

At our closing meeting it was decided to send boxes to our boys at the front, to keep \$10 to meet the expenses of reorganizing, and after paying the rental of our piano for the winter and other necessary expenses, to add the balance to our Red Cross fund. So, after spending a very profitable and enjoyable winter, we turned over to the Red Cross about \$65.00.

As we have reorganized for this winter we are planning another season of pleasure before we must needs till the soil for another harvest. May others take up the work, that the young minds of this country may be qualified to take their places in the future development of Canada.

Elgin Co., Ont.

R. M.

## A Brant County Club has Some New Ideas.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

One of the most important things in a rural community is, in my estimation, to have a good, live Farmers' Club, such as we have in the vicinity of Burford, Ont., known as the Burford Grange. We have, of course, our master, secretary-treasurer, overseer and other officers necessary in a Grange. Meetings are held (if possible) every two weeks throughout the winter months, with an executive appointed to look after the business in the busy months of summer.

The main object of this association is to co-operate in the purchasing of supplies, such as feeds, coal, sugar, etc., at the lowest wholesale prices. The Grange holds a share in the United Farmers' Co-operative Company, Ltd., Toronto, and purchases as much as possible through that company, and we are also affiliated with the United Farmers of Ontario, and endeavor to protect the interests of the farmer wherever possible. In connection with our Club is a literary society, with its own officers (all young people), who put on the program at each meeting. The program usually consists of dialogues, debates, music, etc., home talent being used almost exclusively, with an occasional good speaker from an outside point. The usual procedure for a meeting is to have a business meeting, for say half an hour, first, and the program afterwards. These meetings are a great success. Our local school-house is generally packed to the doors.

The older people find the Club benefits them both financially and socially, as they feel their interests are being looked after, and in meeting together they discuss the different methods of farming, and by listening occasionally to some of our best speakers on agricultural subjects they derive much benefit, and feel more encouraged to take up the daily round and common task of farm life. The young people take great interest in the literary part, and derive much pleasure in the preparation and rendering of programs, an opportunity for them to develop along the right lines, and, most important, it helps wonderfully to hold them to the life on the farm.

For the summer months a contest was arranged in which all could take part. The members, both junior and senior, having their names taken alternately from the lists, making two sides, each side endeavoring to secure as many wood-chuck tails, sparrow heads, weasel skins, etc.; a certain number of points being allotted for each, the losing side to provide an oyster supper, to which we have invited R. H. Halbert, President of the U. F. O., and who has kindly consented to come and address the gathering.

Brant Co., Ont.

ERNEST B. CHILCOTT.

## New Officers Every Two Months.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As there is very little amusement in our community during the long winter evenings, and there are quite a number of young people at home, it was considered a good idea to start a literary society. A meeting was held in the school-house, at which there was a rather small attendance. However, a Society was organized with the following officers and rules:

The list of officers comprises a president, vice-president, secretary and organist. The following rules were drawn up and approved at the first meeting: One, that card playing and dancing be prohibited; two, that the meetings be held from house to house; three, that no refreshments be served; four, that the meetings begin at half past seven and close at eleven o'clock; five, that the meetings be opened by singing God save our Splendid Men, and close by singing the National Anthem; six, that the meetings be held every two weeks; seven, that a committee be appointed at each meeting to get up the next entertainment; eight, that new officers be appointed every two months.

At the first meeting we had a short address on Robert Burns. Some of his poems were read, including "The Cotter's Saturday Night." Three of his songs were sung also. Our next meeting was a patriotic meeting. We had an address on Kitchener and patriotic songs. At this meeting we also took cake, candy, tobacco and socks to send to the soldiers at the front who had gone from our district. We had a debate at our last meeting, and we are going to have another. I think that debating is a great thing, it inspires interest in the society, and it teaches people how to express their ideas before the public. I think that a literary society is a great help to any community for young and old, if some of the older people who know how will help to give it a good start.

Lanark Co., Ont.

YOUNG FARMER.

## Have a Critic as Well as Boosting and Advertising Committees.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I had the pleasure of talking, a few weeks ago, with one of Canada's orators, and he told me that the first attempt he ever made was in a debate on that well-known subject, "Country versus City Life," some thirty years ago, at a collegiate literary meeting. This, in his own words, is what he said: "Oh, yes, I was like everybody else when they make their first attempt; my knees nearly forsook me, I couldn't find the right place for my hands, and the words nearly refused to come out, but I made up my mind I was going to be able to express my opinion regarding the advantages which are offered to the country boy, and I stayed with it. Of course," he said, "my first attempt was not a brilliant one, but it gave me confidence in myself and the next time my knees performed their duty better." Continuing, he said, "the time has come when the country wants and needs men who can express their opinions on the great questions which are confronting us from time to time." These words are from a man who is not a politician, but who has developed great oratorical powers, and who is well posted on all public questions.

Never was there a time when the farmer needed so much to be able to get up on the platform and uphold his rights. Never before has he been confronted by questions such as confront him at the present time. Where better than at the literary meeting can a young man be trained to express his opinions logically? "Practice makes perfect," and I don't care how clever a person may be, he will not make a brilliant speech at the first attempt, unless there is some place provided for him to get practice. Experience cannot be had at home; no matter how much you may read about it, you have to get up and stand up in front of a crowd of people with everyone looking directly at you, and I must say that it takes a lot of will power to make the first speech.

Of course, it is a very simple matter for a collegiate institute or any other institution to start a literary society, because it is a part of their year's program, but it is an altogether different matter for a rural community to organize such a society and keep it going, because there is no one who wants to take the responsibility of starting it. Of course, it is often run in connection with the church league, or under the auspices of some other church organization. This is all right so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. We must remember that a Methodist church league would not draw the Baptist young people as it should, and vice versa. The same may be said of Protestant and Catholic organizations. What we want is a community literary society, free from all politics and creed, and the way I would suggest starting one would be to get a few enthusiastic, energetic, and progressive friends interested and begin talking it up. It can be mentioned casually at the first silo-filling bee in the fall. Just mention the splendid time you had over at Slippery Hollow, or the Sixth-line School-house, at their Literary Contest one evening last winter. It was a long drive of course, but the good time certainly made up for any little inconveniences. One may be able to get the dinner-table conversation humming over such a project. A little quiet boosting may eventually work the young people up to a desire for a literary society.

Now that I have suggested how such a society might be started, I should like to outline a list of officers. It is not necessary to follow this advice, but it may serve as a suggestion. In the first place get everybody working; make them responsible for something, let them feel that they are one of the wheels in the machine, which, without their help, cannot progress. There should be a president and first, second and third vice-presidents, all having a chance in the chair; a secretary and an assistant secretary; a treasurer; a reporter, who will report to the district weekly newspaper; a program committee, one or two critics, a boosting committee, and an advertising committee.

The president, of course, will always be in the chair when there is business to transact, but he should share the honors with his vice-presidents during the entertainment. The secretary will take the minutes of all business meetings, and he and his assistant will look after the correspondence, such as challenges for debates, etc. A reporter with good, descriptive powers is necessary, who will write for the district weekly paper short stories about what is going on in the society, telling about the wonderful debates which have been held, relating the points brought out, and mentioning the good things which will come during the following weeks. The program committee will prepare for debates and other entertainments throughout the season. Have about twenty on the advertising committee, whose business it will be to tell everybody within twenty miles, of the great times they are having in the new, red-brick school-house, over on the twelfth concession. They should not say it in a boastful manner, but in a tone that will arouse curiosity and make others want to come.

Then last, but, in my mind, the greatest of all, is the critic. You may have one or two, but there should be one critic at least. A capable critic is a very necessary personality in a literary society. A person may make mistakes and go on making the same mistakes, unless someone corrects him. I have in mind two young men who were trained in two different literary societies, and who are now both taking an active interest in public speaking. One society had a critic; the other had not. I had the pleasure recently of listening to those same two boys, now young men and both public speakers. It will be unnecessary for me to tell you which was the more impressive speaker. The one, although not as bad as he was at one time, due of course to practice, still had those more or less restless movements, and he referred

too frequently to his notes to carry his audience with him. The other young man had learned platform etiquette. He stood naturally and referred to his notes only when starting in to prove a new point or express a new thought.

Interest can be maintained in several ways. A box social is useful and it will help to defray running expenses; a literary contest is also good. Elect two captains, who will appoint three or four helpers, and have each side strive to put up the best program. There should be restrictions placed on both sides so they will not go too great a length. Then by all means get an outside judge. Don't attempt to use any influence with him, and above all things, be satisfied with his decision.

As for short addresses, I certainly think they are very beneficial. Let the young people know that they must speak on a subject for ten minutes, a topic regarding which they will have to resort to the public library for information. Once they get the public-library habit, the better for them. There are a great many places they could be that are worse. An impromptu address is very good, for it makes a person capable of thinking quickly. One thing which a literary society should do is to make a reader out of a person. In order to get information for debates and addresses, they must read, and reading is an education in itself.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

ARCHIE D. LIMON.

## Don't Forget the Eats.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The literary society is an organization which is a benefit to the community in many ways. It provides entertainment for the young people; it tends to liven up country life, and, therefore, helps to hold the rural population on the farm. Any young person who becomes a member and takes an active part in the meetings will soon be qualified to be able, in after life, to get up and say what he or she has to say in an intelligent manner; or, if the occasion demands, would be able to take the chair and preside over a meeting.

In organizing, secure a hall or meeting-house, and find a good, live leader. Many an organization has gone to the wall simply because the leader did not have push enough in him to carry it through. Appoint your leader as president. Select a vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Set a membership fee to keep up the running expenses. I don't think it is advisable to meet once a week; better once every two weeks or once a month. It is hard to provide programs for every week, and if you fail in this point the members soon lose interest. For programs, try stump speeches one night, debates another, then mixed programs consisting of songs, recitations and dialogues. Have the boys entertain the girls one night, and the girls entertain the next. A good idea is to establish a newspaper, and appoint an editor and reporters. Have the paper read every meeting night. It will be composed of jokes and all the news of the community. Pick out the best debaters and challenge some other organization for a debate. Last, but not least, don't forget the "eatables." Nothing in the world will bring out the boys like a light lunch, and when you get the boys, the girls will follow.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

"MAC."

## Where Sports are Emphasized.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

We have a fine literary society in our midst. It is held at Mount Pleasant School-house, and is called the Riverside Literary Society and Athletic Association. Under these headings we keep it in a good, live, healthy condition in both summer and winter. The literary is conducted under the following set of officers, in the winter months: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The committees are: Debating Committee of four, Program Committee of four. This makes up the list of officers for the season.

The president opens the meeting with a short speech on some current event. Then the audience appoints a critic, usually an elderly person, who gives his or her report or verdict on the whole program at the end of the meeting, pointing out where it could be improved. We then have a chorus for everybody, which everybody should know, led by our school teacher. First it is sung, then it is hummed, and last it is whistled. We find that the girls can do nothing but laugh in the latter, not having the proper control of their mouths. Following this are recitations, solos, dialogues, comic songs, etc. But the main feature of the evening is the debate, or sometimes we have short speeches from different members. Some suitable subject is chosen for debating. Four members have been appointed by the Debating Committee to speak, two on the affirmative and two on the negative. Each speaker is allowed five, seven or ten minutes to debate. The speakers usually decide the length of time; the first speaker on the affirmative takes five of his seven minutes for making his points and proving them, the next three speakers take full time. We then have the balance of the first speaker's time for reply.

In judging a debate we have three judges. One appointed by either side, and the third one by the audience. The judging rules are usually 60 per cent. for matter and 40 per cent. for delivery. Fairness, we find, is the most important fact. The speaker who perseveres with his speech in a debate, that is, he has in his mind what he wants the audience to know before he opens his mouth to speak, is the fellow who is going to drive his facts home to his listeners. We do not advise memorizing. Have a goal in your mind when speaking, and if you do not reach it by a direct way, reach it by an indirect way.