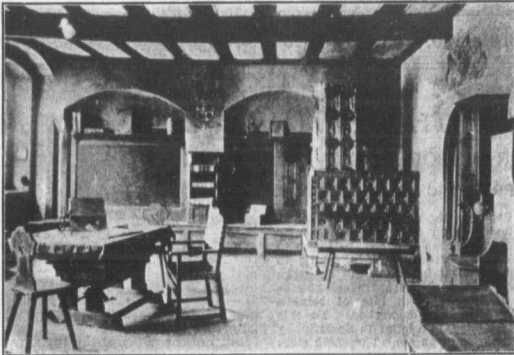


Just here let us pause to ask just what Luther was trying to do. Like John Wesley, at a later day, Luther's aim was not to found a new Church. His supreme concern was that the Word of God should be preached in its purity; that congregations everywhere should be edified, sustained and guided by it. Whenever this privilege was denied to Christians, he maintained that they had a right to ordain a priest for themselves who would preach the pure Word of God.

In this spirit he advanced cautiously and by degrees in the changes he introduced into public worship and Church discipline. One of his greatest and best innovations was the preparation of a body of hymns



ROOM IN WHICH MELANCTHON STUDIED AND DIED.

in the German tongue and the introduction of the use of these in public worship that the whole congregation might sing. The first of these collections appeared at Wittenberg in 1524. This was followed from time to time by larger and better collections. Luther was himself the author of some of the best hymns in these collections.

Wrong-minded enthusiasts among his followers had condemned all the arts, even music. Luther now took occasion to commend the arts. He says in the introduction to one of his collections of hymns, "I would rather that all the arts, and especially music, should be employed in the service of Him who has created them and given them to man."

It was at this period that Luther began to advocate better schools for Germany. He was the friend of education, and to him more than to any other man Germany owes to-day her pre-eminence in matters of education.

But although Luther was broad in his sympathies and was the friend of art and education, we find at this time leading humanists, like Erasmus, turning away from him because they thought his method of dealing with error too drastic, and that he had made unnecessary disturbance throughout Europe. But Luther held steadily on his way, confident of the ultimate success of his work, and history has verified his verdict.

International E. L. Convention 1914—BUFFALO—1914.

It is not too early for us to take note of the above. The next International Epworth League Convention will be the Silver Anniversary, celebrating the 25th year of the League's life. Look out for further announcements; but mark it down in your mental note-book.—Buffalo, 1914.—July 1 to 5.

The Meeting of the General Board

THE General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies met in the Board Room of Wesley Buildings on September 3rd and 4th, General Superintendent, Dr. Carman, presiding. A full report of the proceedings of the various sessions is hardly possible here; but a summary of the conclusions reached is given.

The reports of the various Secretaries showed the office and field work of the year to have been well sustained. The recommendations of the Secretaries were given in one summarized report, the result

provided in the Constitution, separate Annual Conventions are held for Sunday School and Epworth League work; but would counsel that in the newer parts where, because numbers are not large and communities are scattered, the separate Conventions are impracticable, joint Sunday School and Epworth League Conventions be held for the furtherance of both sections of our work."

"That a Committee be appointed to study the main workings of both Sunday School and League under present Constitutions, and that this Committee be empowered to prepare a simplified and reconstructed Constitution for both Sunday School and Epworth Leagues, and to submit the same to the next Annual Meeting of this Board."

"That wherever any of the Secretaries of this Board be called upon to conduct Sunday services, they seek the opportunity of using the envelopes of the Board for the raising of finances."

"That we deplore the fact that the military authorities in several parts of Canada have made an attempt to turn to military account the Boy Scout organization; and we urge all Scout Masters and others in responsibility in the Scout Movement to make clear distinctions between it and the Cadet Movement and to preserve it under the highest moral and religious supervision."

"That this Board make provision for a Course of Religious Instruction for Catechumens; and that a Committee on Evangelism in the Sunday School be appointed to prepare a detailed policy and plan in respect to the following questions: Religious instruction for Catechumens; methods for winning for Christ the young people of our Sunday Schools and Junior Leagues; forms of activity through which the young people may express their religious experience in service."

"Feeling the lack of adequate leaflet literature in respect of Sunday School and League work for distribution among local leaders and workers, that the General Secretary be empowered to secure or prepare forthwith a full series of leaflets covering both departments of our work, and that the cost of these be provided for from the Special Fund."

"That there be prepared a simple form of service for the Annual Installation of Officers and Teachers in the Sunday School, and that the Board request that the same be inserted in the next issue of the Church Discipline."

"That a Committee of this Board be appointed to draft a form of survey of the conditions in regard to Sunday School and Young People's work in any community, and that such a survey be carried out in several typical Districts of our Church this year, under the direction and supervision of the Field Secretaries."

"Believing in the necessity of educational evangelism in all our congregations, we approve of the proposed scheme of holding in Alberta Conference a series of Winter Schools in various Districts or sections of Districts. These schools to take the form of Institute work in the afternoons and evangelistic work in the evenings. We advise that efforts be made to have all probationers and at least one representative from each circuit or mission on the District present at the school."

"We recognize the excellent work being done on numerous Districts where as pro-

vided in the Constitution, separate Annual Conventions are held for Sunday School and Epworth League work; but would counsel that in the newer parts where, because numbers are not large and communities are scattered, the separate Conventions are impracticable, joint Sunday School and Epworth League Conventions be held for the furtherance of both sections of our work."

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"Believing as we do that the Bible represents a large contribution to the sum total of human knowledge and culture, and recognizing that because our present Public School curriculum does not give adequate place to the Bible, many of our boys and girls are growing up without a sufficient knowledge of the Scriptures; that our Sunday School leaders in each Province make representations to the Department of Education requesting that a Course of Bible Study be outlined for High School students as an option for some subject on the curricu-