

Christian character, the Christian Endeavor was of paramount importance. The consecration meeting is the pulse of the League, and indicates the amount of spiritual vitality that circulates throughout the organization. The consecration meeting should be more than an ordinary prayer or testimony meeting. It should be one of holy aspiration, partaking of the spirit and purpose of Paul when he said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. The apostle's experience was one of growth, and so is that of a true Leaguer. The consecration meetings should be milestones, marking our steady progress to a higher and richer experience of the perfect love of God.

Miss Sargent then gave many valuable suggestions as to the manner of making the best use of these meetings. An interesting discussion followed upon the subject of a consecrated life and the ability of Leaguers to live every day up to their League pledge.

THE SACREDNESS OF OUR PLEDGE

was the title of a strong paper by Dr. A. D. Watson. He said that all great moral movements have been furthered by pledges and covenants, and are the bonds which unite earnest souls in strenuous action. The ancient Hebrews piled their rough stone altars on the uplands of Canaan in honor of the covenant of Jehovah with their father Abraham, and the Covenanters of Scotland pledged themselves to defend the simple ritual and sublime faith of the fathers by signing the scroll known to fame as The Solemn League and Covenant.

What has made the Epworth Leagues and Christian Endeavor Societies the power they are if it is not the pledges which bind into one vast brotherhood the hearts of young Christendom? People of no account never take pledges, and they never keep them. It is only heroic men and women who take solemn covenants, and fight to the death for them. That so many have taken our pledge is assurance that we have plenty of young people to do the work of God.

What is our pledge but a solemn and sacred covenant to be true till death to that cause which nailed our Master to the cross? If the ancient warriors, united under their covenants and leagued against a common foe, became an unconquerable, irresistible host, why is not a similar course open to us? When we take the pledge with a zeal like that of the martyrs, and are ready to shed our blood in the cause of Christ's kingdom, the sacrifice which we offer will call down the fire of God. Such a pledge must be as simple as a battle cry, and yet so comprehensive as to have a universal significance.

No pledge will ever make any large number of people enthusiastic unless it lines its hosts to win for men and women the right to live upon the earth in better, juster, more brotherly, more loving relations. Let us keep our pledge, not for our private salvation, but because the hope of the race is involved in it. Let us keep it feeling that we shall be judged by the things written in that pledge. Under this pledge we are bound to use all our powers for the furtherance of God's kingdom by showing to the best of our ability what that kingdom consists in, and by storming with all vigor the strongholds of selfishness. The Church of the past has expended its energies for the salvation of individuals; in the coming century this work must be done with a thousand fold more energy than heretofore. In the past we have had only one Christian among many who has made this work the serious business of his life; but in the coming time every Christian will be a fisher of men.

MISSIONARY WORK.

The whole of Wednesday afternoon was given to the consideration of League mis-

sionary work. Reports were received from the various districts, and special prayer was offered for missionaries on the field. Rev. S. L. Harton spoke on

"RELATION OF LEAGUERS AND STUDENTS TO ALL MISSIONARY WORK."

He said that the word "relation," as here used, is a general term implying interest, sympathy and work. In the general sense, the relation of every true Christian man and woman to all missionary work is to do all in his or her power for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ on earth. And the relation of Leaguers and students to all missionary work is not different from that of all other Christians, except as the peculiar position of each opens up any particular line of work. Both Leaguers and students should stand in such relation to all missionary work, that, to say the least, they should strive to obtain as wide a knowledge of it as possible—its history and its present condition; as a knowledge of the whole field of operations stimulates one for work in any part.

RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

Rev. A. T. Ingram, of Minesing, read a very suggestive and helpful paper. "The Responsibility of Officers and Members in Perpetuating the Forward Movement." The following is an extract from this paper:

The importance of a proper realization of the responsibility of officers and committee members in perpetuating this great movement cannot be overestimated. A matter of highest moment is brought before the Nominating Committee when the choice of officers for the ensuing year has to be made. Just as Paul and Barnabas, after earnest prayer, were set apart for their life work, so would it be fitting that earnest prayer for guidance should precede the appointment of our officers. As the members of our General Conference choose the officers for the next convocation, they choose the men who will lead the congregational enterprises and institutions, and also the General Superintendent of our church, because of their recognized ability and manifest fitness for their various positions, so ought it to be in our League work. Just as much care should be exercised in selecting our missionary vice-presidents for Leagues, districts or conferences, as in selecting a missionary for the foreign field. Not so much those whom the people would delight to honor, but those consecrated workers, with aptitude, natural and acquired qualification, should be selected, who may best discharge the numerous and important duties pertaining to their departments.

The work of the individual missionary committee member is, of course, on the "pray, study, give" plan. "True prayer for missions makes the one who prays a true missionary." He should be able to speak and pray intelligently about missionary matters. He can do this, and depend upon the help of the Holy Spirit in it only in so far as he studies the Word of God, the great need of Christless nations, and the best methods of reaching and helping them. It is absolutely impossible to conceive of this knowledge being possessed by Leaguers who do not take the *Missionary Outlook* and *EPWORTH ERA*. These excellent monthlies are invaluable to every up-to-date, live worker. One must possess information in order to impart that information to others. The blind cannot lead the blind. This work involves much work on the part of each member. He must give first, self; second, time; third, money (if he has it). His work should be so thoroughly done, that not only will the League be benefited thereby but he himself fitted for greater usefulness.

Each Missionary Committee should meet, at least, once a month. At the first meeting of the year the missionary program should be planned for three months in advance, the subjects being properly divided, and those who are expected to take part notified of plans. At each of the following monthly

missionary meetings another monthly meeting should be arranged and announced, thus keeping the programme three months in preparation. Further, each member of the committee should report what he has done. If absent, the report should be written and sent in. A determined effort to be present, if at all possible, should be made by each member. The missionary work of the League cannot be carried on without the committee meetings. Careful minutes of these monthly meetings should be preserved and a report made out at least quarterly, one copy of which should be filed with the secretary of the society, another sent by the missionary vice-president to the District missionary vice-president, and a third copy sent to Dr. Stephenson. The importance of these regular reports cannot be overestimated.

Some Leagues collect weekly their systematic givings, some monthly, while others leave it until the end of the year and are compelled to make a special effort. The Missionary Society is thus compelled to advance the salary of the District's representative, instead of the Leagues or District promptly and regularly forwarding to the Mission Rooms their full returns. This is often gross negligence, and is manifestly unfair to the parent Society. The Society has greatly indulged and encouraged us in our enterprises. We ought to remember the fact more than we do. We ought to be paid to this matter of faithfully raising our assessments and promptly remitting through the proper channels to the Mission Rooms.

Miss Nellie Boynes read a suggestive paper on the

BEST METHODS OF EDUCATING

members in regard to missions. The following are some of the points made:

- (1) The student must have a desire to learn, and a keen appetite for knowledge.
- (2) Information must be afforded to the student.
- (3) Practical work should be the outcome. Nothing will create more genuine enthusiasm than by having the members do some useful work. Some who are gifted with the crayon may make maps and charts for use in missionary meetings.
- (4) A certain portion of our income should be set aside for the support of the work we cannot personally do.
- (5) Instructive meetings should be held once a month, and missionary literature should be widely circulated.

REV. DR. SUTHERLAND

spoke on the Forward Movement for Missions, which, he said, had by the Spirit of the Lord, providentially been organized at a time when the Church was confronted with the question, What shall we do with our thousands of leaguers, with their energy, consecration, and latent power?

The answer came from the young people, who recognized that as Young People's Societies they could not fulfil the purpose for which they existed, unless, as societies and members, they brought others into the Kingdom of God, beginning at Jerusalem and going into all the world.

The Church, through the General Board of Missions, has stood behind this great missionary effort of our young people, which is not a separate organization, but of the Church and is the Church, endeavoring by practical sympathy with its every missionary enterprise to help it to extend and develop its work, the responsibility of which, before many years have passed, will fall upon the Epworth Leaguers of to-day. The strength of the movement and its growth depended upon the consecration of those who pledged themselves to extend God's Kingdom by prayer and sacrifice. One of the greatest needs in the past had been lack of missionary information, the fuel by which missionary fires were kept bright.