

Letter Box

A district president writes: "I am glad to say that with a little personal help Leagues have been organized at two points on this district. I am sure that effective work will be done."

This is exactly what district League officers are for. They should not only seek to keep alive and efficient existing organizations, but also stimulate pastors and people to start new Leagues. Very often a little help from outside will encourage the local workers to go ahead. We hope to hear similar news from many other district presidents.

A very welcome letter came to our office a short time ago, containing a cheque for \$200, intended for the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. This was a bequest left by the late Mr. John A. Carman, of Iroquois, who in his will expressed a desire that the money might be used in helping Sunday-schools in the North-west, or in supplying lumber camps with religious literature. It happened that we needed money for this very purpose when this fine legacy arrived. Many new schools are now being organized in remote places by means of help afforded by the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. Those who desire to assist a good cause could not do better than contribute to this fund. Several subscriptions of smaller amounts have been received.

An encouraging letter has been received from Rev. R. M. Morton, our missionary among the lumber camps in the Sault Ste. Marie District. He says: "The work in the camps is very interesting. While definite conversions are few, the good that is done cannot be estimated by this. Early impressions are being kept alive, the habit of Christian worship is kept alive, and the men will be more likely to place themselves where they are reached by Christian organizations in the spring, than they would be if they were isolated from Christian services during the winter."

Our "Canadian number" seems to have pleased our readers, judging from the expressions of appreciation that have been received by the Editor. We have only space to quote one of these. Mr. H. C. Hocken, editor of The Sentinel, Toronto, who has been engaged in newspaper work for many years, writes: "I have your last number of The Canadian Epworth Era, and I cannot resist the temptation to congratulate you. In every respect I consider it an excellent number, bearing on every page evidence of a high order of journalism."

One lady subscriber shows her appreciation of the Canadian number, not only by words of praise, but by enclosing a two dollar bill, which she requests shall be used in sending sample copies to a few of the Leagues where our subscription at present is small, with the hope that new subscribers may be obtained. This is showing "faith by works" in a way that is most gratifying.

A district president writes that the executive is planning to campaign the district on behalf of the Forward Movement for Missions. We are glad to hear this, but would suggest that other features and departments of League work be included in the programme that has been outlined. When a deputation of two or three persons visit a League, each one should speak on a different phase of League work, so that nothing shall be overlooked.

Leaguelets

The Leagues whose members take the Epworth Era are the ones that show the greatest advance in all departments of the work. Intelligence is as necessary as enthusiasm.

"How to keep League meetings out of a rut" is a question that is often discussed at conventions. The best answer is to take a good young people's paper and find out what others are doing.

An occasional union meeting between the Junior and Senior Leagues is a good thing, but the methods of the two societies are necessarily so different that frequent meetings together are not desirable.

The Epworth League Reading Course is going splendidly, and the indications are that the entire edition of 15000 sets will be sold before long. If you want these splendid books, do not delay in ordering.

Quite a number of people persist in speaking of The Canadian Epworth Era as "a nice little paper." Please do not do this. Where is there a religious paper that contains more reading matter in any one issue than this?

Nothing will kill a League more quickly than carelessness in starting the meetings promptly. Some societies announce their services for eight o'clock, but it is frequently nearer half-past eight when the opening hymn is announced.

One of the best Leagues we know of reports: "We have only eleven active members and four associates." In some places there would be talk of disbanding if the numbers were as small as this. Please remember that the very finest kind of work can be done with only a dozen members. Quality counts more than quantity.

One prominent city church has recently given up the Epworth League and organized a mutual improvement society, with special emphasis on social and literary features. We believe they have made a big mistake. The League provides for all the social and intellectual exercises that any body of Christian young people ought to desire, and, in addition, is intended to be a working force. Such organizations as this particular church has started usually "die young."

In some Leagues the officers are kept busy every week looking up a speaker, from outside the congregation, to address the young people on the following Monday evening. Once in a while this is a good thing to do, but when it becomes the regular programme, the very object of the Epworth League is defeated, which is to develop the talent of its own members. Do not depend too much upon outside help, but use your own young people. You have more talent in your midst than you have any idea of.

Christian Endeavor Notes

The Church of England societies have now passed the 100 mark, and number 102.

The largest Christian Endeavor union in the world is that of London, with its 700 societies. Philadelphia, with 600 societies, stands second.

During the one month of October a committee of the Providence, R. I., Christian Endeavor Union visited 245 boats and met 700 sailors on the vessels in the harbor. This is a most fruitful work.

Rev. G. M. Phelps, minister of the Union United Free Church of Glasgow, Scotland, calls the Christian Endeavor paper "a paper-and-ink conscience," which he holds as a good reminder of religious duties.

Christian Endeavor conventions are becoming a blessed feature of the various mountain resorts in India, where the missionaries gather each year to escape the fiercest days of summer heat.

The Christian Endeavorers of Westerly, R. I., did much toward the no-license victory won in their town at the last election. They held a no-license rally, and followed it up with a union meeting for prayer. No-license won by eighty-one majority.

The great Welsh revival was preceded by fervent prayers for a revival among the Endeavorers throughout Wales, and the actual point of beginning was the testimony of an earnest girl in an Endeavor prayer meeting. All she said was, "O, I love Jesus with all my heart!"

A city missionary, says The Pine-Tree Endeavorer, remarked of a man, "He isn't much of a man if you measure him some ways, but he's worth a hundred dollars a year as kindling-wood in a prayer meeting." More such kindling-wood is just what many prayer meetings need.

Bible Study Course

The third volume in the Epworth League Bible Study Course is published at last, under the title "Studies in the Old Testament." It is by the same authors as "Studies in the Life of Christ," and "Studies in the Apostolic Church," and follows the same general plan. It aims at giving an orderly, comprehensive survey of the whole Old Testament, which, of course, is a difficult undertaking for one volume. The work, however, is well done and cannot fail to be helpful to all who will study it closely. It is meant to serve the needs of the busy common people, and does not deal to any extent with critical problems, but is rather brief, simple, practical and constructive. It tries to present the Old Testament in such a way that it may kindle and nourish the spiritual life of the young people of to-day.

We trust that the Study Classes which took up the text-books in the New Testament will follow out the course by studying this book during the present year. The volume can be procured at the Methodist Book Room at 75 cents and 10 cents per volume, bound in cloth, and at 10 cents per volume when ten or more copies are ordered (express to be paid by customer). No paper-covered edition will be issued.

A Good Orchard

"If you want a good orchard, keep plenty of young trees in it," is the good horticultural advice. Of course you will depend upon the older trees for the principal yield, and sometimes the new tree, with a fanciful name, will prove to be a poor bearer, or will yield only scrub fruit. But if you do not have young trees coming on, your orchard will soon show some wide gaps between trees. A good orchard must have young trees coming on all the time.

This horticultural truth is also an ecclesiastical truth. The husbandman in God's moral vineyard needs to heed the truth. If you would have a good church you must keep plenty of young members in it.

Energy of Character

Energy of character has always a power to evoke energy in others. It acts through sympathy, one of the most influential of human agencies. The zealous, energetic man unconsciously carries others along with him. He exercises a sort of electric power which sends a thrill through every fibre, flows into the nature of those about him and makes them give out sparks of life.—Samuel Smiles.