

this world I find thousands of Christians, so-called, who have climbed up to a ledge where they think they are safe, but the voice of Jesus rings out over the waters of their life, saying, "You must climb to the top of the rock." You must live upon the level of the Golden Rule. It may be, my friend, that the average Christian will get into heaven. I would not dogmatize about his destiny, but I am sure of this, that this world, with all its heartache, its sufferings, its sorrows, will never really be saved except through the activities of men who are living on the level of the Golden Rule. Christianity must reach the height in its ethical beliefs and achievements equal to that which we have reached upon the evangelistic plane. The Church cannot stand divided against itself, half slave and half free. It cannot stand in ethical slavery and evangelistic freedom. We cannot build on half rock and half sand. We cannot go on putting the telescope to the blind eye when we look at the evangelistic side of the Christian life. We greet the coming year of the twentieth century with a prayer in our hearts and with a profound expectation in our souls, that the Christian of the day that is just dawning upon us shall be equal to the providential demands which are being thrust upon them.

## Social Entertainments

By REV. I. F. ROACH, D.D., LINCOLN, NEB.

**G**OD has endowed us with a social nature and purposes that it shall be developed and satisfied. Everywhere people are seeking social refreshment through many and often deceptive avenues of amusement. We are often reminded that more people attend public places of amusement than attend public worship, and that society spends more money for amusement than for schools, and three times more than is paid for churches.

Today the Epworth League is called of God to appreciate the gravity of the situation and to aid in answering the social needs of the young life of society. The church has been too slow to meet and discharge its obligation to the social side of life. As a result of the position taken by many sincere religious enthusiasts, Christianity has been misrepresented and the church made to appear to the young and pleasure-loving as an organization of penance doers. While we are putting emphasis on the need of religious instruction and spiritual growth, and the development of the powers of intellectual life, let us not leave the matter of life amusement to care for itself. In providing for social entertainments we should seek to make amusement a means of refreshing the social life and creating conditions under which holiness can be more easily experienced, therefore our social entertainments should be made attractive, pure, and wholesome. Too often they are made up of a great deal of small talk, senseless play, and indigestible refreshments. People are permitted to gather in groups and as a result a general spirit of sociability is impracticable, and what was intended to be a social gathering becomes an unsocial affair.

Relative to the environment of the programmes used in connection with our social entertainments, mark the following:

1. Make the rooms in which the entertainment is to be held as cheerful as possible.
2. Insist on the committee in charge doing its work thoroughly. Having chosen a plan, no labor should be spared in carrying it out. Carelessly arranged sociables will dishearten any League.
3. Make each member of the League feel that he is a member of the Entertainment Committee. By no means permit any to wear a badge marked "Reception Committee."
4. Be punctual and use business-like thoroughness, but avoid stiffness in carrying out the plan for the evening.
5. Insist that each individual attending shall exercise a spirit of cordiality. In meeting strangers give them a hand-clasp that means a welcome. Do not shake hands like either an oyster or a giraffe. See to it that young people are not used as mural decorations. Look after the sad-hearted and shy folks. Make strangers feel at home. Permit no clanishness. A social entertainment of an Epworth League is not for cozy corners where cliques may selfishly assemble.
6. Common sense must be used regarding the kind of entertainment to be given. Books fruitful in suggestion relative to plans are published, but not all plans are appropriate to all places. Plan to make the programme both entertaining and instructive. Intelligent plans are necessary to holding the people, therefore avoid all things that savor of silliness. Remember, also, that it is not the work of the Epworth League to compete with the all too prevalent vaudeville, but it is its business, among other things, to answer the human hunger for amusement with wholesome, life-giving food.

The literary features of the programme should be placed with those possessing talent. It is not good sense to put everybody on a literary programme. It might help some people to be put on the programme, but it will assassinate the pleasure of an evening for many.

The entertainments for the year should be so arranged that there will be awakened an interest in all departments of church work, and in the philanthropic and reform movements of the day.

Let us make the social department of the Epworth League a great glad hand of the church, extended with a warm-hearted, intelligent and truly social clasp for the young who are seeking to satisfy the needs of their social natures. Let us make the social entertainments of the Epworth League such as will quicken not only the social but also the intellectual and spiritual life of the church.

## Seeking New Members

By REV. CHESTEEN SMITH, D.D.

**T**HE development of any organization depends upon its recruiting power. A cause, however noble in conception, that does not draw to itself adherents becomes an historic fossil rather than an historic movement. Plans of work become serviceable inasmuch as they can win workers to their support.

The phenomenal increase in the membership of the Epworth League during those first years of its life was a splendid credential to its efficiency as an organization. That it was winning the young people argued in favor of its adaptation to their religious needs. If it shall continue to hold that confidence in its ideals and methods which was aroused by its early successes, it must not lose its recruiting power. Intrinsic good needs the help of personal appeal. It is not enough that we announce to a man that his highest good will be found in enthroning Christ as Saviour; we must follow up the statement with earnest personal efforts to win him to Christ.

It is not sufficient that we merely let young people know that in the development of character, the enjoyment of social life and in equipment for service, their best can be found in the pursuit of the ideals of the Epworth League; we must make it our business to win them to a good which they do not appreciate. It is the missionary spirit which has made the truth of Christianity a vital force in winning men to righteousness. The ambassadors of the gospel of Christ have believed in the divinity of their Saviour. They have had confidence in the universal dominion of His kingdom. They have believed that His salvation is sufficient to meet the deepest needs of human nature. Believing this they have pressed the claim of Christ upon indifferent people, saying with the urgency of great conviction, "The Master is come and calleth for thee."

If the Epworth League continues to be a real Christian organization, it must possess the *seeking spirit of the Christ*. If it continues to be a growing organization, its members must interest themselves in recruiting the ranks from the great host of the indifferent.

It may be more to our taste to make the Epworth League an exclusive company of congenial young people, and keep it running as a society for spiritual and literary culture or as a social club, but we are not true to the highest purpose of the League unless a compassionate interest sends us forth to win others who need its help. God has given us a great truth, a splendid organization, and a large opportunity. It remains for us to follow the suggestion of Mr. Moody concerning the winning of people and GO AFTER THEM.

I need not deal with methods for seeking new members. To my mind the greatest need is to have deepened in the hearts of those upon whom God must depend as seekers, a conviction of the greatness and the urgency of the cause they represent. In inviting young people to espouse the principles of the Epworth League there is no place for an apologetic tone, for their highest good and most abiding joys are to be found in their acceptance.

Notwithstanding the progress we have made in improved methods and facilities for social life, it yet remains true that the one motive which above others will condition our success in winning new members will be the constraining love of Christ for the souls of humanity. If, like St. Francis, we may have such a vision of the cross as will fill our hearts with a Christlike love and make this the master passion of our lives, we will succeed.

"Over the mountains, and over the waves,  
Under the fountains, and under the caves,  
Through floods that are deepest,  
O'er rocks that are steepest,  
● Love will find out the way."

Added to this we need a conviction in the supreme worth of such a service. We may win young people to habits of study until accumulated knowledge entitles them to high rank in scholarship, but if that life has nothing more to its credit than a well-stored brain, our work is not great.

We may win young people to habits of industry and enable them to accumulate fortunes, but fortunes may be a curse as well as a blessing. We may awaken in them a love for art until they become masters, but our work will not be great unless they are something more than that eminent