

## Work For and Among Boys

### When Johnny Goes to School

The brindle pet dog has a far-away look  
As he sits by the walk all alone;  
Or carefully searches each corner and  
nook  
For something that from him has  
down;  
He seems to be lost with nothing to do  
And no one his actions to rule;  
Wherever he wanders attractions are  
few:  
For Johnny has gone to his school.

The tortoise-shell cat is asleep on the  
hearth,  
Enjoying at last a good rest;  
For ever, it seems, from the day of its  
birth,  
Disturbance has been its bequest.  
But now all is silent in kitchen and hall;  
It chases no longer the spool,  
And safe on the mantel reposes the ball;  
For Johnny has gone to his school.

And mamma has time for a number of  
things  
That she has been forced to neglect,  
And out of her basket her sewing she  
brings.  
And all that she does is correct.  
She even puts on her best bonnet and  
shawl,  
Her nerves sweetly quiet and cool,  
And trippingly goes for a neighborly  
call.  
For Johnny has gone to his school.

Now up leaps the dog with a cry and a  
bark,  
And the little awakes from her nap,  
And the long-silent house is as gay as a  
lark.  
And everything goes with a snap;  
And mamma joins in with laughter and  
glee.  
For her heart with affection is full,  
And all as are glad, yes, as glad as can  
be;  
For Johnny is home from his school.  
—Rev. George W. Crofts, D.D., in C. E.  
World.

### A Noble Work

A noble work is being done in the  
Methodist Episcopal Church, Northampton  
by Mr. L. W. Gould, Rev. C. E.  
Holmes, pastor of the church, gives a  
brief history of this work:  
"The Wide-Awake Young Men's Class  
is peculiar in that it is the outcome of a  
natural growth. In March, 1898, a Sun-  
day-school class of four boys, whose ages  
ranged from thirteen to fourteen years,  
was formed by Mr. Loren W. Gould with-  
out any anticipation of its future. At  
the end of the first year it numbered  
twenty, the recruits having come from  
newsboys or any other available source.  
Since then about the same rate of in-  
crease has continued without interrup-  
tion. During the five years sixty-two  
have joined the class. Of these only five  
have discontinued their membership be-  
cause of indifference. Eighteen others  
have removed from town, leaving a pres-  
ent enrollment of active members of 39,  
and five honorary members, making a  
total of 44. The regular attendance on  
Sabbath at the Bible-class is from 27 to  
30. A religious class-meeting is held  
every Monday evening, usually at the  
houses of the members. There has been  
no omission of this meeting for almost

four years. The attendance varies from  
a dozen to twenty. It is usually led by  
Mr. Gould. There is a hearty praise ser-  
vice, in which nearly all participate, and  
a narration of Christian experience to  
which the leader responds. The real-  
monies are of an exceedingly practical  
nature, referring to matters of tempta-  
tion, temper, and questions of honor to-  
ward others, as well as distinctly religious  
experience.

### Christian Work Among Boys

BY REV. E. W. FORBES, B.A.

There are two kinds of work for boys  
of which I should like to speak briefly,  
the Boys' Club and the Boys' Summer  
Camp. My first experience in work  
among boys was in connection with  
Boys' Club. We called our club the Dart-  
mouth Boys' Christian Association, and  
the object of the organization was the  
improvement of the minds, manners,  
morals, and muscle of the boys of the  
town. We rented a couple of rooms, and  
fitted them up with chairs, tables, games,  
papers, etc., and threw them open every  
evening for the use of the members of  
the club. A Sunday afternoon meeting  
and athletic work was also carried on in  
connection with the association. After  
eight years this club for boys is still  
carrying on its work, and is now housed  
in a fine hall, with gymnasium attached.  
The club idea, I believe, is one which can  
be worked to great advantage in inter-  
esting boys in religious effort. In my  
last church we formed two small clubs  
among the boys, each of which was to  
earn \$15 in the course of a year for the  
support of an orphan in India. One was  
called the Epworth Club and the other the  
India Club. They each attained their  
object, and the rivalry between them was  
no hindrance to the interest. As far as  
drill organizations are concerned, my  
only actual experience has been in con-  
nection with the Boys' Life Brigade.  
This secures all the disciplinary benefits  
of drill without incurring the risk of  
fostering unduly the military spirit.  
Squad drill, without the use of arms,  
ambulance and stretcher work, and exer-  
cise in the saving of life from fire and  
water comprise the regular work of the  
brigade, and to these may be added such  
features as seem desirable for the promo-  
tion of its object, which is the devel-  
opment of strong Christian manhood.  
Each brigade is expected to maintain a  
company Bible-class, and the members are  
all expected to attend Sunday-school. The  
headquarters of the Brigade are at 56 Old  
Bailey, London, E.C.

A form of Christian work among boys  
which might well be carried on in con-  
nection with Epworth Leagues or Sunday-  
schools is the Boys' Summer Camp.  
What boy does not enjoy camping out—  
"A white tent pitched by the breezy  
shore,  
Or under a shady tree,  
Or the rippling rills of the grand old  
hills,  
Is the summer home for me."

For the past thirteen years the Marl-  
time Young Men's Christian Association  
has conducted these summer camps for  
boys. Having been privileged to have  
charge of four such camps, I believe they  
may be made, if properly conducted, a  
valuable agency for the promotion of the  
kingdom among boys. The plan of the  
camp is to have one man in charge, known  
as the camp leader, and a sufficient num-

ber of competent, careful Christian young  
men to act as assistant leaders, and help  
in the carrying on of the camp. These  
men enter into the boys' sports and  
games, win their friendship, seek to ex-  
emplify religion before their boy friends  
in all their intercourse with them, and  
generally succeed in winning them to  
Christ. Let me try to briefly describe  
the routine of camp life.

The regular order of a day in camp is  
as follows: 7 a.m., rising whistle; 7:30,  
breakfast; 10, whole camp goes swim-  
ing; 12, dinner and reading of camp  
newspaper; 2 p.m., tent inspection and  
awarding of flag for the day to the near-  
est tent; 6, tea; 8, camp-fire or taber-  
naacle meeting; 9:30, evening prayers in  
separate tents; 10, "all lights out."  
Games of all sorts, baseball, football,  
hare-and-hounds form the staple amuse-  
ments, and these are pleasantly varied  
with swimming, rowing, sailing, tug-of-  
war, and every form of amusement dear  
to the heart of boys. In the evening  
around the camp-fire, on the beach, or in  
the big canvas tent, the "abernacle"  
songs are sung, and stories are told,  
which before long give place to hymns,  
and heart-to-heart talks between boys and  
leaders, having as their outcome many a  
decision in a boyish heart that means a  
change in his whole life. The motto of  
these camps is "Remember Jesus Christ"  
(2 Tim. 2. 8, R.V.), and by word and deed  
and life the leaders seek constantly to  
bring Jesus before the boys' hearts in all  
the matchless manliness of his character.  
At last year's camp over one hundred boys  
decided to follow Christ.  
Oxford, N.S.

### How the Boys May Help the League

Many Leagues are wondering what they  
can do to interest the big boys in the  
work. Perhaps a helpful suggestion may  
be gathered from this Iowa experience:  
"Last fall our League possessed a num-  
ber of members who were very few.  
Among them were several young fellows  
from fifteen to twenty, full of youthful  
energy, but unemployed in any of the  
activities of the church. The League at-  
tendance was very small, and the boys  
were drifting away into worldliness, while  
the League languished for their help.  
At this point the president resolved to do  
something for the boys by having them  
do something for the League. So two of  
the boys were sent to the bank for a  
mimeograph 'for the League,' and, with  
the aid of the president, got out some  
attractive invitations for use at each  
door on Sunday mornings. The invitations  
were headed by a drawing representing  
a letter of invitation—"To you and your  
friends," who were invited to be present  
at the devotional meeting of the Epworth  
League "to-night," and the topic and  
name of leader were added. A hard  
evening's work was looked upon as a plea-  
sure by these boys, and they did not  
stop till as many copies had been made  
as there were likely to be people at  
church. Then two other boys were asked  
to stand each side of the church door  
after the morning service, and hand a  
copy, with bow and smile, to each person  
as he came out of the church. How it  
'took' in our little village! The League  
attendance had dwindled to a few 'faith-  
ful but weary'; and that first night of our  
experiment brought an increase of 200  
per cent! The mimeograph was kept  
busy one night each week after that by  
the zealous and muscular boys, and great  
was the variety of illustrations used.  
Pictures used in our sermons were  
often useful, the well-known 'Beas in  
mind' being very popular. A chorus  
choir, composed of all the boys who could  
sing, and some of the girls, was organ-  
ized, and met once each week after school