

The Home Study Quarterly

Training for Older Boys and Girls

The Board of S.S. and Y.P.S. has issued a programme which provides for the all round development of the older boys and girls in our Sunday Schools. It is said of the finest example of manhood the world has ever known, that he "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Never was the world in greater need of strong, aggressive men and women. Many young men who were just beginning to take a deep interest in the development of this young country, will not come back from Europe. Their places must be filled by the boys who are now under military age. And, during the past three years, much work has been done by girls that was formerly done by the boys who are now defending the empire. The state, through its educational system, provides, in part, for the training of these boys and girls. The church has undertaken to provide the remainder of that training.

The first step, in working out the programme, is to organize the class, by the appointment of officers, committees, etc. Where there is more than one class of older boys or girls, these may be grouped into a Department. The officers are chosen from the class, and thus a training is given in conducting a meeting. The teacher or mentor supervises the proceedings and teaches the lesson. But all the training cannot be given on Sunday. A midweek meeting is absolutely essential. The programme provides for these two meetings each week. On Sunday, and also for a short period at each midweek meeting, a scripture passage is studied and the devotional life is cultivated. The supreme object of the programme is, that every boy and girl may early be led to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

After the Bible study period on the week night, fifteen or twenty minutes are spent in the consideration of some life topic, such as Good Citizenship, Education, Art, Training for Service, etc. The rest of the evening,—say thirty minutes—is spent in some activity or test, such as group games, debates, music test, ability to entertain test, etc.

It will thus be seen that the boys and girls who carry out this programme will get an all-round training. For true education means

the development of every side of one's being—physical, intellectual, social and spiritual.

There is no limit to the real enjoyment that such meetings provide. The class or Department is made up of companions who delight in each other's company. They meet under the best auspices, and are supervised by a Christian man or woman who is deeply interested in their welfare. In some places the midweek meeting begins with a simple meal,—a bean supper or the like. Some ladies in the congregation will be found ready to lend a helping hand.

But "the proof of the pudding is the eating of it." Send to the PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS for a sample Topic Card. Bring it before your class next Sunday. Arrange your programme and carry it out. Next spring you will say you have had more pleasure and profit out of your Sunday School than ever before.

Toronto



Mind, Morals and Muscle

By Rev. W. A. Dobson, B.D.

The Tri-Mu Boys Club of Zion Church, Carleton Place, Ont., was organized with about 12 young men and boys from 14 to 20 years of age, in April, 1917, immediately after some of them had received a vision of Boys' work at the Boys' Work Conference in Perth about that time. A contest brought the membership up to 25 in the fall of 1917. Since then, the club has been alert and all the members take a keen interest in the work.

The club is directly under the supervision of the Sabbath School, and in its organization is dependent upon it. The members of the club are all enrolled in one or other of the classes in the senior department of the School, and the club has furnished the assistant secretaries for the entire School.

Besides the Sunday meetings, the fellows meet on Monday evenings in their class room, and on Thursday evenings for an hour's practice at the skating rink. At the Monday meetings, class problems are discussed and acted upon, and a good time enjoyed.

The Tri-Mu's, last year, followed the Older Boys' Topic Card, 1917-1918, for the midweek meetings, taking up grade 3 of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests, prepared