

Practical Plans.

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAMMES.

BY REV. C. W. WATCH.

Consecration Evening, December 2nd.

Topic—"Spending time and taking pains for Christ." Matt. 25: 1-13. (15)

English Bible Studies, the Psalms—

The praise and prayer book of the Bible. Lessons in the Psalms—(a) Praise, (b) Prayer, (c) Prophecy, (d) Patriotism, (e) Authorship. (30)

Roll Call—Answer the question, "Am I better for the Evangelistic movement?" (10)

Music by 1st Vice-President.

Missionary Evening, December 9th.

Topic—"How to listen." Matt. 13: 1-23. (10)

Report of Forward M.W. from August 15th to November 15th. (8)

Letters from our missionary in the field. (7)

English Bible Studies—

The poetical books other than the Psalms—(a) Names of books, (b) Authorship and dates, (c) The great songs of Israel, (d) The history and prophecy in the poetry. (25)

Music by the Music Committee.

Literary Evening, December 16th.

Topic—"Confessing Christ." Matt. 10: 32-39. (12)

English Bible Studies—

The prophetic books—(a) Names and dates, (b) Their place in the history of the nation, (c) Authorship and countries, (d) General influence and scope of the prophet. (30)

Question drawer on the study. (8)

Music by the Music Committee.

Business meeting sharp at 9 o'clock.

Social Evening, December 23rd.

Topic—"The Glory of Christ." John 1: 1-14. (15)

Question Drawer—Arranged much the same as on October 28th. Write eight copies of each question and distribute among the members. The chairman will read the questions. Keep sharp to the point and time.

(a) How can I be merry at Christmas time and yet Christlike?

(b) How can I make everyone happy about me?

(c) Will you tell some Christmas experience or story?

If you have any needy in the neighborhood, or can send away any articles of food or clothing to other more needy places follow the plan arranged for on Thanksgiving day.

Music by the Social Committee.

Watch-night Service, December 30th.

Topic—"The old and the new way." "Your purposes. Luke 5: 36-39; Matt. 13: 51, 52.

Meeting to be conducted by the pastor.

[Those who are responsible for arranging league programmes will be thankful to Mr. Watch for these exceedingly valuable hints, and will be glad to know that they are to be continued. Programmes for the first three months of the new year will be published in our next number. League officers will do well to avail themselves of these suggestions, even if their plan of meetings has already been arranged. It always pays to introduce a little variety into the services.—Ed.]

Old Folks' Day.—A number of societies have arranged for a special Old Folks' Sunday. Carriages are provided for aged people who cannot walk, and every possible effort is made to secure a large attendance of those who do not usually have the privilege of the church services. Of course the hymns, sermon, etc., are made appropriate. It is difficult to say whether the young folks or the old enjoy it most.

Good Literature Day.—Sunday, October 28th, was set apart by the League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as Good Literature Day, when a very special effort was made to increase the circulation of the Reading Course, and the Church papers. It is a splendid idea to thus publicly call attention to the importance of good reading for young Christians. We trust that this feature will be adopted for our Leagues in this country next year. In the meantime let every opportunity be improved to emphasize the claims of our excellent literature.

Evening With Old Friends.—The Walkerton Epworth League spent a pleasant time on the evening of October the 12th, renewing the acquaintance (by letter) of those who have at various times held the presidency of the League and who have since removed to distant parts. These letters recalled pleasant reminiscences of the past and contained encouragement for the League in future. The programme which was interspersed with music was both profitable and interesting.

Letter Social.—The E. L. of C. E., of Dominion Square Methodist Church, Montreal, recently held another of the unique social evenings for which this church is noted. Every person present received a letter, enclosed in an envelope which was addressed to a particular person. The directions were that the letter was "to be opened only by —." The letters were delivered promiscuously, and if those present did not receive their own letter, they simply passed it on to some one else, each person writing his name opposite the words "not for me." At last the massive reached its rightful owner. Mr. P. H. Davidson, 419 St. James Street, Montreal, will be pleased to give further information to any one who will write to him, enclosing postage for reply.

Some Dont's.—1. When sentence prayers are called for, don't wait, but take part at once, and don't pray but a single sentence. 2. Always stand when reading or speaking. 3. Don't always do the same thing in meeting; vary your part. 4. Pray for the meeting before you leave

home. 5. Don't wait to take part until it is so late you have no opportunity. Be among the first. Wait for no one. 6. Do not allow any pauses in the meeting, if you can do something to avoid them. Remember, you can take part more than once in the same meeting. "Be ye ready also." 7. Don't forget to look at the topic until the last thing before you go to the meeting; keep it in mind all the week. 8. You are responsible for the success of the meeting. If it drags, it may be your fault. Examine yourself. "Watch and pray."

Absent Members.—Members of the League who are absent from the meetings through sickness or on account of distance should send a message to the consecration meeting. This requires little effort, only a little thoughtfulness, and it tends to cheer those who attend the services, and to keep the absent one faithful to his Christian duties.

Sentence Prayers.—The Epworth Herald has a word to say in regard to sentence prayers: "Sentence prayers have become very popular in young people's meetings. They sometimes serve a useful purpose. Timid Christians can be induced to pray in just a sentence or two who would not do so if they were expected to pray longer. The sentence prayer and the sentence testimony also enable a larger number to participate in the meeting. But there is danger of overdoing it. It should be the exception rather than the rule."

Meeting a Crisis.—There comes often a time in a revival when the work seems to be done—and yet, there are many unsaved, whom such a service should reach. At such a juncture in Mitchell, last March, we set aside one whole day (a Tuesday), arranged for thirteen 9 o'clock prayer-services in the homes of our people, urged attendance upon them and earnest prayer to God for victory. The afternoon we also spent in consecration. Some of the stores were closed. Business men and clerks with many others attended. The large auditorium was two-thirds filled and Bro. Baker, of Stratford, spoke very tenderly upon personal consecration to God. This was followed by an altar service, from which our people went out to work among the unconverted. That evening our church was packed and when decisions for Christ were asked the large altar railing was twice filled with penitents and wonderful conversions followed. So God honors revival when mixed with sacrifice.

REV. R. WHITING.

Mitchell.

Meeting Without a Chairman.—The Editor of this paper had the privilege of participating in a large and enthusiastic mass meeting in Cincinnati, recently, which was somewhat unique, on account of having no chairman. The programme was printed, and in the hands of the audience. Each speaker was introduced in a few appropriate words by a prominent League worker who had been selected for the purpose. There were no delays, and everything went like clock-work, so that nobody missed the chairman. The arrangement had the merit of novelty at any rate.