

looming up ahead of us with great possibilities and glorious privileges.

We have a memorable past behind us. Our fathers labored and we have entered into their labors. Their noble daring in planting the flag of Calvary all through our lands has given us a heritage beyond the price of gold. We have a great name to maintain unscathed, a wonderful record to continue, and so make a more glorious future. Thank God for the past with all its precious memories! But we cannot live in the days gone by. The present demands our best if we would make the coming years resplendent with the glory of our King.

And it will be to our discredit and shame if we do not make the future more fruitful than the past ever was. We have all our fathers ever had, and more. More in material equipment, more in numerical strength, more in financial resources, more in organized machinery, have we than they ever possessed. And, above us, and within us, are the same ultimate resources of power that made them more than conquerors. May we use these as regularly as they did!

By our fidelity to the present we may hasten the universal Sovereignty of our Lord and realize the supreme end of all our activities.

The Epworth League must aim at such realization, and by enlisting the young people of Methodism in a trained host for conquest in Christ's name, it will accomplish its aim.

But the enthroning hosts must be multiplied. Thousands of our Methodist youth are as yet not with us. We must win them. We must make Christ supreme in the life of the individual that the individual may in turn become an evangelizing agent in extending His glorious Kingdom throughout the whole world.

To enrol all our children in our Junior Division should be our instant purpose. Christ first in the heart of a boy means that the boy, soon grown to be a man, will be active in putting Him first in the heart of universal humanity.

One plus Christ multiplies into many within a generation. So the enthroning hosts increase not merely by conquest from without, but by culture within the fold. Get the children, unite them in happy glowing enthusiasm, grow them into usefulness and power, and this generation,—the only one they shall ever know,—will be the better for their living, and the future become brighter than the past.

John saw in beatific vision the indescribable glory attendant to the final coronation. Multitudes are there. From every portion of the universe they come to join in the wondrous ceremonial. But every one of them is a trophy of some one else's fidelity to the Lord. Not a single one in all that innumerable host but gives evidence of the evangelizing agency of some true witness of the power of Christ.

That mighty concourse of gathered souls is even now being congregated. As we shall be there the fruit of some other laborer's toil, shall others be there as the result of ours.

So the enthroning hosts assemble, and that we may neither fail to be there, nor be without our gathered sheaves, must be our purpose and our prayer.

Retrospect and Prospect

The statistical report of Rev. Dr. Cornish, General Conference Statistician, for our Young People's Societies, shows that the Conference year past has not seen any pronounced increase in any one department.

The year seems to have been one of only ordinary achievement. An increase of but three in the total of Young People's Societies as compared with a year ago, does not show much growth. The total membership has increased by 1,149, of whom 936 are active and 213 associate members. This is somewhat encouraging, but presents more reasons for scrupulous enquiry rather than for congratulation.

An examination of the report shows that the distinctively Epworth Leagues or Epworth Leagues of Christian Endeavor have decreased by 34 Societies, and that Young Men's Societies are 8 fewer in number than a year ago, while "other Young People's Societies" whose specific names are not designated have increased by 26, and Junior Leagues by 19.

The last is the only encouraging feature in this section of the report. Increased attention to the Juniors is commendable, and without due care for the growing children we can hardly look for even a healthy growth in the number of our members.

Just why the distinctively Epworth Leagues have declined in numbers is hard to say, and whether the increase in "other Young People's Societies" should be accepted as a satisfactory exchange is doubtful. These Societies thus grouped together as others are all presumably similar in aim and purpose to the Epworth League; but why they have changed their name as some of them have done, or why other Societies than Leagues have been preferred, we can only conjecture. We have yet to be convinced that any of these "other" societies are in any way an improvement on the League, or that they have a better constitution than that provided in our Disciplinary organization.

A loss of 854 in the membership of Young Men's Societies is very serious and must be accountable somehow. Just 4,000

young men are enrolled in societies exclusively their own. All the other societies are of course of mixed membership. How many of our total membership of 80,423 in 1937 societies are boys and young men we cannot tell, but that we have thousands of them who are not connected with any Young People's Society we are well assured. The best way of reaching, holding, and using our boys and youths does not as yet seem to have been discovered. If the Epworth League fails to do it, and the usually male societies cannot accomplish it, can a remedy be found? One thing is sure,—we cannot be content to calmly contemplate the failure of the church to adequately grapple with and solve the boy and young man problems, or stand idly by and see our youth drift away from us. If existing organizations are ineffective through constitutional weakness, let the Constitution be amended. If they are not accomplishing the necessary work because inoperative, let them be intelligently applied and zealously used for the purposes needed.

League Constitution, but rather in the trouble is not in the are indifferent where they ought to be deeply concerned for the salvation and training of our young people.

The Financial section of the report shows a decrease of \$2,052 raised for local Society purposes, an increase of \$2,632 for missions, and \$5 above last year for the General Epworth League Fund. The first item needs no explanation, for local revenues and expenditures vary from year to year. But neither of the other can be considered sufficient. \$65,201 is the sum raised for missions by a total membership of 80,423, an average of about 68 cents a member. Much of the total amount is contributed by personal gift, but when we think of the sums raised otherwise we can hardly be satisfied with the general situation. The Forward Movement has accomplished much, but surely our League has not reached its highest possible point in missionary education and giving.

The Leagues have contributed \$2,201 to the General Fund and seem to have about reached their limit in this also. That sum represents only a trifle over one dollar for each Society, and is insufficient for the maintenance of the general office and its work. Manifestly, many Societies contribute nothing.

Taken all in all, it is evident that while our Young People's work has not materially declined, we are not making very rapid strides in the enrolment of the youthful portion of our congregations, and the situation is by no means as prosperous as we might reasonably expect.

By more faithful attention to the operation of our Societies and greater devotion to the culture and training of our children and youth, let us aim to do more efficiently what is our plain duty towards them in the current year, and so ensure a more satisfactory report for a year hence.

1. We respectfully suggest:
1. A local canvass for increased membership.
2. Better official oversight by the Executive, whose meetings must be regular if effective.
3. More frequent consultation between pastor and President regarding the welfare of the young people.
4. Increased attention to the organized work of the Epworth League by the Quarterly Official Board of the circuit.
5. More thorough organization of the districts according to the District Epworth League Constitution.
6. Systematic correspondence between the District League officers and those of the local Leagues.
7. Intensification of neighboring societies, that each may stimulate its neighbor to increased activity.
8. Whenever possible circuit rallies to be held at some central point to emphasize the unity of our work.
9. A real live Conference League Executive, whose officers shall at least endeavor to keep in touch with the various district organizations.
10. More frequent and familiar correspondence from all our Young People's Societies to the central office, that the General Secretary may at least have a reasonable opportunity of knowing your conditions and needs, and as far as possible helping you in doing more and better work for God and the kingdom.

Our Illustrations

The pictures contained in this number make no pretensions to artistic merit. They are just ordinary every-day photographs of persons and places as they appeared to us, without any of the customary accessories of the studio or improvements of the skillful retoucher added.

Taken with a low-priced camera, and under varying conditions of light and location, they must not be compared with the high-class work of the professional photographer. With one or two exceptions they are the editor's own work, and are given to our readers to show them a number of the friends who composed our party to the Seattle Convention and some of the persons and places we saw en route and while there.

Manifestly, the number is limited and many are necessarily omitted, but we trust our selection will give a measure of pleasure to our readers as well as some brightness to our pages.