

The Junior League Cradle Roll

MRS. E. NOXELL,

Fifth Vice-President London Conference.

Although the majority of Junior Leagues close down during the summer months, there are a few who, braving the hot weather and small attendance, meet week after week. To the superintendents of these Leagues, as well as their Juniors, we offer our heartiest commendation. Not always is the greatest good accomplished by the largest number. Gideon's little select band of three hundred men conquered the vast host of the Midianites, and so the superintendents can train their little summer bands to become conquerors over sin.

The Christian worker's greatest opportunity is found in the summer months, for with the small numbers comes the possibility of getting into close touch with the inner life of the Junior, and thus leaving imprints in that life that may influence him to become a minister, a missionary, or a Christian worker at home. Thus for the encouragement of the disheartened superintendents with a small attendance of perhaps only six or seven, comes the thought that not only may this little summer band be trained for effectual winter workers, but that in the years to come they may be the great Christian men and women of our church.

To these faithful summer superintendents, who perhaps are at a loss for new plans, we offer the following suggestions:

The *Junior League Cradle Roll* is a new idea and one that the writer is trying in her own League. The interest of the Juniors quickly awakens when sent out on a "Baby Hunt." Many of the Juniors have baby brothers and sisters, but there are many more amongst the members and adherents of the congregation. Have cards provided for each Junior canvasser, with place for signature of parents as well as name of baby. Charge no fees. Request no pledges. Simply ask parents if they are willing that their babies become members of the Junior League.

Then plan to have at least one afternoon during the year set apart for these babies and their mothers. Call it a birthday party. While the mothers are listening to a short informal talk by some competent person, the older Juniors can care for the babies in another room. After the talk the Juniors might pass light refreshments, such as candy made by themselves.

Appoint a president and secretary for this "Cradle Roll." Keep account of the babies' birthdays and send them a pretty picture card with best wishes of the Junior League. Address it to baby in care of mother.

In this way, not only babies grow up to love their own society, but the mothers will also be interested in such a wide awake society, that thinks of her baby without asking anything in return.

Prepare a large Cradle Roll card for the wall of the Junior League. Leave a space after each name. When baby becomes old enough to join the Primary section of the Junior League place a gold star after the name. If he should move away instead, place two crossed hands opposite (to show the Junior League still considers him a friend). If God should take the little one home, then place an angel holding a crown opposite the name. These little seals can be made by the older Juniors out of gold or silver paper.

To meet these expenses, the Junior League could hold a little informal social and thus raise money enough for cards and Roll.

JUNIOR TOPICS

SEPTEMBER 20.—HELPING OTHERS
TO LIVE. Matt. 22: 37-40; 7:12.

Our lessons to-day impress upon us the law of Love and the Golden Rule as the principles by which our dealings with others are to be governed. This is a fitting occasion to teach our Junior Methodists what Mr. Wesley embodied in the rules of his societies as expected of members in the earliest days of Methodism. His admonitions can hardly be improved on even to-day. First, he laid it down as a rule of life that we should do no harm but that we should avoid evil of every kind. Secondly, he said that we should do good at every opportunity, to all persons and in all possible ways. These two aspects of duty embody the lessons set before us in the Scripture text set for to-day's reading. We cannot help others to live as the topic suggests, in the spirit of the Golden Rule and controlled by the royal law of Love, if we do them harm in

hymn "little deeds of kindness" than anybody else. The one great sphere for youthful help is at home first, then at school, and perhaps most frequently at play.

At home, mother's life may be made easier as her children help, the sisters and the brothers may make each others' lives happy by living together in peace and content, and in a hundred little ways every boy and girl may "help others to live." At school the teacher's life may be made miserable or happy just as the pupils conduct themselves. Diligent and obedient scholars make the school-room a happy place, while disobedient and lazy ones turn it into a most disagreeable one. On the playground, boys and girls may live together in harmony or discord, just as they love or hate one another. . . . In short, almost everywhere and every day there are a large number of openings for all Juniors to "help others to live." . . . By the



ON THE ROOF OF THE NEW BOOK ROOM MANUFACTORY.

(See page 195.)

any way. But it is not enough that we refrain from harm-doing, we must do some positive good to them. "Love worketh no ill to its neighbor," but Love is not content with harmless-ness,—it aims to promote actively the welfare of its affection. Mr. Wesley made this clear and showed some ways by which we may prove that we really love our fellows. He said that we should do good to their bodies, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting those that are sick or in prison, to their souls, by instructing, reproving or exhorting all we have any intercourse with from day to day. He points out that all this needs diligence, frugality, patience, self-denial and cross-bearing; but it is the only way in which we may follow Jesus who went about doing good.

Boys and girls have not the ability or even the opportunity to do great deeds of mercy or of kindness; but they have more openings for what we call in the

word "live" we do not mean "exist" only, but the thought is, we should help others to live just such lives as God intends them to.

A father may keep his children from starving and in this way help them to live, but to provide food is not enough. A hundred things else enter into life besides food. . . . We must try to

help others to live that are safe, clean, happy, useful, and righteous in the sight of God. . . . This is a big undertaking, is it not? And yet it is easy if we, first, get the spirit of helpfulness into our hearts by the love of Jesus; second, keep our eyes open to see others whom we may help; third, form the habit of doing some little act of kindness every day. These three things will help us to help others; a loving heart, watchful eyes, and open hands. Love is the main thing, for it opens both eyes and hands and makes us more anxious about others than about ourselves. And the more we know Jesus the more love we feel for others.