

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 tripping 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 notable 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 pre-
sent 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 testi-
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 im-
provement 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 the object by the development
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 Mar-
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-
ming; 12, dinner and reading of camp
newspaper; 2 p.m., tent inspection and
awarding of flag for the neat-
warding of flag for the day; 3, dress-
ing tent; 6, tea; 8, camp-fire or taber-
nacle 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 music 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, and one of the number
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 church
door on Sunday morning. 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 pleasure
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 and 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 the first night of our
experiment brought an increase of 300
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 for advertisements were
often useful, the well-known 'Beat 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