

5. *Failure to advertise.*—Having what you consider a good programme, into which you have put a good measure of thought and careful preparation, make it known in an attractive way. The stale, stereotyped pulpit announcement is forgotten almost as soon as heard. Appeal to the eye as well as to the ear. Do not be afraid of printer's ink, for if you cannot afford to advertise, make up a mimeograph, a duplicator, a black board, a roller window-blind, straw paper and colored crayon, pen and ink postcard invitation,—a score of ways will appear to the alert, progressive leader. Awake inquiry in the mind of each part of your members, and do not disappoint them when they come.

6. *Too few taking part.*—And the same few over and over again, it may be. Break in new members continually, by giving them some small part in the meeting and encouraging them to gain confidence by practice. One or two "running" the meeting repeatedly will surely make it dull. In some way, every person whom you number as a part of your crowd, should contribute something occasionally to the meeting. This is not unreasonable, neither is it impracticable. It can be done, and if your League is not doing it, it ought to be. Every person has some talent, and, however small it be, his measure of ability should be employed for the good of the society.

7. *Failure to work.*—After all, no good meeting comes either by chance or easily. And the secret of success is intelligence and purposeful, sustained work. If this purposeful work you need not look for permanent good results.

Now for a concrete example. The meeting I am about to describe was held in regular course in Brantford, Wesley Church League, under the guidance of Mr. Horne Carter. Hearing just incidentally about it, I wrote for a simple statement of facts concerning it. I quote from Mr. Carter's reply, which was not written for publication, but for my information as your General Secretary and Editor. The meeting was the monthly consecration meeting, and the regular topic on the life of Moses was dealt with.

First, Mr. Carter decided on the Round Table method of conducting the meeting. Then he sent to a number of prominent persons, asking for two or three suggestive questions on the subject of the evening. From these he selected thirty-five and had them printed on a sheet in "dodger" form. I have scored out the names, for I do not want you all to beseege these same men; but, with that exception, the following is the finished list as presented and discussed. Read it, and you will find plenty to think about, and unless you think, and get about to think, and think hard, too, your meeting may be very "nice," but I doubt its practical or permanent usefulness.

#### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

##### Life Lessons from the Life of Moses.

1. What elements of character attributed to Moses in Hebrews 11:23-29 are required from our young people to-day if they are to truly serve God?

2. Name some acts of Moses that show he was really human even this great man was.

3. What quality in Moses did you most admire and why?

4. Why should Moses spend two apprenticeships of 40 years each, before entering on his life's work?

5. What do we learn from the fact of Moses dying in the mount in one country and meeting Jesus in the mount in another country?

6. What is Moses' place in history? Explain advantages helping to qualify him for his great work.

8. Compare Moses and Pharaoh as success in life.

9. What was the turning point in the career of Moses?

10. You have often heard the expression: "As meek as Moses." Was Moses always meek?

12. What strong points in Moses' character in his life were due to his mother's training and what to his Egyptian culture and scholarship?

13. What proof do we have from the life of Moses and that of other great leaders that a period of quiet retirement usually precedes their greatest achievement?

14. Have the life and writings of Moses affected any other religion than the Christian religion?

15. One of our great modern poets has made beautiful use of the incident of the Burning Bush. Who in that poem?

16. What is the quotation?

17. How did Moses make the great choice by refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter?

18. How was he able the right way to give effect to that choice when he killed the Egyptian?

19. Which do you consider most important, the right purpose in life or the right way to carry out that purpose?

20. What is the result of taking a wrong way to effect a right purpose?

21. What is the meaning of "Moses"? How was he constantly being placed in circumstances which would draw out the highest possibilities of his being?

22. Among what class of leaders does Moses first take rank?

23. How did his qualifications lead him for such a place and service?

24. Produce the evidence from the life of Moses that he was a supreme test of patriotism.

25. In what way does the work of Moses typify the work of the leader in Christian service?

26. Did Moses sin when he killed the Egyptian? Give reasons.

27. How was he permitted to enter the promised land along with Joshua?

28. In what respect was Moses like modern missionaries?

29. Did it pay Moses to hide from God, and if so, how did he pay anyone else to do so?

30. Did God expect Moses to go in his own strength? What is the lesson for us?

31. What lesson of modesty and humility although nearly 40 years in the schools and 40 years in Midian?

32. Moses did not repine at severe punishment for a single slip, what is the lesson?

33. What is the place of Moses in the New Testament dispensation?

Having these question sheets ready, Mr. Carter's first step was to get them widely circulated and studied. This was not done promiscuously or without plan. An envelope was procured, and on the outside it was neatly written with the aid of a mimeograph or typewriter, the advertisement: *"Food, Guaranteed to do you Good if Taken According to Enclosed Directions."* In his envelope the printed Round Table questions were sent, together with the following little sentences, each one written with the mimeograph on a small slip of paper:

Please bring these questions to League with you on Monday evening, March 6th. Study and try to find answers to these questions during the week.

Take for your daily Bible readings this week all about the life and works of Moses.

We are going to discuss all these great questions, and we assure you they will interest and help you.

Please accept this invitation; you will profit by it.

You will help us as well as help yourself by coming, so don't fail to come.

Remember, anything keep you away from this meeting.

You will not be surprised, therefore, when Mr. Carter says in his letter, "I did not spare any trouble in letting everyone know about the meeting, and I attribute much of its success to the advertising and the fact that everyone was talking about it beforehand."

In addition to this, I find that the leader took advantage of a concert held by the League on the evening of the Tuesday evening preceding the meeting, and by the following unique plan he called everybody's attention to Moses and the meeting in a striking way. He says, "I made a number of long streamers with letters" as on about Moses. These I had placed in a row in the room where the meeting was held."

The sample streamer sent me is nine feet long and four inches wide. It contains this sentence, neatly printed by hand in light and dark blue ink, "His foot on the steps of the Throne when God

called him through his people's woes." The other streamers contained those that follow:—

"Moses—A Type of Renunciation."

"Moses had the brightest worldly prospects of any man of his time."

"Pharaoh's pet, and heir to the greatest kingdom of the world."

"Learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds."

"His great renunciation—typical of the Christian's choice."

"His true patriotism—'Blood thicker than water.'"

"His patriotism triumphed over pride."

"He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;—esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."—Ileb. xi. 24-6.

"Mark the Contrast—'Treasures of Egypt'—'reproach of Christ.'"

"Mark the Contrast—'The broad way'—'the narrow way.'"

"Mark the Contrast—'Self and the world'—'Christ and the world to come.'"

"Moses' Career Typical of the Christian's course."

"A death to die for Jesus sake, a weary war to wage with sin."

"A true patriot, sinking self."

"Witness his meekness and self-effacement, toiling and suffering for the people—God's people."

"As a man of prayer, of fellowship, saw God face to face."

When the night of meeting came, of course there was a large attendance, larger than usual. But, mark, the people knew what they were coming to, and that for, and though they did not know altogether how, they were sure of something good. And they got it. Mr. Carter writes:

"I had been thinking for some time previous to the meeting of some plan to adopt in order to make the meeting more than talking before commencing the Round Table Conference; and this is the scheme I thought of. I had given out slips of paper to stand just after they had sung a hymn sitting down. Of course, they did not know what was coming, and I said, 'Now I want everyone to shake hands with at least ten persons before they can sit down. It worked fine for the first time, in getting up, and when they were on their feet they could not right down again. It came as a surprise to them, and everyone immediately started to talk, shake hands and laugh over it. Our pastor, Rev. J. J. Liddy, stood up at the front and just laughed to see how well it worked upon everyone. I had given out slips of paper before the meeting to about twelve of the League, requesting them to offer up sentence prayers, each one for some quality in Moses; for example, one was to pray for more faith such as Moses had, another for more zeal and earnestness like Moses had, and so on. . . . Then came the Round Table Conference, and which took right hold of, and the discussion was enjoyed by all present; the only thing that was wrong, was that we had enough time. The questions were all so good we could easily have spent four or five hours discussing them. I asked them if they wished to stop, when one young man immediately called out: 'No, five, please, and then keep at it for another twenty minutes. After this we had the roll call, and I asked them to tell of something that had made an impression while studying the Life of Moses. To tell you the honest fact, I don't believe we ever had such a large attendance in our League. After the roll call we gave anyone whose name was not on the roll a chance to speak, and within a number spoke. They did not hesitate, but followed one right after another, sometimes two on their feet at once. I believe it did everyone good. We closed the meeting by singing 'Forward, Epworth Leaguers,' a song of which I enclose to you."

Further description is needless, and extended comment is unnecessary. If leaders will really lead, there need be no profitless meetings and few, if any, failures. Success is the result of this throughout, and some enthusiastic emulation of Mr. Carter's example, will do much to secure bright, attractive and fruitful meetings. Try it, and let me hear from you for the benefit of many others.