be more emphasized than the clause which refers to our obligation to "bring our young associates to Christ." Instead of looking away to some far-off field of effort, the opportunity for Christian service may be found in the shop, the store, the home, where every day we mingle with those who do not know the Saviour. Instead of speaking to strangers about their souls, let us begin with our associates, over whom we ought to have more influence than anyone else.

At a recent conference of workers we heard a pastor say that his Epworth League seemed exceedingly anxious to do some aggressive Christian work. He believed the explanation was to be found in the fact that all through the summer the Executive Committee had held a special prayer meeting every Monday evening,

and that for some time the male members of that committee had been meeting at 5 o'clock on Monday morning for prayer and Bible study. No wonder that these young folks are now ready for work.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Methodist ministers a number of testimonies were given concerning the value of the house to house visitation that has recently been made in the city. Every pastor has received the names of a large number of families who have not been attending church. Some of these have been discovered to be old members of the church who had church letters in the bottom of their trunks. One pastor said that he found many of these people actually hungry for a visit from a minister or Christian friend. The best way to influence the unconverted and careless is to see them in their homes.

NOTHING so discredits a minister and lessens his influence in the community as for him to contract debts which he is not able or willing to pay. In some cases it is not an easy thing for him to avoid running into debt, as his salary is altogether inadequate, and often not paid regularly. We happen to know of the pastor of a town church who did not receive a cent from the first of June until the middle of September, although the congregation contributed every Sabbath through envelopes. The Treasurer went away for his holidays without making any provision for the payment of the pastor's salary, and so, through the whole summer the preacher got nothing. There is reason to believe that this is not by any means an isolated case. Official members should see that their minister is paid generously and regularly.

Is an interesting book called "Sonny," by Mrs. Stuart, there is a chapter entitled "Sonny's Diploma," in which the author describes the old father standing proudly before the diploma framed and hanging on the wall, as he exclaims: "He's the only one we've got to eulogize. They ain't been a thing I've enjoyed ez much in my life ez my sacrifices on account of Sonny's eulogization, not one. Th' ain't a patch on my ol' coat I've got but seems to me to stand for some advantage to him." How much many young people owe to the heroic self-denial of their parents, who have afforded them the opportunity of securing an education! In many cases the lack of early advantages has made the parents all the more determined that their son or daughter should enjoy the advantages of the high school. These privileges should be appreciated by the young folks, and used to the very best advantage.

WHEN Peter and John passed through the Beautiful Gate into the Temple, they did not fix their eyes upon the magnificent adornments of the gate, but upon the poor cripple lying before it, and to him they gave the hand of sympathy and help. Just in proportion as the church has the spirit of Christ will its eye turn in the direction of the wretched, the unfortunate, the lost, and practical aid will be extended.