

as well as an informing one to the pupil. It gives the minister a pleasing opportunity to refresh his own memory, and turns his thoughts into profitable channels, from which, in the multiplicity of professional duties, he is very apt to stray. It was well expressed by Rev. E. E. Styles, of Pownal, P. E. I., when he wrote in a recent letter, "The minister on circuit has so little time for consecutive study that he is apt to limit his bible research to the development of the next Sunday's text, neglecting the literary, historical, and geographical aspects. I am inclined to think that the T. T. class may prove a remedy for this." Few, if any, will disagree with our brother, and our ministers will do themselves good service as well as materially benefit their young people, by conducting a class, week by week, through the successive steps leading up to a diploma. It is worth far more than it costs.

Editorial Notes

How would you solve the problem stated in this extract: "Our young people are not getting the training the Epworth League stands for?" Your ideas on League training and how to give it to the young people, will be very acceptable, and would add to the interest of these pages. Send them along and let them be given to others.

The Men's Association of Bathurst St. Church, Toronto, issue a very neat quarterly programme of meetings. Some of their topics are very suggestive. Take this one, for instance, "What Bathurst Street Church Lacks—Men? Or, Work by Men?" Does not that prompt you to say, "If all the men in the Church were working men, there would soon be a difference seen?" Not more men, so much as more men at work seems the first need.

Here is an extract which is worth printing in italics. It is one of the finest things I have received for some time, and comes from Wawanesa, Man.: "We believe in original ideas and papers rather than spoon-fed Leaguers. Our aim is to educate our members to independence, and not to depend upon some outside source for every idea." I would like to have that displayed in bold-face type on the wall of every League room, and adopted as one of the principles in the conduct of every young people's society in Canada.

"Young ladies are not interested in Canadian Civics," is a statement one of our presidents writes. More's the pity, for whatever your opinion about woman franchise may be, we must all agree that until women use all their influence for the purification and elevation of the social, civic, and national life, we may not expect men to be at their best. Shame on the young women who know little and care less about the principles and standards of good citizenship on which the strength, stability and ultimate destiny of a nation so much depend. Young women, wake up!

The College Street, Toronto, Junior League has a choir, and always tries to have good singing. That is good, and here is something better. The letter I am quoting from says: "We have in connection with our League a Catechumen class, which has proved the greatest spiritual force in our Junior work." Plans are maturing for a temperance cantata, to be given about the middle of the present month. Miss Cokell is wise in keeping her girls and boys busy, and in leading them step by step until their feet are firmly planted on the Rock Christ Jesus." Such is her way of stating it. There is no better way of work.

The Message of the Bells

MARIAN I. HURRELL.

EDITH M. STANHOPE.

The carol of the merry bells Tells forth o'er hill and plain. The message old, yet ever new, In musical refrain. Ring on, ring on, the Christ is born, Lift up your hearts and sing. And greet the Babe of Beth-le-hem, Your Sa-vi-our and your King! Ring on, ring on, oh happy bells, Of wondrous joy your message tells. O hallowed hours of Christmastide! Which tells of sundere hearts made one, Of meetings far and near. Which whispers peace to earthborn strife, And bids the toiler rest, And wakens for the poor and sad Sweet pity in the breast. Ring on, ring on, O Christmas bells— Of wondrous peace your message tells. Though many years have come and gone Since with unshadowed mirth We hailed in childhood's happy days The blessed Saviour's birth. Yet He would have us yield to Him A childlike heart and pure, To praise Him for the mercies past, The joys which oye endure. Ring on, ring on, O Christmas bells— Of wondrous love your message tells.

Without attempting any dictation in the matter of your programme I would express the hope that your Society will make some early and special provision for the celebration of Christmas. The contents of this number will surely provide a sufficiently comprehensive and varied assortment of items from which a very attractive evening may be easily and well arranged. The beautiful song given above is within the compass of the ordinary young musician and may be used to advantage, and running throughout the paper are many selections that will fit in to an appropriate Christmas service.

Because of the distinctively seasonable character which we have tried to give to this issue, it has been necessary to omit some of our regular features. But though you may not find the arrangement of the pages after the usual form, and notwithstanding the absence of the Sunday School and Round Table pages, it is hoped that the paper throughout will be interesting to our readers generally. A splendid lot of news notes, abbreviated reports, suggestive plans, and similar items of universal interest to our Leagues will appear in the January number. Keep your eyes open for them.