

MISSIONARY RUTS—HOW TO GET OUT OF THEM.

(This spicy article appeared in the Monthly Bulletin of the North Mississippi Missionary Society and won the prize offered for the best paper on the above topic.)

"Ruts" is a disease which, though not confined to the Missionary Societies, often thrives among them. Of long duration, it sometimes takes months to run its course, always resulting fatally unless treated in time. The peculiar dangers of "Ruts" is that it runs the spiritual vitality so low as to leave the society the victim of various deadly diseases.

Cause—"Ruts," like pellagra, is caused by improper diet—same songs, same women on the program every time, nothing new, nothing spicy, nothing appetizing for mind or spirit. Result, "Ruts."

Symptoms.—The onset of the disease is insidious, manifesting itself in seemingly trivial things, such as the falling off in attendance, lack of interest on the part of the members, absence of officers from the meetings. The work of the Society becomes irksome even to the faithful few. The spiritual temperature of the patient is subnormal, a general condition of inertia is prevalent.

In the advanced stages of the disease, the symptoms are more marked. There is a total absence of the regular meeting of the officers of the society, a pronounced tendency to let the president do the work; the society fails to report to the district secretary; the attendance at the monthly meeting is barely discernible; there is an entire absence of mission and Bible study; members fail to pay their dues and pledges. Spiritual vitality runs so low that the auxiliary dies.

Treatment. — A reaction must be brought about immediately by an abso-

lute change in habits. This is one disease where the "rest cure" is fatal. The patient should lead a strenuous life. New, spicy, snappy programs, new songs, new prayers, different girls on the programs—everything new. Sometimes a change in an officer is necessary. This is always accompanied by severe discomfort for a time, but the patient recovers so rapidly that the end justifies the means. This reaction is best brought about by a thorough inoculation of the members with the Anti-"Ruts" serum called "Pep." "Pep" not only cures but is a sure preventive. Of course the officers take it first and keep a supply on hand to administer whenever needed.

It is the peculiar nature of "Pep" to render a society immune to "Ruts" because it builds up the general condition. The elements of which it is compounded must be in every successful auxiliary.

P-rayer. (That makes it possible for God to work.)

E-nergy. (That makes the member work.)

P-ersonality. (Consecrated so as to glorify God).

The formula for "Pep" is found by combining John XIV. 14, Romans XII. 11, and I Cor. VI. 20.

There is no danger of "Ruts" in any society that inoculates with "Pep." Let's have an Anti-"Ruts" campaign.—The Missionary Voice.

WHITBY MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The Eighteenth Annual Whitby Missionary Conference will be held in the Ontario Ladies' College, June 25th, to July 2nd. Every missionary organization in the Congregations should plan on having a representative present. Fuller information as to plans and programs will be given in a later issue.