

books, and explain the plan, then call for members, and the pastor second the movement, the requisite number will be secured in a few minutes. The pastor will find a tendency from the beginning to grow into a lyceum, which every church should have.

"2. Through the Reading Union the pastor has a rare opportunity to guide the reading of his people. As a rule, the pastor is put at the head of the committee to select the books, which is fitting. Wherever a pastor is found whose influence is potent in selecting the reading of his people there will be found a successful pastor.

"3. There are few persons unable to purchase one share for one dollar, which entitles to the reading of all the books in the union. Emphasizing this point wins with the average audience.

"4. It furnishes a good opportunity for benevolent persons to aid poor but worthy boys and girls by purchasing shares for them, and in this way incalculable good may be done.

"5. It prepares young people to take up the readings of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle—one of the greatest educational movements of the age.

"6. A Reading Union in a community will create a desire for higher education. It, therefore, becomes a feeder to the college and university.

"Upon the above plan thirty Reading Unions have been organized in the Mattoon District, Illinois Conference, during the past year, through which not less than fifteen hundred people now enjoy the privilege of reading the choicest books for general reading which our publishing houses contain. Read the following

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLAN.

"The Illinois Conference, at its late session, adopted the following:

"Resolved, That we are pleased to learn of the growing success of the Reading Unions already established in the bounds of the Conference, and recommend their adoption in every charge."

"Bishop Bowman says:

"I am very much pleased with Bro. Reed's plan for the organization of Reading Unions, and most heartily commend it to the attention of our people. I believe that this plan, properly worked, will save many of our young people from much mental and moral dissipation, and excite them to profitable reading, and thus enlarge their happiness and power to do good."

"Dr. L. W. Munhall, State Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Indiana, says:

"I am satisfied your plan to promote wholesome reading among the young people is a practical one, and must result in great good."

"The editor of the *Central Christian Advocate* thus writes:

"Having looked carefully into the plan adopted by Rev. Horace Reed for the organization of Reading Societies, I am confident that none better has been devised, and I do most heartily recommend it to the consideration of

all our societies. We need to do our utmost to protect our young people, especially against the immoral and trashy books and periodicals of the day. This system is a desirable movement in that direction, and it is having good success. BENJ. ST. JAMES FRY."

Mr. Reed has prepared admirable lists of books in sets, costing \$25 a set. These, or some similar lists specially prepared for Canadian Unions, might be adopted in this country. We think that in connection with our many and excellent Sunday-school libraries a selection of books for older readers could readily be procured and circulated, with great advantage both to the schools and the congregation. It would, among other things, enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the membership of the Church in the school library, and it would be comparatively easy to procure money for its replenishing and enlarging, and for the purchase of a number of books of a higher grade than those generally bought. We would suggest that lists of books should be prepared from which the membership of the Church might select what books they wished procured. This would give each one an interest in selecting the books, that would ensure their being carefully read. We shall be glad to receive correspondence and suggestions on the subject.

Six Reasons for a Church Lyceum.

BY MRS. ANNIE M. REED.

1. The best thinkers in the church have recommended it and incorporated it in our church machinery.

2. It will develop a higher and better type of sociability in the church.

3. It will develop the latent talent of the church in writing, speaking, singing, etc.

4. It brings the old people and young people more closely together, keeping the young people from becoming too radical and independent, and the old people from becoming too conservative and fossilized.

5. It furnishes an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with strangers and get them interested in the church.

6. It will greatly aid in keeping the young people in close sympathy with the church, which is a great need of this age.

The best of the homiletical magazines that come to our desk is decidedly *The Theological and Homiletical Magazine*, published by James Nesbit & Co., London, England. S. R. Briggs, Toronto. Price \$2 50 a year.