

## Junior Department.

### The Boyless Town.

A cross old woman of long ago  
Declared that she hated noise.  
"The town would be pleasant, you know,  
If only there were no boys."

She scolded and fretted about it till  
Her eyes grew heavy as lead,  
And then, of a sudden, the town grew still—  
For all the boys had fled.

And all through the long and dusty street  
There wasn't a boy in view;  
The base-ball lot where they used to meet  
Was a sight to make one blue.

The grass was growing on every base  
And the paths the runners made;  
For there wasn't a soul in all the place  
Who knew how the game was played.

The dogs were sleeping the livelong day.  
Why should they bark or leap?  
There wasn't a whistle or call to play,  
And so they could only sleep.

The pony neighed from his lone stall,  
And longed for bridle and rein;  
And even the birds on the garden wall  
Chirped only a dull refrain.

The cherries rotted and went to waste,  
There was no one to climb the trees;  
And nobody had a single taste,  
Save only the birds and bees.

There wasn't a messenger boy—not one,  
To speed as such messengers can;  
If people wanted their errands done  
They sent for a messenger man.

There was little, I ween, of frolic and noise;  
There was less of cheer and mirth;  
The sad old town, since it lacked its boys,  
Was the dreariest place on earth.

The poor old woman began to weep,  
Then woke with a sudden scream,  
"Dear me!" she cried, "I have been asleep;  
And O, what a horrid dream!"

—St. Nicholas.

### A Christmas Treat.

The Junior Leaguers of Park Street Church, Chatham, decided to make Christmas pleasant for the poor children of the city, and arranged quite a demonstration. In the centre of the Sunday School room a Christmas tree had been placed and laden with presents of toys and clothing for the guests of the Leaguers. On both sides sat fifty poor children of every creed and color, who had come to receive the Christmas gifts provided for them, while bustling around and looking after their comfort were all the little Leaguers. The whole affair was under the general superintendence of Mrs. Knott and Misses Ethel White, Flo Smith and Mabel Merriam. The visitors were first entertained by an interesting programme.

At the conclusion of the programme a loud knock came to the door and Santa Claus was admitted. After shaking hands with all the children, he began to distribute the gifts from the tree. Clothing, toys and candy were handed to all and a more pleased lot of children it would be hard to find. At the conclusion Mr. Baker made a brief speech, stating that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This had been proven in the happiness of both the givers and the receivers. This happy afternoon was the result

of a month's toil, and the children should be given great credit for their noble work.

The whole entertainment and presents were provided by the children. They asked no assistance from outside sources.

### A Junior Paper.

The Intermediate League of Park Street Church, Chatham, Ont., published a little magazine at Christmas, called *Christmas Greetings*. The cover is neatly printed, but the inside pages are typewritten and copied. The young editor introduces his publication by saying, "Most of our members are having their first experience in being on a newspaper firm, and realize that it is a great deal harder than it looks." They have, however, produced a very creditable little paper with many good things in it. The following is the President's address, which we take from its pages.

"If we try to conform to the pledge in all its details now, it will be easier for us to live a Christian life when we are older. If we follow our pledge now, we will be kept from all evil. First of all, we must trust in Jesus Christ for strength to keep our pledge with Him. This is the hardest part—to trust in Christ for strength—for we are apt to think that we are strong enough alone. We have some knowledge of what is right and what is wrong, but it is sometimes very hard for us to know exactly what to do, especially if we are tempted by pleasures that are not right. But we must train ourselves to say 'No.' Then after many tests we will become strong. But at first when we are not strong, we should go to a secluded room, and there ask God for strength and a way out of our difficulties. Selfishness is constantly creeping into our lives. Sometimes we do not want to work for others or please others; it is all self. If we allow this to become habitual to us, it will be impossible for Christ to use us. Let us keep Christ first in our lives always; let us do this work willingly and heartily."

### Superintendent's Dont's and Do's.

Mrs. Alice Seuder on "Things to Remember About a Junior Meeting," says some good things. First, some things not to do: "Do not go to a children's meeting worrying about its success. No amount of worry ever added to its attractiveness. Give plenty of time for preparation, and go with a bright, cheerful heart. Leave every anxiety behind you. Smile and pray all the way from your house to the church. Be like a sunbeam always with the children."

"Don't scold. God and the children will leave if you do."

"Don't go unprepared."

"Don't talk or pray too long. You can't present all the needs of a universe in a prayer service for children, nor must you exhaust too much time in giving advice—even good advice."

"Things to do:

"Be alive. 'With all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' This must be the spirit of every leader of children. There is no danger whatever of having too much life, but I have more than once seen dull people who have spoiled a meeting. I felt all the time like saying, 'Wake up! wake up!'"

"Be rested. Don't exhaust your nervous force any more than is absolutely necessary on the day of the meeting, for you will need a large reserve in readiness to draw upon."

"Be child-like. The simpler the language, and the more suited for children the illustrations are, the better the meeting."

How make Junior meetings interesting? Pray, plan, and work. Let the boys and girls do everything that it is possible to have them do.

Have variety in programmes, but bend all to the aim of winning the children to Christ and training them for His service. It will be hard work, to be sure; but what that is worth having do we get in this life without hard work? I know of no other line of work that pays as good dividends.

### It Helps Boys.

I think the Junior League is the best thing that was ever got up for boys. Boys are so lively that they are sure to get into mischief if they don't have something good to keep them busy. Nights and Saturdays, and even Sundays, are bad times for boys, for they get into bad company and learn lots of wicked things. But when you've got the Junior League to go to Saturday afternoons and Sunday School and church on Sunday, and hear so much about Jesus and how to be good, you don't feel like trying to do all sorts of wicked things. I am sure I don't, and I know lots of boys just like me. I think the Junior League is a great blessing if it doesn't do anything more than help the boys to grow up into good and wise men. —MASTER GEO. ATKINS in *Epworth Herald*.

### Bible Drills.

The Bible drill is one of the most interesting features of the Junior meeting. No need of monotony here; the field is so broad. One drill the Juniors are especially fond of is questions about Bible characters and places, asked alphabetically or otherwise. For instance: Let them commit to memory a gospel alphabet, or an alphabet of Bible commands. Have them learn "every-day" verses, simple verses applicable especially to daily tasks and worries. Let them search out and bring to the meeting a "swarm of Bible bee's"—Scripture texts telling what Christians should be; for example, "Be ye kind one to another," "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only," "Be of good courage." Select a list of these and have them committed to memory, always learning the reference.

Select a certain chapter and ask the Juniors to read it over during the week, and select what they think the most important verse in it. At the next meeting ask for the results of their reading, and their reasons for making the selection they have.

Drill them on the books of the Bible, and the writers. If the Juniors thoroughly learn these, they will not ask, as one lady recently asked another in prayer-meeting, if the book of James was in the Old Testament or the New. It is a good plan when the superintendent wishes the Juniors to find references, to give out several at once, and as soon as they find them, to stand. This produces a little helpful rivalry, as it shows who has the best knowledge of the position of the books of the Bible.

Occasionally appoint a boy or a girl to tell the story of some Bible hero, omitting all names. When the story is ended, let the society give the names of the characters mentioned; or, ask the Juniors to write out the story of Joseph, Daniel, or Moses in their own language, and have these stories read in the meeting.—*Watchword*.

A BEAUTIFUL silk quilt has been made by the Junior League and helpers of Euclid Avenue Methodist Church, Toronto, which they desire to sell and devote proceeds to the support of Tong Cheu Thom, the Toronto West District Missionary in British Columbia. This handsome quilt is beautifully worked with silk floss, lined with the best saten and bound with good silk ribbon. It can be seen at any time at the Central Office of the Epworth League, Room 9, Wesley Buildings, Toronto. The highest offer secures the quilt. Address T. H. Lockhart, 292 Markham Street, Toronto.