

most serious of these charges was that he had actually "attended services of the Methodist body," and upon one occasion had so far forgotten himself as to pronounce the benediction at a Methodist service.

And yet this is the Church that talks more than any other about organic union of the Churches. Our Anglican brethren should know that such union cannot even be considered until the different branches of the Church of Christ can be led to treat each other with confidence and cordiality.

New League Books.

We have received the first instalment of booklets, published by the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with a view to strengthening the "League Extension Movement."

"What about your Reading?" by Rev. J. F. Berry, D.D., is a little book of 40 pages; price, 10 cents per copy, or \$1.00 per dozen. It is intended as a manual for the Literary Department, and is full of valuable hints.

"The District Institute" contains 16 pages and consists of outlines and suggestions for District Presidents and pastors. The idea is to make our District Conventions in future more practical and helpful to the workers, emphasizing the training school feature more than has been done in the past. The price of this booklet is only 5 cents per copy or 50 cents per dozen. We hope that every district officer will get a copy.

The other publications are "Bible Study for personal growth," "Secret Prayer," and "Scriptural Habits of Giving," which are the first contributions to an Epworth League Devotional Series. They deserve wide circulation. These books can be obtained from our own Book Rooms.

Discouraging Figures.

THE report of Sunday-schools, and Young People's Societies of the Presbyterian Church, in the Synod of Hamilton and London, is not an encouraging one.

According to the statistics presented at Stratford, the attendance at Sunday-schools had declined last year from 27,176 to 24,116, and the membership of the Young People's Societies had declined 1,028.

This indicates that the attention of the pastors has not been directed to the young people as it should. They have evidently been so busy looking after the old sheep that they have had little time to attend to the lambs. The same condition of affairs prevails to an alarming extent in our own Church. When will our Church awaken to the importance of work among the young?

THE Corresponding Secretary of a small league writes: "We are not very strong, but hope to gain during the summer months." That certainly has the right ring. How much better it is to strike a note like that, than to take it for granted that the society is sure to decline between now and October.

We want the Corresponding Secretary of every Epworth League in Canada to send us a copy of their new topic card.

A YOUNG lady who had attended the Christian Endeavor Convention at San Francisco in 1897, called at our office to make enquiries about the League trip to California in July. She had been so delighted with the experience of 1897 that she wanted it repeated.

MEMBERS of the city leagues should remember that the evening of June 10th has been set apart for the Epworth League and Sunday-school Anniversary of the Toronto Conference. The meeting is to be held in Elm Street Church. There should be a good attendance.

THE man who most severely condemns conventions is the one who never goes. "How many conventions have you attended?" was asked of an individual who was expressing himself somewhat emphatically on the uselessness of such gatherings. "Not one," was the reply. How much was his opinion worth!

THERE is a bookstore in Toronto that announces, in all its advertisements, that it is "the biggest bookstore in Canada." As a matter of fact, the sales-room of the Methodist Book Room is almost twice as large as that of the institution which boasts of its bigness, and the stock carried is fully five times as great.

SEVERAL of our contributors have informed us that they have received a number of appreciative letters from readers of this paper for their articles. This is as it should be. Those who write for the ERA get nothing but thanks, and if their words have helped or inspired any one they ought to be told about it.

JUDGING from the number of inquiries about our next International Convention, that are coming to this office, the attendance will be very large. The opportunity of taking a magnificent trip at so small an outlay is tempting many to turn their faces westward. From personal experience we feel assured that they will not be disappointed.

THE Book and Publishing Committee of our Church held its annual meeting on May 16th. We are glad to report that this paper showed an increase of 486 subscribers. This is fairly good, but it might have been better. We must work for a much larger advance next year. Our Sunday-school publications all show a fine increase in circulation.

THE day has not by any means gone by for great conventions. There is an abiding inspiration in the immense gatherings and stirring speeches that is worth all it costs. Very likely some practical statistician will soon begin to figure on the cost of the International Convention at San Francisco, and of course he will condemn it in toto. Well, let him figure away at his heart's content. Those who go will derive real benefits, and the trip will live in their memories a life time.

At the San Francisco Convention, a Canadian Rally will be held on Saturday evening in one of the prominent churches. It is expected that many ex-Canadians, now residing in California, will attend it. There is one section of that State where the population is composed almost exclusively of people from this Province. It has been appropriately named "Ontario."

SOME of the new officers are doubtless very diffident, and doubtful about their ability to do the work assigned to them. This is perhaps better than if they were over-confident. Let them resolve to do the very best they can, and they will be surprised, after a little, at what they are able to accomplish. It is encouraging to know that the work will be harder at the commencement than it ever will be afterward.

No paper has given so much attention to the International Convention or published so much descriptive matter concerning interesting features of the trip as THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA. We have kept the best to the last, as the attractive articles on the Canadian Pacific scenery which appear in this issue will conclude the Convention series. No one in his right senses would think of crossing the continent, without travelling, at least one way over the Canadian Pacific.

WHAT about your league during the coming summer? Surely you are not thinking of closing up! There is certainly a more excellent way. Why not try open air meetings? By means of out-door services, bicycle runs, picnics, etc., it is possible not only to keep the society together but to actually increase attendance and interest. Strong Leagues in cities and towns might greatly help small societies in outlying sections by paying them a fraternal visit during the summer months.

A CORRESPONDENT writes asking if The Epworth Hotel at Buffalo is a reliable concern. The fact that it is advertised in this paper ought to be a sufficient answer to that question. We have pleasure in stating that the manager of this hotel is an enterprising young business man, and an enthusiastic member of the Epworth League. Those associated with him in the scheme are well known and highly esteemed Methodists of Buffalo. Those who lodge at "The Epworth" will doubtless be well taken care of, and no exorbitant rates charged.

IT is amusing to note the constant references, in our exchanges from across the line, to the "American Sabbath." They are continually upholding and defending the American Sabbath. One Toronto pastor evidently has not a very high opinion of this much lauded institution, as he announces for his Sunday topic "Is Toronto threatened with the American Sabbath?" As a matter of fact there is very little difference between this "American Sabbath" and a Fourth of July or other holiday. We do not want it in this country. Every effort should be put forth to retain the Christian Sabbath.