

With the Juniors

Earnest Words From Secretary Baer.

"I never yet heard of a Junior society's being abandoned on account of the lack of interest on the part of the Juniors." That's what Mr. Shaw said the other day, when we were planning for a more aggressive campaign for the boys and girls.

The more I have thought over Mr. Shaw's statement, the more I believe it to be as true as it is terse. At any rate, I do not remember dropping a Junior society from my lists because the Juniors themselves wanted to be dropped. It's been because the superintendent "left town," or married, or was taken ill, or got tired or discouraged; or the pastor didn't approve of the society, or, if he did, he, being busy, didn't foster it, or parents objected, or the right superintendent couldn't be had, etc. I haven't time to name the hundred and one excuses that have been offered.

The life of our Junior societies is too dependent upon the moods and methods of our superintendents. I verily believe many of our Junior societies are relying wholly upon the tact and consecration of some *one* leader. Every society should have the *right kind* of a superintendent. The ideal superintendent is born, not made. However, there are not enough of the "ideal" superintendents to go around the rapidly increasing circle of Junior societies; but that fact should not prevent the organization of a thrifty Junior society, nor should it be the excuse given for abandoning a society already formed. Listen! We have been relying too much upon superintendents, and superintendents unable to secure hearty co-operation, have been relying upon themselves. Let's face the fact, and make changes whenever and wherever needed. Grant, you will remember, was a great general, and his generalship was more times commended when he gave subordinates and others a generous division of his planning and manœuvring. He knew how to work with others and to keep them busy, too. His organization was so complete that at any time and without advance notice, he could put the burden of a lively campaign upon his loyal associates. Let's adopt some of Grant's tactics in our Junior army.

To that end, I plead for a closer relationship between the Junior and the Young People's societies, so close a one that the older society shall appreciate its blessed privileges in fostering its Junior brothers and sisters, so close a one that superintendents shall realize that they have the substantial as well as sympathetic support of the Young People's society.

If the senior society is without a Junior society committee, it is not fully equipped for service. Be sure and put some of your best workers upon that committee. Superintendent, use the Junior committee from the senior society. Don't do everything yourself. Give the committee a chance to get fully acquainted with the Junior society by actual and practical experience. Stay away from the meeting occasionally, if necessary, to let your burdens fall upon the shoulders of others. Educate your own successor. You can't always be superintendent, much as you and the Juniors may desire it.

Then, give the Juniors more opportunity to "run themselves." Don't solve all the problems. Don't make all the prayers. Don't select all the Bible readings. Don't give out all the hymns. Don't try to run all the committees. Don't "sit down" on all their suggestions. Don't take all the time. Don't scold. Don't let the meetings drag. Don't hold them so long; be brief. Don't drive, but lead.

A Junior society is not a mission band; it is not a primary Sunday-school class. It's a *training-school*. The boys and girls are expected not only to be good, but good for *something*. Superintendents, give some one else a chance, but don't give up. Don't make it possible for it to be said that, because *you* did this or didn't do that, the Junior society had to be abandoned. Give others an opportunity to lift. Don't worry, but learn to unload your troubles upon others. Have the "open-door" policy. Invite help. Accept it when it is offered.

And lastly, let's have a regular revival of interest in organizing *new* Junior societies and reviving dead ones. I'll help you, if you will let me. How? By sending leaflets and other printed helps far and wide; by co-operating with any State superintendent and Junior worker. We now have in Canada and in the United States 31,182 Young People's societies, and only 13,613 Junior societies. Let's have a Junior society in every church at present with an older society. Let's make *that* our rallying-cry for the year 1899.

Junior Possibilities and Outlook.

By Charlotte E. Wiggins.

WE are so anxious for a harvest, that we want to sow to-day and reap to-morrow. Some flowers spring up in a few months, and blossom, but they perish as quickly. The rarer plants and flowers require culture and care for many months, in some cases years, before they give their fragrant blossoms—but then they live on perpetually blooming. The farmer sows his wheat in the fall,