

Practical Plans.

Have You a Secretary Like This?

A correspondent who signs himself (or herself) "E." gives us a glimpse of a secretary who would be a joy to any chapter. Does this outline remind you of the secretary of your chapter? We once overheard this remark: "The secretary is the least appreciated of the league officers." One secretary did not find this true, but often felt that she was appreciated beyond her deserts. She was elected to office year after year, not only in the home chapter but also in the district league. We cannot think that this was due to her personality, but due to "faithfulness in little things." Upon hearing the minutes read you felt that you had been present at the previous meeting, yet no unnecessary lost motions, etc., were reported. The pastor always had a written notice of the league services, and a record of the attendance at the devotional meeting was kept. Absentees were written to; reports were written for quarterly conference, and anything of unusual interest was reported to a local paper. Business letters were answered promptly. The members came to her for information concerning the league. In the district the chapters wrote to her for information and even the presiding elder said: "If you want to know anything concerning league work go to Miss —."—*Epworth Herald*.

A Refreshing Change.—It will be a refreshing change for many Leagues to lay aside the prepared "papers" on the topic which they have had so long and take hold of our new Bible Study Course in real earnest. Let the work be carried on by regular school methods, the leader drilling the members in the facts and truths of the Gospel by question and answer. In some places the old spelling-school plan of choosing sides and conducting a contest on Bible questions has been found to infuse new interest into the meetings. Why not try some such method as this? Do not fossilize, but test the value of new plans. Send for the book, "Studies in the Life of Christ," at once.

Choosing Sides.—Mr. G. E. Deroche, of Deseronto, writes of the Bible study work of the League: "The result of our month's study was an unqualified success. We had our Sunday-school auditorium packed full of people to hear it, and they listened with breathless attention for three hours to constant putting and answering of questions. Some of our Leaguers were so well up in the questions, that I could not get them down, except to go in to the Appendix, which contains about six pages of texts. I read the text and asked them to give me where it was found, and had nearly finished the whole lot of them, before the last one went down on the defeated side, leaving just one remaining on the victorious side. It was really a wonderful thing, and I am satisfied we have laid a

foundation and appetite for Bible study and Bible knowledge. The choosing sides worked so well on the Bible contest that I suggested that we might get two other leaders and choose fresh sides, and see which could bring in the most new members in four weeks, aiming at five a week. The sides were chosen last Monday night, and I am told that we will not only have our five, but about twenty-five new members, to receive to-night. Perhaps some Leagues whose officers think they are doing all that can be done, and perhaps are doing all that can be done in the regular way (as was the case with us, as we have a splendid Lookout Committee), might adopt this scheme and increase the membership."

The Omissionary Committee.—A bi-light circular sent to Wisconsin Endeavorers by Mrs. Arthur C. Kempton, State Missionary Superintendent, draws the following contrast between the Missionary Committee and what she calls the Omissionary Committee, whose chairman is Miss No-work or Mr. Do-little. Which picture represents the committee in your society?

The Missionary Committee.

Meets regularly at least once a month;
Interests each member by subdividing the work;
Systematizes and sums up the work for the year;
Sends for and studies Well's Missionary Manual;
Interviews the leaders of the meetings, and
Offers them helpful suggestions;
Never allows the meetings to get into a rut;
Always makes all possible use of maps, pictures, etc.;
Raises missionary money through systematic giving;
Yes, this and much more does this committee do.

An Omissionary Committee.

Overlooks the regular committee meeting;
Has no plans for the year's work;
Takes that little is expected of it, and
Seeks to fulfil that expectation;
Seems to think the leaders need none of its help, and
Interviews them the last minute, if at all;
Offers no report at the monthly business meeting;
Never feels that it is responsible for
An interesting meeting or a lack of missionary enthusiasm;
Refuses to realize or grasp its blessed opportunities;
Yes, this and much more does this committee do.

Which Have You In Your Society?

—C. E. World.

Do Not Have Hobbies.—Rev. Dr. Berry thus hits the tendency to become one-sided in League work: "Some chapters are not much more than a weekly prayer meeting. I do not disparage the weekly prayer meeting, as you know; but that is only a small part of the work which should engage the attention of our young people. Some chapters give all their attention to social matters. 'We have a young people's social club instead of an Epworth League,' a pastor wrote me a while ago. Social matters are very, very important, and the person who under-estimates the social life of the church is not wise; but the promotion of social joys is only a fragment of our activities. Some chapters, again, are literary societies. Others are Bible classes. Others are mere missionary societies. These things are all right if they occupy their own place in the chapter. But they are all wrong if they are pushed to the neglect of other branches of our work which are quite as important. What I plead for is a symmetrical chapter. What I protest against is a one-sided chapter. The present tendency is toward special-

ization in League work. Youth is ardent. It readily adopts a hobby. It becomes so absorbed in the matter which happens to be just now in hand as to forget all other matters. This is not well. It is a mistake. Do not have hobbies. Call to mind what the Epworth League was organized to do. Review again the splendid variety in its working plans. Be many-sided. If you cannot be many-sided be several-sided. Do not be one-sided."

Preparation for the Topic.—Every member of the League should feel responsible for a few remarks. Keep yourself supplied with a topic card and do a little thinking by way of preparing yourself. Feel that you are in a position to say something, no matter how little. The meeting will mean more to you if an individual responsibility is felt. It will also do away with that oppressive silence which occasionally reigns supreme. As leader do not leave the preparation of your topic to the night before. If it is so easy that no preparation is required, it is not likely to prove of very much value as either mental or spiritual food for your colleagues.

However, the topics selected are all worthy of careful preparation. The committee who selects them realize keenly the immense interests entrusted to their care. They never do their work by haphazard. They have a reason for the selection of each topic. Now, if you can discover their reason for selecting that topic much of your difficulty will be removed. You will have a motive to urge you on. Don't leave your preparation until you are weary in body and mind. Don't try to prepare your work late at night. It is apt to savor somewhat of the prayers you say when you are too sleepy to keep your eyes open. Put in an extra hour in the morning, it is worth six hours at night.

For any ordinary young person two or three weeks at least should be spent in preparing for the evening assigned him. Read books or articles on the subject, keep your note-book on hand and make note of any helpful thought or suggestion. Converse with your friends or anyone whom you can persuade to talk on the subject. And if anyone advances a good idea or illustration, make a memorandum of it for future reference.

Many of the suggestions which you will receive may seem trifling, but it is well to remember that "Small sands make the mountains, moments make the years, and life itself is made up of trifles."

If you faithfully and perseveringly pursue this course you will become greatly interested, and the search after knowledge will be most fascinating.—Miss Emily Atkinson, Revelstoke, B.C.

A Good Meeting.—It is a meeting in which you have had some part. It is a meeting in which Christ's presence has been felt. It is a meeting for which the leader has made careful preparation. It is a meeting that begins on time, and ends on time. It is a meeting that moves briskly, yet thoughtfully. It is a meeting with much prayer. It is a meeting with much praise.