

The Canadian Epworth Era.

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A GREAT WORK.

He built a house, time laid it in the dust;
He wrote a book—its title now forgot;
He ruled a city, but his name is not
On any tablet graven, or where rust
Can gather from disuse, or marble bust.
He took a child from out a wretched cot,
Who on the State dishonor might have
brought.

And reared him to the Christian's hope
and trust.

The boy, to manhood grown, became a
light

To many souls, preached for human need
The wondrous love of the Omnipotent.

The work has multiplied like stars at
night

When darkness deepens; every noble
deed

Lasts longer than a granite monument.

—Sarah K. Bolton.

The Jesuit Way.—The historian of the Jesuits tells us how they became "masters of the present by the men whom they had trained, and disposers of the future by the children who were yet in their hands." This wise policy they still try to carry out.

Every One Got Office.—Do not suppose that nothing can be done in young people's work unless a large number can be enrolled. Some of the most efficient societies have a small membership. Mrs. Smiley tells of organizing a Junior League with five boys and three girls. Everyone got into office and all went home happy.

Material.—John Wesley, in his rules for the government of the early societies of our Church, said: "Where there are ten children whose parents are in the Society, meet them at least once a week." Wherever there are ten boys and girls between the ages of six and sixteen there is material for a Junior League. It is enough to start with at any rate.

A Change Indeed.—"A story without a young person in it. Nobody under fifty admitted." Thus were the story books of former days characterized by George Macdonald. Now children are prominent figures in almost all modern works of fiction, and the number of books and magazines produced specially for their benefit is legion. It is an encouraging sign.

The Lambs.—In interpreting the Master's commands, there are some spiritual teachers who apparently never

see anything but the exhortation: "Feed my sheep." They are continually stuffing the cribs of the old sheep, entirely overlooking the fact that the great Teacher said, "feed my lambs." If the lambs are starved to death, there will soon be no sheep to feed.

Recognition of Childhood.—Rev. W. F. Crafts calls attention to the fact that Christianity is in striking contrast with other religions in its recognition of childhood. Read the sacred books of India, China, Persia, Greece and Rome, and you will hardly find an indication that there are children in existence: turn to the Bible and you will find it full of child life and child teaching.

Something, But Not All.—The Christian parent can do something for his children, but not all; the Sunday-school can do something, but not all; the pastor can do something, but not all. Each agency has its own place and work, but the fact remains that in order to make the religious education of the boys and girls complete, some training institution like the Junior League or Christian Endeavor Society is absolutely needed.

First Place.—One of our Junior Superintendents complains that the Junior League Department is relegated to the last two pages of this paper. This is not because it is considered secondary in importance, but simply as a matter of convenience. This month, however, we are giving the Junior League right of way to our very best pages. We trust that this issue will greatly stimulate the work of this valuable auxiliary of the Church.

The Monthly Sermon.—Pastors should preach at least one sermon a month to the boys and girls of their congregation. It should be as carefully prepared as a discourse to the older people, and should contain good, pure milk, and not thin, watery gruel. We know a minister who has made this a habit for a number of years, and if the senior members of his church should be asked what sermons they like best, we are confident the almost unanimous answer would be, "the monthly sermons to children."

Five Departments.—Most people, when asked how many departments there are in the Epworth League, glibly answer, "four." The Christian Endeavor, Missionary, Literary and Social are generally regarded as the essential features of a League organization. As a matter of fact

our young people's society has five departments, the Junior making up the quintette. It has, however, no resemblance to the fifth wheel of a coach, but is as important as any of the other departments. Please don't forget it; there are five departments in the Epworth League.

Juniors at Church.—In the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, the Junior League has solved the problem of the attendance of children at public worship. They assemble promptly a few minutes before service on Sunday morning, and march into the gallery 200 strong, singing, "Onward Christian soldiers." This is better than neglecting the service, but we would prefer them to sit with their parents in the family pew on Sunday morning. In some of our large city churches, however, it is hard to count more than a score or two of children at public worship.

Improvement.—Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler says: "It is no uncommon thing for children of seven or eight years of age to have received more mental cultivation than we formerly looked for at twelve or thirteen. What is now common was once thought a prodigy in the development of mind. I have known a child of nine years of age better acquainted with the doctrines of religion than two-thirds of our church members." This is probably due to the fact that more attention is being paid to the mental and spiritual development of youth than formerly. And yet still more is needed. Such institutions as the Junior Epworth League have a great work before them.

Teaching and Training.—In order to understand the importance of the Junior League, it is necessary to distinguish between teaching and training. Dr. Henry Trumbull throws considerable light on this question in the following terse sentences: "The essence of teaching is causing another to know. The essence of training is causing another to do. Teaching gives knowledge. Training gives skill. Teaching fills the mind. Training shapes the habits. We teach a child the meaning of words. We train a child in speaking and walking. We teach him the truths which we have learned for ourselves. We train him in habits of study that he may be able to learn other truths for himself. Training and teaching must go together in the wise upbringing of every child." If this is correct, then the Junior League is as necessary as the Sunday-school, for it is the training school for the young.