

The training of leaders for this work is perhaps the most critical question; it is of little avail to arouse the enthusiasm of three hundred girls at some great conference and then to have their desires frustrated by the inability or unwillingness of their teacher to take up this new development of her Sunday School work. For this reason, in many places short courses of lectures on the four-fold standard are being given in the Y.W.C.A. building to teachers and girl leaders from all the different denominations.

CONFERENCES.—The conferences in which the Y.W.C.A. take part are not, however, confined to those mentioned above under girls' work. For the last ten years one of the outstanding features of the Association has been the enthusiasm created by and the profound good resulting from the annual Summer Conference held until this year at Elgin House on one of the Muskoka Lakes. There City and College delegates alike met, gathered from a wide stretch of territory (often including Dalhousie University, Halifax, and Winnipeg) for a week of study and fun, well mixed together. Lately the demand for the conferences has increased, so that now four student ones are held each summer in Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Nova Scotia. A city one is held in Ontario and plans are being made for more of these. Ten days together of daily Bible, Mission Study, of discussion on life problems, whether in college or in business and of addresses on vital subjects lead to friendships based on the deeper interests of the inner life and yet more they lead to the greatest friendship of all, that with our Lord and Master. The conferences also help girls to see that this life of personal religion is nothing dull or sad, for woven in with the study and the prayer and the discussion comes the natural and delightful fun that springs up where a group of young girls have the joys of boating and bathing and games and marvellous "stunt" afternoons.

School girls have their share in this too, for not only is there a special national camp held for them in Ontario, but the Associations in Montreal and one or two other cities have most successful camps for them. Out of these there have grown up in several High Schools and private schools special branches of the Y. W. C. A. These are excellent training ground for such girls as go on to the University and for the Department next to be described.

STUDENT DEPARTMENT.—This is one of the two principal divisions of the whole Association work in Canada, the City and the Student Departments, and it numbers each year as a rule