

The Church Lads' Brigade.

This organization is now completed and in full working order. The Lads meet every Friday at 7 p. m., in the school house for Bible class and for drill. The Bible class is under the charge of the Rector, and we are glad to announce that Col. Smith has kindly consented to take charge of the drill, assisted by Mr. H. W. Copus. Already even the lads make a very creditable showing and soon we hope to have them march to Church every Sunday morning, and thus begin early in life to form habits of regular church-going which, let us hope, they will never lose. To make the drill and the parade more interesting, it is necessary that some approach to an uniform be provided for them—say a cap, a belt and haversack. These could be obtained or made very cheaply indeed. Will not some of our church people contribute either material unmade or the finished articles for this purpose?

The Ordinary and Special Collections.

We are very sorry to have to return to this subject again; but until both are more satisfactory than they are at present, we would be lacking in our duty to leave the subject unnoticed.

First, the ordinary collections. A comparison of the number of coins and of the number of the congregation discloses the startling fact that only about one-half of the people present, probably less even than that, contribute at all to the support of the services which they attend. Now it is only right that all should give at least something. Then, whenever there is a special collection, the ordinary collection shrinks to about one-half of what it usually is, while the special is by no means a large one. This is not just to our own Church.

Then, as to the special collections. We are very sorry indeed to find that this year the total of what we have given to outside purposes is wretchedly small—not quite 25 cents per annum for every family in the parish. Complaints are often made of the frequency of special collections. This is no doubt a grievance; but there are two things to be said about this: First, it is easier to contribute by a series of small donations than by giving one large one; secondly, people unfortunately think that they give more than they do by the fact that the call comes so frequently to them. To give an instance: Suppose there are present on any one Sunday when there is a special collection, 600 people, including morning and evening services, five cents each would give \$30. Instead of that the last special collection amounted to only a trifle over \$10, and often it is less, and in every instance about one-half of the sum is made up of what is withheld from the regular offertory to our own Church! Surely no very great sum could have been given by any one in such a case. But the worst of it all is the undoubted fact that it is only a few, very few indeed compared with the total present, that give at all to these special purposes. If has been suggested with a view to making the offertory more general, that a printed card be left with each family or member of the congregation containing a list of all the special collections throughout the year. Let each one decide how much he will give to each several collection for the whole year, and mark the same upon the card. The card and the contributions may be taken up once or twice in the year as may seem best. Four ends would be served in any case by this method. People would know exactly how much they are giving to outside purposes; the multiplicity of special collections would be done away with; all our parishioners instead of a few would probably be induced to contribute; lastly, our ordinary offertory would not be so seriously affected as it is now.

Hints for Guild Members and Church Workers.

The following appeared in the Parish Magazine of a neighboring parish, and we commend it as embodying a good deal of common sense:

HOW TO HINDER THE CHURCH'S WORK.

1. Try and find out every trivial excuse for absenting yourself from the assembling of your selves together in Church on Sundays or weekdays—and stay at home when it rains on Sunday, or is too hot, or too cold.
2. Never let the Parish Clergyman know if he has done you any good, or when there is something in the Church Services that you do not quite understand.
3. Join the Sunday School, or the choir, or some class, and then be absent from your post just as fancy leads you. Be unpunctual. Be irregular communicants or never communicate at all. Always consider ANY business, ANY pleasure, ANY domestic call, sufficient excuse for being absent. There is no surer way of undoing all the efforts of your Rector for the good of the Parish, or making him very sad, and giving him twice as much trouble in advancing God's work in the Parish as he would otherwise have.
4. Attend no Holy Day services, and make a point of considering that notices given of any church gatherings or meetings have nothing to do with you, if you have the opportunity of going elsewhere.
5. If a stranger be near you in Church or is standing about the aisle, never tell him he may take any seat, and never hand him a Prayer Book or Hymnal.
6. Never speak to any one whom you see there Sunday after Sunday, unless you have been regularly introduced.
7. If you are ill, do not let your Rector know, but let him find out for himself. He will then probably call by the time you have been well enough to go out to work. In the meantime take every opportunity to tell other Church people that he has not been to see you for ages.
8. If times are hard, let your contributions to the School and Church work be the very first you decrease, and never let your contributions to God's work bear any comparison to what you spend uselessly on yourself.
9. Always have something to grumble about—the heat, the cold, the draughts, the dust, the sermon, the singing, etc.; and run down your own Church.