

Hints for Workers.

How we Improved our Meetings.

BY F. LYNCOI.

We had a large society of Christian Endeavor—one of the largest in the city. Our meetings were well attended, and there was a quite general participation in the services. There were few of those pauses that made the leader turn red and look at the floor.

But a great many of our members had fallen into the habit of bringing in extracts from some paper or book, or some poem bearing upon the subject, and reading these instead of expressing their own thought or speaking out of their own experience. It partook of the nature of what my friend facetiously called a "culture symposium." Well, these are good, but there is something a great deal better.

Now, most of these young men and women were bright and capable, and I knew they could think if they would only try. So I determined to bring about a change and have the remarks at our meetings the expression of the participants, and not of others.

So I settled on Harry Trumbull, Mary Smith, George Gamble, Dorothy Booth, and Elizabeth Wolcott as the subjects of my first experiment. They were faithful readers, and generally lengthy. It is easy to be lengthy with other people's thoughts, just as it is easy to be charitable with other people's money.

I asked these five to meet me Friday evening after prayer meeting. We went into my study, and there I told them my contention. I said:

"Nothing pleases me more than the fact that you all take so active a part in our Christian Endeavor meetings. You always bring wise and helpful quotations. But I have often wondered why none of you express any thoughts of your own upon the subjects. Now, one good thought of your own is worth a whole page of Browning in a prayer-meeting. These meetings are intended for each one to bring some truth out of his own experience to enrich and encourage the others present. But when you read some one else's comment upon the topic, it may not be true to you in the least, so it means little to the others. Now, I wanted you to start off on a new tack, and set the example for the others. Can't you all come next Sunday night with a thought of your own upon the subject? You can think, I know."

Then came a chorus of protestations. Dorothy Booth couldn't think of anything worth saying; Harry Trumbull couldn't say a word in public; George Gamble said he had good thoughts, but couldn't get them out in good English; and so it went on.

Then I broke in upon them. "Look here, now, this is all nonsense. You can't make me believe that any one of you has not the capacity to produce four

or five good thoughts on any topic we can consider. Suppose, now, the next Sunday afternoon you all take an hour by yourselves. Take a pen and paper and write down four thoughts of your own. Don't look at any comments; put down just your own—and then read them Sunday night in place of the usual selection."

"I don't know but what we might do that," said Harry Trumbull, "but I should have to read mine."

"Well, read them," I said, "but let them be your own. By and by you can express them without paper. You see if I am not right."

So they went away, agreeing to follow my suggestion. Sunday night they came with their papers. The first to rise was Dorothy Booth. She was given to reading rather melancholy poems in meeting, but when she started out, "I think—," everybody straightened up, turned to ward her, and began to listen. They heard something good.

Then George Gamble got up, and they all turned toward him as he began, saying, "My idea upon this subject is this—." And when he had finished, a young fellow who rarely spoke in the meetings jumped right up and said, "I know what Mr. Gamble says is true, because I've been through it," and he made an earnest talk.

Harry Trumbull got up, and as he began, "It seems to me—" people looked at each other, wondering what had come over the spirit of their dreams. Mary Smith and Elizabeth Wolcott followed later on

with fresh, interesting thoughts. And how everybody listened! And how they responded to the thoughts that came straight from the heart! Why, we hadn't had such a meeting in the history of the society.

When the others were done, I stood up and said: "You are all thinking what a helpful, interesting meeting we have had to-night. Do you want to know the reason? It is because we have been telling one another what we ourselves think, not what some one else thinks. It is because we have been speaking out of our own experiences, not bringing some one else's. We have been speaking heart to heart, and soul has flashed fire against soul. Now there isn't one member of this society who isn't capable of sitting down and writing at least two good thoughts on the topic for any evening. And it will be worth all the papers you can read in the hour, for it will be yours; better still, it will be *you*. And then, we all need to think more ourselves. We're not thoughtful enough. We read too much. We let others do our thinking for us, until we feel that we can't think. Let us train ourselves to think our own thoughts. Let us look more into our own lives for our experiences, and not so much into papers and helps. Now, next Sunday evening, let more try this plan of bringing their own thoughts and their own experiences, and we shall have the best meeting this old city ever knew."

And we did have it, and many more like it, to the joy of our hearts.—C. E. World.

Prominent League Workers.

XIII. PROF. W. W. ANDREWS, M.A.



One of the best known and most respected workers in Young People's Societies of the Maritime Provinces is Rev. W. W. Andrews, M.A., Professor of Science in Sackville University. He was born in Canton, near Port Hope, 41 years ago, and received his education at the Ottawa Collegiate Institute and Victoria University. He entered the minist-

try in Manitoba, and was appointed to Prairie Grove, Nelsonville, and Dominion City. One year was spent in Toronto as pastor of St. Clarens Avenue Church; when he was called to take a position as teacher at Sackville. The old saying about the "right man in the right place," is thoroughly applicable to Mr. Andrews, for he is a born teacher, and in the highest and best sense an enthusiast. The Science Department of Sackville University, under his direction, has become one of the most important features of the institution.

For several years Prof. Andrews was a Trustee of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, and took an active part in Christian Endeavor work in Canada, frequently appearing on convention platforms. He is still an ardent Christian Endeavorer, believing especially in the interdenominational fellowship which this movement has done so much to promote. At the same time he is equally enthusiastic over the Epworth League, and deems it important that such denomination should organize its young people for denominational oversight, doctrination and control.

Prof. Andrews is a clear thinker, a forcible speaker, and a hard worker. He is fortunate in having a wife who is as much interested as himself in educational affairs and church work. She will be remembered by old Cobourg students as Miss Nellie Greenwood, the first lady graduate of Victoria University.