

Young Friends' Associations has been a good deal discussed. To that question I should answer "No" and "Yes." First—No. In our Yearly Meeting we have a Philanthropic Labor Committee, which is divided into sub-committees for work in each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. It is the duty of this Committee to see that the Society of Friends does its utmost in all needed reforms, and any member wishing to engage in any philanthropic work, can and should do it through this already existing organization. Since there is an organization in the Society which fills that need, the Young Friends should not multiply machinery by forming themselves into another organization for the same kind of work. But now for my affirmative answer. It should be the duty of the Young Friends' Association to know the interests of its members and ascertain whether such interests are recognized by the Philanthropic Labor Committee, and if not, to bring them before that Committee so that it may make it easier for the young people to work in their chosen lines by giving them sympathy and aid. I also see no objection to the Association, if it has money at its command, making donations for any work in which its members may be interested, or having reports of such work given in the meetings, for such reports form a part of the education we need in social matters to fit us to grapple with the questions of the day.

Another very important work for the Young Friends' Association is keeping posted in the business affairs of the Society, and using its influence to better the organization when opportunities afford. If, because of the time of holding the mid-week religious meeting, or the preparative or monthly meeting, the younger members are unable to attend, the Association should use its influence to have such times changed, for we all know how important it is that those who shall eventually have a large part of the work of any organization to per-

form should be fully acquainted with that work. If a boy intends to be a farmer he must live on a farm, and see how it is run, before he takes it into his own hands. If he intends to keep books he must be trained to keep books, and if we are to carry on the business of the Society we must be trained for it, otherwise we will do as the city boy who inherits a farm—sell it and go into some other business. We have no right to excuse ourselves from attending the meetings of our Society on the ground that they are not held at a time when we can be present, until we have used our utmost influence to have the time changed. And I think whenever such a request has been seriously and earnestly made it has been willingly granted.

The Young Friends' Association should, in every sense, be a school in which the younger members of the meeting can learn about the methods of conducting the business affairs connected with the Society, as well as gain confidence to carry on that business later. To bring this about the methods of the Association should be as much like the methods of the Society as possible. In some Associations the business is transacted according to Parliamentary rules, but the Association, to prove most useful, will conduct its business in the Friendly way of general consent. I know that there is a prejudice against this method; that the Society is somewhat criticised for it, but I believe it to be the better way in an organization where there is the kind of business we have, and in our New York and Brooklyn Association we have found that the sense of the meeting is easily and quickly gotten by the Friendly method.

The Association should also follow, as far as practicable, the method of the Society in collection money for needed expenses. Every year each family is assessed according to its income. As we are all young people, many of us without fixed incomes, we cannot follow this plan exactly, but a general as-