

Open Letter to League Presidents.

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUE,
TORONTO, October 1st, 1901.

Dear Fellow Worker.—Once more the summer is over, vacation is ended, and the work of another season lies before us. The results will largely depend upon the enthusiasm and fidelity of the League officers, particularly the presidents. If you are in earnest, and determined that the work shall be successful, your spirit will undoubtedly influence others. Permit me, therefore, to make a few practical suggestions concerning what should be especially emphasized in all our Young People's Societies. First of all, I wish to call your attention to the

CLAIMS OF THIS PAPER.

The Canadian Epworth Era is devoted especially to Epworth League and Christian Endeavor work, and it looks to the members of these organizations for support. Some have done well, while others have apparently not been aware that such a paper as this exists.

To do the best work, it is absolutely necessary to get new ideas, and to be conversant with the methods of others. Some knowledge of what is going on in the wide field is essential to success. The League that shuts itself up to its own regular routine of services is doomed to death in the near future.

If you are not already on The Era's regular list of readers, we want your personal subscription, and that of as many of your members as you can induce to subscribe. If you are already a subscriber, you know the value of the good value which is given every year for fifty cents in these columns, and I feel confident you can be relied on to do all you can to help this paper.

In many societies

AN "ERA" EVENING

has been held with good results. The members of the League have had the paper brought before them by means of interesting extracts from the various departments of The Era, read by persons previously selected. This, of course, should be followed by a vigorous canvass for new subscribers and renewals. The Book Room will be glad to send sample copies and also descriptive leaflets free whenever requested. Distribute the leaflets to all the members, and publicly call attention to the good things which the paper contains. It is an excellent plan to appoint some energetic person to look after the subscription list in every society. This canvasser will receive one copy free for every five subscriptions that may be sent.

Now is the time to work for The Epworth Era. May we not expect to hear from your League in the near future? Allow me to make one further suggestion. Most of our Sunday-schools supply papers to all their scholars free. Why could not the Leagues do something similar? It would be a good use of League money to send a copy of The Epworth Era into every family connected with the organization, and scarcely anything would do so much to maintain interest in the work.

IS THE LEAGUE DECLINING?

At a recent meeting of the General Epworth League and Sunday-school Board, considerable discussion took place upon the outlook for our Young People's

Societies. The statistical returns for the year show a decrease of membership. Fortunately, this falling off is accompanied by an increase in givings and in various forms of Christian activity. There is no occasion for a pessimistic view of the situation, as the working force of the League is certainly greater than ever before. Never was it accomplishing so much "for Christ and the Church" as to-day.

At the same time, we ought not to be satisfied while our numbers are decreasing. There are multitudes of young people in almost every community who ought to be interested in Christian service. They need the League, and the League needs them. "Are we doing all we can to reach them?" is a question which every one of us should seriously consider.

THE VALUE OF PERSONAL WORK

cannot be too strongly emphasized. It is not enough to announce from the pulpit that "all young people will be welcome at the services"; it is not enough to distribute invitation cards at the church door, and at the boarding-houses. We must come into personal touch with those whom we wish to influence. In too many places the young people have been satisfied to come together from week to week simply for the purpose of having a good meeting, and scarcely anything has been done during the week toward securing new members or retaining those who have strayed away. It is no wonder that such societies die out. The cure for our diminishing membership is for officers and committees to go to work. Nothing will take the place of earnest, personal effort.

THE EVANGELISTIC FORWARD MOVEMENT

will afford a special opportunity for aggressive work. This is intended to deepen the spiritual life of all League members by concentrating their prayerful study on the Gospel according to Matthew during the four weeks following Sunday, September 29th. Nothing will do so much to help our young people as an earnest study of the Word of God, and there is no department of the church's work which will not be quickened thereby. Pledge the members of your League to follow the reading, and induce as many members of the congregation as possible to join with them.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DAY

should be made much of. Sunday, Oct. 27th, is the day selected, so that there is plenty of time for preparation. Ask your pastor to preach to the young people; arrange for a sunrise prayer-meeting; a mass-meeting; or any other service which you think will prove helpful. There is no cut-and-dried method of conducting Young People's Day. Every place should feel free to adopt the plans most likely to interest and help the young people, but do something. Advertise the services thoroughly, and talk them up among your friends and acquaintances. The

WEEK OF SERVICES

to follow Young People's Day is not intended to supersede any revival effort which the pastor may plan for the whole church, but is meant to afford a special opportunity for young people to work for the salvation of young people. Every means should be used to influence asso-

ciate members to take a step forward and assume the responsibilities of active membership.

If you desire further information about this "Forward Movement," I shall be pleased to send you descriptive circular.

THE MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

has been one of the most encouraging features of our work during the past year. You will, I am sure, be glad to know that our Young People's Societies are now raising \$21,000 for missions, an increase of over \$1,000. This is cause for gratification, but there is room for improvement. There are still some societies which know comparatively little of the Forward Movement for Missions. It is highly desirable that the "pray, study, give" plan be introduced into every League in Canada. On the missionary page of this issue, there will be found a financial statement showing what the various districts have contributed toward the support of their missionaries. What is your League doing? If you would like further information concerning the Forward Missionary Movement, send a postal-card to Dr. F. C. Stephenson, 81 Cedar Street, Toronto.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE READING COURSE

should be introduced into every League in the land. It is not an "aristocratic feature" for use in large city societies only, but is intended for every place where there are young people who have time on their hands for self-improvement. The number of books has this year been reduced from four to three, so that even busy people can take up the reading. The price has also been cut down from \$2.00 to \$1.50, which brings the course within the reach of all.

It is not at all likely that you will be able to interest all the members of your League in the Reading Course. Be satisfied to begin work with a small number. Even three or four persons who undertake to read the same books can have a very pleasant and profitable time together.

If you want further particulars about this year's Reading Course, or hints and suggestions for carrying on a Reading Circle, they will be sent free to all who may apply for them by addressing my office.

This is rather

A LONG LETTER,

but I have been anxious to bring these important matters to your attention, and I hope that you have had the patience to read thus far. Now, may I ask a very special favor of you? Let me know that you have read this letter by writing me, telling what your League is doing, and what your plans are for the coming winter. I am really desirous to know the state of the work in your locality. Even a postal-card will be appreciated.

Let us all seek to make this the best year in the history of the League.

Yours fraternally,

A. C. CREWS,

General Secretary of the Epworth League.

Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues.

BY REV. A. CARMAN, D.D.

While the Sabbath-school and Epworth League Board, in session Sept. 5th, 1901, had much occasion of profound gratitude to God, and of joy and satisfaction in the great work in progress, as manifest in the enlarged number of Sabbath-schools, and the increased contributions to mission funds, it felt moved also to earnest inquiry and vigorous action by the facts that the Epworth Leagues had diminished in number, that the intermediate