

but when emphasis is laid on mechanical routine rather than on propulsive power, the best results are not realized. To be forever showing *how* to do things is surely not as effective as to arouse the spirit to do things. The "I will" of the Leaguer is of greater moment than "I know," and without it but little of permanent value is achieved. Make your Convention a centre of active force, energizing every member and giving the abiding conviction that there is no enterprise so glorious as that to which our King calls us, that so high, so noble, so honorable a work calls for our best thought, our constant prayer, our sustained effort, and so shall you send every delegate home to become in turn a centre of influence in rousing the local workers to increased endeavor to usher in the glory of Christ's universal and eternal reign. Such a Convention is worth while, and yours may be such an one if you will have it so.

Planning the Fall Campaign

If you have not yet begun preparations for the autumn and winter work of your League, the sooner you get seriously busy the better it will be for both you and your Society. If you are a President, see that a full meeting of the Executive is called for as early a date as possible. Review the operations of each Department. The summer has doubtless interfered materially with systematic or sustained activity, and your Committees have probably been inactive if not quite disorganized. Now is the time to gather up the loose ends and to reunite all in one concerted effort for larger and better achievement. Revise your roll. Interview personally everyone of your members, and thus seek to arouse interest and kindle enthusiasm in the work of the League. Do not postpone this, for a good start in early fall is a great step toward a successful term. Arrange for definite and personal service by your individual members as well as for some general plan of effort by the society as a whole. Vice-Presidents and Committee chairmen, who are alert and enterprising, will systematically apportion something actual and practical to their various members. Consult your pastor. Co-operate with him in ministering to the aged, the sick, the needy of every kind. Your League is not in itself worth continued existence, and only as it is a means of helping its members minister to others and extend the Kingdom of Christ, is it of real value. Plan, therefore, for something more than meetings. Get your people busy, and keep them so, in doing something for somebody, and above all else in winning some one to Christ and Christian service, and your League will increase and grow in every way.

Enlist Early

We read recently of an ex-soldier in the American Civil War who, in conversation regarding its campaigns and his connection therewith, said, with a regretful tone of voice: "But I wasn't really a volunteer. When the President's first call for men came, I refused to go. And even after the second call was given, the company recruited from our town was miles away before I decided to follow. I enlisted so late that I really saw very little active service." That word "late" tells the story. To "late" to be of any practical help! The fighting over before he reached the field of battle! The glory of victory won, the honors gained, but he too "late" to share in them! Little wonder his tone was one of regret!

How many are like this in the Lord's army! The fight is on, the call for volunteers is repeated, the days are passing, but so many are holding back. They are needed, but do not offer their services. Men and women spend life and energy and possible powers of useful service on self and selfish purposes, and if they enlist at all, do so too late to see very much active service in fighting the King's battles. They come to the help of the Lord against the mighty when the work is well-nigh done. They may be in for the shout of victory at the end, but they bear no scars of conflict, are marked by no honorable proofs of personal encounter with the foe; they have seen no real actual warfare on the field of strife. How can they share in the glorious ecstasy of victory? Those only can truly

sing the victor's song who have encountered the hardships of the march, who have braved the difficulties of the field, who know by personal experience something of what the hard-won conquest has cost. To enter into the complete rest of the victory we must know the bitterness of the struggle by which it was gained.

Our counsel to our young readers, therefore, is to enlist early. The Lord needs all your working days, and every fighting power you possess may be engaged for Him. Recruits for active service are being called for. On every hand are needed men and women to wage war against the enemy. His deadly forces of evil were never more active than now, and to overcome in the name of the Lord is the imperative obligation of every soldier of the Cross. While the dew of youth is upon you, win honorable scars in glorious warfare for your Lord. With zealous devotion go forth to holy and heroic enterprise in His Name. Spend your life in the activities of His campaigns against all sin and error, and at the close of life's brief day there shall be no sorrowful regrets that you entered too late to see much active service in the ranks of your Divine Commander. When victory is celebrated, as it surely will be, your highest reward will be that to the utmost of your fighting strength you did your best and helped to win the day for your Lord and King. Nothing else can equal this reward, and life-long service is necessary to attain it. Enlist early, and fight the good fight of faith, enduring hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Let Us Advance

There are now 1,884 Young People's Societies reported to our General Board for the whole church. Exactly 1,700 of these are Epworth Leagues or Junior Leagues. The others include the 83 Young Men's Clubs and 191 unnamed "other Young People's Societies." There are 5,246 preaching-places in our church, so that, allowing only one society to any congregation, and many have several, it is easily seen that there are two-thirds of our congregations without organized young people's work. The Sunday Schools, even if they were fully alive to the needs and conducted to meet the requirements of our young people, do not by any means cover the ground, for there are still over 1,500 preaching-places without Methodist Sunday Schools. Think for a few minutes what these facts mean. 1,568 Methodist preaching-places without Methodist Sunday Schools! 3,362 Methodist congregations without organized Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavor or kindred societies! Surely there is still much, very much to do. The threathere objection that we are suffering from too much organization is surely not true of the church as a whole. There are doubtless places where an organized Sunday School is impossible; there are other places where a Sunday School may be quite feasible, but an Epworth League impracticable; but we do not believe that there are as many of either Sunday Schools or Young People's Societies as there might be or as there ought to be. And if something ought to be, and is not, someone is responsible for the lack. Who is it in this case? Is the whole church alive to the supreme need of the Word of God in both heart and life of the people? Do we appreciate childhood at its true value? Are our young people rated at their real worth? If so, there should be provision made wherever our preachers preach sermons for our teachers to teach and train, and utilize the youth in the working forces of the Kingdom of God. We want to see at least 4,000 Sunday Schools and 2,000 Epworth League and kindred societies a year from now. These figures are reasonable and easily within our reach. It should be the business of every Chairman of District, of every Superintendent of Circuit, to see that in every possible place a Sunday School is started, and it should be the sacred duty of every official in any way connected with the Epworth League to at least try to secure the organization of a League wherever there is a company of Methodist young people, and surely they are almost everywhere. Shall we not settle down to a Campaign of Organization as shall bring about the larger statistical reports next year? Let us advance, and by all means see that you do your part in securing the desirable, yes, necessary, increase.

"You never do a good thing in your life without making an effort."