

had an instructive and entertaining programme conducted by the boys themselves. Second to this, was the charting at the end of the first year which showed every boy exactly where he stood and made him resolve to improve. One cannot lay too much stress upon the importance of having such a cooperating body as we had in our Mothers' Council.

Thus after two years' experience we realize that the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests have helped the boys of Cooke's Church to avoid or cope with the dangers of life, to successfully seize its opportunities and to develop to the fullest possible extent his four-fold life.

Petawawa Camp, Ont.

## The Young People's Department

By REV. W. J. KNOX, M.A.

The development of the organized class idea has somewhat complicated the work among young people. For many years the young people were organized by themselves in a society which had no organic connection with the Sunday School, although in large measure made up of those who were either teachers or members of some Bible Class. This society fostered the devotional life, and made provision for the expression of the spirit of service.

The organized class aims at providing for all the needs of the members, so far as their religious education is concerned. Provision is made in Sunday and midweek meetings for definite instruction in the Bible, worship, including praise and prayer, and training in various kinds of definite service. If, in a congregation, each young person belongs to some one of the several organized classes which are working along all the lines above mentioned, the religious needs of all the young people are met.

If, however, there is nothing more than a number of isolated, organized classes, the young people's work is not entirely satisfactory. There is needed something to bring these various units together in an all-embracing organization to permit of a measure of cooperative activity and to fuse the class spirit into a congregational loyalty. This organization will naturally be the Church School itself, which is charged with the complete religious education of all the young people. The part of the School which will embrace this portion of the work, will be the Young People's Department.

This principle of organizing the young people is set forth in a pamphlet dealing with the Young People and their Religious Training, which may be procured from the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. J. C. Robertson, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. Although the general principles are clearly stated in the pamphlet, the details of such a method of organizing the work among young people will depend largely upon the conditions obtaining in the particular congregation. These details cannot be prescribed in any fixed manner

from without by any one not knowing the situation.

Many congregations are now shaping their organization according to this new standard. In First Presbyterian Church, London, there have been among the young people the following organizations:

(1) A Young Ladies' Bible Class, which meets on Sunday for Bible Study and every Tuesday evening for various activities, including Red Cross work.

(2) The Senior Girls' Club, which meets on Sunday and on Monday and follows in a measure the lines laid down in Canadian Girls in Training.

(3) The Senior Boys' Club, which takes up the work of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests.

(4) The Choir.

All these organizations have been doing excellent work individually. But it was felt that there should be some common ground to stand on, some common activities in which all might engage. Accordingly a meeting was called and an executive committee appointed, which includes representatives from each of the four units concerned.

This Young People's Department does not interfere with the particular work which is being done by the several organizations composing it. The whole Department meets once a month, and thus affords a common meeting ground for the young people. The service which the Department renders, includes entertaining the soldiers on Sunday evenings and also on week nights, providing entertainment at the various hospitals and other institutions about the city, and fostering by canvass a spirit of giving to missions and to congregational support. These and other activities serve to secure a larger measure of unity in the young people's work.

The main object of the departmental organization is thus to provide for a complete religious education for all the young people, and to avoid unnecessary overlapping.

London, Ont.