

Epworth League Training for Christian Leadership

MRS. F. W. TRILL, GRENFELL, SASK.

EVERY department of life calls for specially trained leaders. In the business world those who can see ahead and show others how to reach the desired goal are the men who are receiving the highest salaries. They do the thinking and planning, while others carry out the plans they have conceived. It is almost impossible to open a magazine without seeing a picture of a well-dressed man sitting at a desk giving orders to another who stands beside him in working clothes, and the words "Which would you rather be?"

The same thought applies to the different branches of Christian work. We have awakened from the dream that any Christian man or woman can do effective Christian work, and are beginning to see that for each branch specially trained leaders are needed. We must specialize to a certain extent in church work, as men do in other lines. If we would carry on our various activities successfully.

Two questions arise: first, What are the qualifications a Christian leader must possess? and second, How are we as Epworth Leaguers helping to develop these qualities in those among whom we live and labor? In "The King's Business" we are given excellent advice: "It goes without saying that the paramount necessity for leadership in Christian work is an abiding fellowship with Christ that expresses itself in strong, sane Christian living. But so keenly have we felt the importance of the *spiritual qualification* that sometimes we have made it the *only* one. We are coming now to recognize the limitations which this has involved, and to bewail the lack of leaders adequate to our tasks." The book goes on to say that each W.M.S. officer should know exactly what her work is to be, and should be so trained that she will know how to go about it in the most effectual manner. This is equally true of the Epworth League. "We sometimes suffer from the long-continued office-holding of the faithful few; but we suffer more from the lack of trained specialists who, with singleness of purpose, give themselves to one department of work, bringing to it all the study and experience that enrich their own lives until they build it up into enduring excellence. To do one thing and do it with undimmed ardor, increasing skill, and always tangible results—how much more worth while is this than to fritter one's self away on twenty widely varying and frequently changing efforts!"

Our Epworth Leagues should aim at preparing young men and women to be thoroughly efficient Christian workers. A model League is one in which every member is at work, and each one working in the way that appeals most to the individual taste. There are the four departments—Christian Endeavor, Missionary, Literary and Social, and Citizenship—affording some sphere of study and service to appeal to every taste.

We should begin League training with the children in the Junior League. The young president, elected by the Juniors, who thus get their first experience in choosing an officer suited to the work, consults with the Executive Committee, and tries, under the guidance of the superintendent, to conduct the business of the League with dignity and for the best interests of the other girls and boys. The committees plan their programmes always under the wise supervision of a mature leader, become interested in the different branches of the work, and by the time they are promoted to the older section of

the League should be fully ready to bear their share of its larger responsibilities.

The Executive Committee of the adult League should see to it that every member is employed in some work suitable to both his taste and ability. By giving younger members some small part in the programme, such as reading the Scripture lesson, finding the answer to questions previously given to them, or telling some item of news about some special mission field, they will lose their shyness and the feeling of inability to speak in public, and will gradually discover what line of work they are best fitted to take up.

Conveners of committees have a special training in leadership, if they prosecute their duties seriously, for it is their duty to find out the special talent of each member of their committees, and to use all the powers at their command to get all engaged in active Christian work.

The members of the Look-out Committee must learn to forget their stiffness, and be cordial with strangers, making them feel that they are wanted in the League; the Missionary Committee should feel deeply its responsibility in enlisting the young people in missionary activities, thus giving them a vision of what they may accomplish for Christ and humanity; the Literary and Social Committee has a worthy task in raising the tone of the mental and social life of all who come to the meetings; and the Citizenship Department surely has a most important duty in bringing the young people to a right sense of their responsibility as Christian citizens.

So we conclude that if a League is in proper working order it is training its members spiritually, mentally and socially for leadership in all the activities of the Kingdom of God. Herein is the League's chief value to the Church.

Disraeli's Alphabet of Etiquette

The following alphabet of etiquette is said to have been composed by Benjamin Disraeli:—

Avoid thou all evil, all rudeness, all haste,
Be gentle, be cheerful, be kindly, be chaste.
Consider the needs of the old and the weak,
Don't volunteer counsel, think twice ere you speak,
Ever think last of self, be not boastful or proud,
Fear scandal and gossip, let your talk be not loud.
Greet with equal politeness the high and the low,
Have a heart full of kindness, a soul pure as snow.
Injure none by a look, or a word or a tone;
Join not those that are evil, far better alone.
Keep promise and counsel, let your word be your bond.
Leave lying to slaves, of yourself be not fond.
Move gently; be modest in action and dress;
Never swear, never mock at another's distress.
Over-dressing avoid, but at fashion don't sneer,
Pay due tribute to usage, but bend not to fear.
Quit all that is harmful to self or to others,
Remember this world is a wide band of brothers!
Shun the fool and the ruffian; the fop and the boor,
Take pleasure in helping the weak and the poor.
Use good language or none, all coarseness avoid,
Vulgarity's sinful, or with sin alloyed.



WINTER SPORT AT THE SLIDES, HIGH PARK, TORONTO.
Amateur photograph. Negative by S. G. Bartlett.

Canada's Beauty Spots!

Fifty lantern slides of the choicest spots in our great country will be sent by parcel post to any address in Canada for \$7.00, or may be had at our office for \$6.50. These include different types, e.g., rivers, lakes, waterfalls, mountains, and present a splendid panorama of wondrous scenic beauty which only such a country as ours can possess. See Canada!

Wax ever in virtue, in grace and good will,
Xcelling in good and decreasing in ill.
Yonder sun be thy guidance in everything bright,
Zero marking thy standing in all that's not right.

Everything that happens to us leaves some trace behind; everything contributes imperceptibly to make us what we are.—Goethe.