

1. Training is more than teaching.
2. Prevention is better than cure.
3. Habits must precede principles.
4. Cultivation of the feelings precedes that of the judgment.
5. Example is better than precept.
6. Love that draws is better than law that demands.
7. Love inspires, and inspiration is the secret of training.

The Value of the Junior League

ETHEL V. MEDCOF.

In order to realize the highest purpose and possibilities of a Junior League the child's normal relation to Christ and the Church must first be considered. Jesus said: "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come unto Me," and

We would not think of starting our boy or girl to school to enter the third book; they would have no background for their studies. Just as necessary is it to have our children trained for Christian service that a holy character might be built up and their personality deepened, which in later years will speak louder than words.

This is where our Junior League is of great importance. The adults have the Epworth League, class meeting, prayer meeting, prayer service, and various organizations during the week, and we cannot expect to give a child sufficient spiritual food in a thirty-minute talk on Sunday afternoon in a Sunday school. Children are more susceptible to Christian teaching than we have any idea of. It is in early life that the character begins its development.

Here we cannot help turning our attention to home influence. Whilst Christianity's first place is in the home, how many non-Christian homes there are.

While in my room, alone with God,
My thoughts indeed were led abroad
To homes where God is never brought
In humble prayer or serious thought.

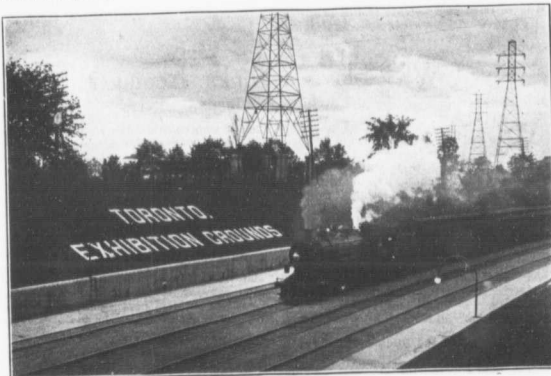
Our parents of to-day endeavor
Their little ones from harm to sever,
Their health and education, too,
Cause many thoughts, except by few.

But what is done, which goes to show,
They have been led their God to know?
With hearts as one and prayer sincere
Is theirs a little path made clear?

This duty comes to every home,
That little feet may never roam;
So few look up with thoughtful heart
And promise God to do their part.

In such sad circumstances it is the work of a Junior League not wonderful? It is the organization to reach and start many children safely on life's path. It affords them entertainment, which otherwise would be sought on the streets and other places, which are demoralizing. It develops in the child sociability of the purest type.

To the pastor the Junior League is a training school where elementary lessons



"MEET ME AT THE FAIR."

Three important words to be inspired into the juniors by the superintendent are *Know, Be, Do*, standing for knowledge, character, service.

The sessions of the Junior League should be bright, interesting, and attractive. The meeting may well be divided into two parts, the devotional and the social. In the devotional we should bring in the Bible study and the topic, which should be treated by one of the juniors; in the social part we should have music, and maybe games also, for we cannot expect the little folk to sit like posts all the time. It is child nature to play. Hence the sessions should be varied as much as possible, and if we introduce the element of surprise, occasionally, so much the better. There is a way to reach and win every child, and the Superintendent should find that way.

Thus a successful Junior League may become one of the greatest powers for good in the home, the church, and the community. Without it or its equivalent no congregation of Methodists can really hope to retain its children for Christ and the Church.

Conference Epworth League Conventions

MONTREAL AT PRESCOTT
OCTOBER 5 AND 6

TORONTO AT TORONTO
NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12

Keep these dates in mind and plan to be at whichever one most nearly concerns you.

The committees are making full arrangements for splendid sessions.

Detailed programmes will soon be available from the Secretaries.

Fuller particulars in later issues.

"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven." This shows us that Jesus loved children, and wanted them to be consecrated to His service while still in early life. Some of us in later years feel very keenly the debt we owe, and realize the utter impossibility of ever repaying. The greatest we have to give is our life—our life's service. When we come to this deep realization we are startled and we use our best endeavors for our Lord and Master; but we find ourselves untrained, and inexperienced with



AFTER AN EVENING SHOWER AT TORONTO EXHIBITION.

the best part of our life spent. Oh, how we long to live it over again!

Our young people are our coming generation. More and more do we realize the lack of wise, capable leaders. Where are they going to come from? It is not in the later adolescence they are going to blossom out qualified for leadership.

are given in practical Christian service to those who are bound in the process of workers for all the needs of the Church. Because of this, ministers should lead in the formation, and largely direct in the operation of Junior Leagues wherever possible throughout the Methodist Church.