

## Practical Plans.

**Reading Room.**—Brant Ave. Church, Brantford, has a first-class free reading room, open every night in the week from seven to ten. It is supplied with the leading dailies, weeklies, magazines, etc., in addition to a small library, writing desk, paper, envelopes, etc. Since opening, the average attendance has been between twenty-five and thirty, mostly young men.

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**A Two-Cent Stamp.**—A novel method of reminding the Endeavorers that have adopted the two-cents-a-week plan of giving to foreign missions has been adopted in the society of the Phillips Congregational Church, of South Boston. Each Endeavorer is given a small box for the collection of his money, and upon the lid of the box is pasted a two-cent stamp.

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**Brevity.**—The prayers in the prayer-meeting should be brief. It is better far, to have five prayers of three minutes' length each than one of fifteen. The one of fifteen is almost certain to set a number to sleep and to throw a coldness over all. The five of three minutes each are just as certain to keep everybody aroused and to increase their fervor—provided, of course, they be earnest and sincere. The more individuals that can be induced to take part in the meeting the greater will be the interest and attractiveness.

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**The Prayer-Meeting.**—There ought always to be distinct topics before the meeting. These topics carefully stated and insisted upon by the leader will give point, freshness, directness, energy to the prayers. General petitions are dull precisely in proportion to their vagueness and impersonality. Specific and personal petitions become from the nature of the case more intense, pithy, and penetrated with life and power. The prophet Elisha's prayer was for the dead boy of the bereaved mother. How personal it was, how burning, how passionate and persistent. So, too, Jesus prayed for the dead daughter of Jairus. So again He summoned Lazarus by name from the grave. His sheep, He says, are known to Him by name. There was an individuality about all His work; there should be the same in ours.—*Christian Work.*

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**The Consecration Meeting.**—Don't have two successive consecration meetings alike. Always have prayer at the opening. Banish all business except the earnest and loving reception of new members. Have songs few and fitting. Discourage—and forbid, if it must come to that—all the various ingenious makeshifts whereby the weak members of the society seek to fulfil the letter without fulfilling the spirit of the pledge. Make it known that the rule regarding three consecutive absences from consecration meetings will be enforced strictly, and

then—strictly enforce it. Urge absent members to send earnest testimonies, and not always in the form of Scripture quotations. Suggest that these messages be sent occasionally (not always, of course) to the more backward members, with the request that they read them to the society. In short, a good consecration meeting, like everything else that is good, does not come for the mere asking, but only as the result of definite working and praying. When it comes, however, it is a golden blessing, well worth, many times over, all the effort and painstaking you have put upon it.—*Christian Endeavor.*

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**Tourist Social.**—The refreshments are put up in small paste-board boxes in the form of a trunk or valise, to each of which is attached a check. Every person, upon entering, is provided with one of these checks. The programme consists of addresses or talks on some tour that has been made during the previous summer. At a social of this kind held in Chatham, Ont., there were three such speeches, one descriptive of a "Bicycle tour," another on a "Geological tour," and a third concerning a "Fishing tour." Such a programme can be made very instructive as well as interesting. This social has also been successfully tried in London and St. Thomas.

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**Faithfulness to Pledge.**—The most important duties of the Lookout Committee are: First, to be faithful to the pledge themselves so that they may be in a better position to encourage and strengthen others in doing what Jesus would have them do. See that the old members do not get careless and that the new members take part in the meetings. Be sure and let those who are timid see that the attempt which they have made has been appreciated. Visit the sick. Labor with and pray for the associate members that they may accept the Saviour's love and forgiveness and thereby come into active membership with all its privileges and duties. Have committee meetings often and let the chairman see that every member is doing something for Christ and the Church. Never overlook strangers.—*The Inland.*

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**The Corresponding Secretary.**—It would be a good plan for the Corresponding Secretary to be solemnly pledged in presence of the society to faithfully answer all communications, of an official character at least. It is a perennial complaint with District, Conference, and general officers that about 60 per cent. of local corresponding secretaries utterly neglect to answer letters of the greatest importance. Here are some of the more important duties of the corresponding secretary: 1. To answer promptly all communications, particularly those coming from League officers. 2. If time is necessary to obtain information, send a postal card at once, stating that the letter has been received, and will have attention as soon as possible. 3. When the annual election of officers takes place the list of new officers should be written out, with post office addresses, and mailed to the District League Secretary, and also to the General Secretary, Room 9,

Wesley Buildings. *Please do not neglect this.* 4. Send written announcement of League meeting each week to the pastor for use in the pulpit. 5. See that an account of all public League meetings is forwarded to the local paper for publication. 6. Let the editor of this paper be kept informed of any practical work that the League is doing.

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**The Social Committee.**—Dr. McGill, in the *Christian Union Herald*, makes the following excellent suggestions:

"The chairman of the new Social Committee was a bashful young fellow, who felt greatly embarrassed when notified that he had been chosen to fill such a position. His first impulse was to resign, or to refuse to serve; but he was just a little bit too conscientious for such a course. Then he had listened to a sermon, on the subject of personal responsibility; and the influence of that was still upon him. He made up his mind that it was his duty to be the leader of his committee in the use of such means as might suggest themselves to promote the social interests of the society. He also accepted of the fact that responsibility for suggesting a plan of work was laid upon him.

"He went to the secretary of the society and secured a copy of the complete roll of the society. There were just eighty names. These he divided into five equal parts, preparing a list of sixteen names for each member of the committee. Then he saw each member of his committee, and called a meeting at a time when each member could be present.

"We can not, as a committee, ask our young people to be specially friendly with each other, unless we set them the example by showing ourselves especially friendly to all of them.

"Then he asked each member of the committee to read aloud his list of sixteen names, and to indicate the number of those in whose homes he had called during the last year. The result was somewhat surprising. Members of that committee began to realize that a sphere of usefulness was opening up for them. Then the chairman continued, 'I am going to ask each one to call upon each individual in your list, whose name is not marked as having been already called upon, within the next week. I shall do the same with my list. Let us make our calls social and friendly, and let us use the opportunity to talk up the interest of our society. Then let us meet together one week from to-night, to compare notes. After we have done that we will exchange lists, and proceed in the same manner for the next week, and so on, for five weeks, or until every member of our society has been called upon by every member of the Social Committee.'

"The above is not a recital of all that the new Social Committee did; but it does indicate how, under the leadership of an efficient chairman, it entered upon its work. It does not require a prophet or the son of a prophet to tell of the splendid results in the society and congregation. And now, what is there to hinder any Social Committee from doing a similar work? What are you doing for your committee, Mr. (or Miss) Chairman?"