

A correspondent in Barrie well says, "Personal work, we find, helps the person who is doing it as much as anyone else." Do you, dear reader, know by personal experience, the blessedness of reaching out after someone else? There is no joy like that which comes from leading souls to Christ. Try it and prove it true.

It is a good idea to have, as they do in the Linwood League, "at least one good literary selection at each regular meeting." It not only adds variety to the programme, but gives the less experienced members who would not readily take part in a more elaborate or pretentious "literary evening," an opportunity to contribute something to the service, and so gain experience for larger and more public effort.



QUEENSVILLE INDIANS.

The President of Milliken Epworth League suggests a meeting at which the different Vice-Presidents shall state the progress and also the failures of their work. He reports a meeting of this kind and says it has done "a lot of good." It enables the League to "strengthen the weak places and to wake up the slow members."

A pastor wisely writes: "From my experience, . . . where the pastor attends League, he should help and encourage the young people to take part, but should not do more of the League work than his share, his object being to train up workers. The pastor should use his influence to have the regular E. L. Topics handled intelligently, with full information. Special features, Mock Parliaments, Trials, Debates, and such like should be worked in, with a good spiritual tone, so awakening interest and throughout maintaining the spiritual atmosphere." To all of which I most cordially assent, and wish my brother could bring every pastor in Methodism to say for himself and his young people, "Amen!"

What do you think of this? No matter where the place or who the writer is. Perhaps you have felt something the same yourself, and can sympathize with him. He says: "I think this is the hardest we place one could find in Christendom. We cannot get teachers or officers that will be anyway near faithful. I have been carrying on the work pretty near alone for over a year." Doubtless this is true, brother; but do not be cast down overmuch. One of the most marked chapters in my Bible is I. Kings 19, and I have been looking it over again since reading

your words. And do you know, I am glad it is in the record, for it assures me that I am not the first who has felt just as you have expressed it. Read it well, and then mark the directions of verse 15, which being interpreted means, "Back to Business!" We have our "blue spells," but let us never forget that God can never use to good advantage a discouraged man. Cheer up.

Here is a good plan for District Executives. That of the Owen Sound District held its regular business meeting at Massie, on the afternoon of the anniversary of the Epworth League of that place. The officers of the District were also present at the anniversary meeting in the evening. The Walter's Falls League was well represented also. After a capital pro-

gramme, in which the various department of League work were well presented by the representative officers present, the home League served refreshments, and a pleasant social hour was spent together. This is the very best kind of Executive work, and we would like to know of similar combined meetings on every District.

The Men's Sunday Club of North Street Church, Goderich, issues a neat four-page folder quarterly, containing the topics and leaders' names for their morning meeting, and a few other interesting items. This little poem is on the current issue. It is good.

Bursting in from school or play  
This is what the children say,  
Trooping, crowding big or small,  
On the threshold, in the hall—  
Joining in the constant cry,  
Ever as the days go by:

"Where's mother?"

From the weary bed of pain  
This same question comes again:  
From the boy with sparkling eyes,  
Bearing home his earliest prize,  
From the bronzed and bearded son,  
Perils past and honors won:

"Where's mother?"

Burdened with a lonely task,  
One day we may vainly ask  
For the comfort of her face,  
For the rest of her embrace;  
Let us love her while we may,  
Well for us that we can say:

"Where's mother?"

I am asked if it were for the Epworth League President to preside at all meetings, or if it would be better to have another officer take charge. The latter certainly. No Epworth League can be maintained in a prosperous condition if it is a one man's affair. The "one man" (President) had better set ten men to

work than try to do the work of ten men. The President who attempts to personally conduct every meeting will soon cease to be a power in any meeting. Remember, your young people do not come together to be preached to or to be talked at by any one person; but to be used themselves that they may grow increasingly useful. Give them an opportunity to lead and let the President be willing to follow. In the executive work the President is first, not that he is expected to do all that is needed, but to see that all that is needed is done—by himself plus others, and the more the better.

In a bright new letter giving an encouraging account of the League work in Fredericton, N.B., the President, Bro. J. M. Lemont, describes a social evening given in October to the students of the city. From the following paragraphs others may find suggestive hints: He writes:

"Our annual social of welcome to the students was held October 10, and was most successful. Fredericton being an educational centre, we receive into our congregation a large number of new young people every fall, and part of the duty of the League is to make them feel at home in our church, and introduce them to our own boys and girls. At our annual fall social, there are always so many strangers present, that it is a difficult problem to start the ball moving. We have found the most effective way to be the collection of autographs. Little blank books and pencils are distributed, and at a given signal everybody is sent out collecting signatures, prizes being offered to the young man and young woman who can show the greatest number of names in their books at the end of five minutes. The transformation is magical. Where an instant before everything was quiet and lifeless, now all is bustle and noise and cheerfulness. The whole room, so orderly and sedate, becomes like a human ant-hill, and there is no more formality for the rest of the evening. This method, excellent as it is, cannot be followed frequently, and we have to resort to other expedients to break up the stiffness. This year we adopted the following plan. The whole company, numbering about 150, was divided into groups, according to the letter of the alphabet with which their name commenced, A, B and C in one group, D, E and F in another, and so on. The leader of each group then took down the surname of each person, and reported to the chairman the longest name of his group. These long names were all written on the blackboard, and the audience picked out the longest name of all, a prize being then presented to the fortunate possessor of the long name. In this particular case there were three claimants for the prize, each with eleven letters in the name. To decide among them, we had to have recourse to the weigh scales. The scales were brought in, and the task of weighing the rival claimants created a good deal of amusement. The first prize finally went to our second vice-president, Miss Cadwallader."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** have been made that the Manitoba Conference Sunday School and Epworth League Convention will be held in Brandon, February 6-8, 1912. Convention theme, "The Challenge of the Age."