

the District Executive should seek the organization of new societies. At least an earnest effort should be made to form such. Admittedly, the Pastor is the "key man" to the situation, and his sympathetic assistance should always be sought; but even where he is apathetic, the District President should seek an opening and arrange for a visit with the young folk of that community if possible.

After the Convention, what? It depends somewhat on the nature of the Convention itself. If that has been superficial and perfunctory, little planning has been made and little work will likely be attempted. But if the Convention was as it should have been—the Business Meeting of the whole District—there should be plenty to keep all the officers busy. Not at the Convention, but between conventions, is the most important work to be done, and the District President is the officer to secure the doing of it. A live President will mean an active District Executive, for he will see to it that his associates in office are not merely honorary, but active leaders in the League world within his jurisdiction. When did your District Executive last meet in serious business session?

Practical Benefits of Junior Work

Whatever enlarges the sphere of real Christian enterprise must be of advantage to the cause of our Master, and Junior work most assuredly so does. A study of the Junior Constitution will convince of this. The aim and purpose of the Junior League are in advance of anything previously existing in the work of the Church among the children; and the success of properly conducted Junior Leagues throughout Methodism is evidence of the need of such work, and of its beneficial effects upon the cause of God generally.

The introduction of the Junior organization has led to the adoption of progressive methods of Church work that have wonderfully aided the local churches in their efforts to reach and save the young. And these progressive methods among the young have reflected in other lines of effort; and the various departments of organized Church activities have been stimulated and inspired by the youthful enthusiasm of the Junior organizations. It is the conviction of the writer that no local church can have a well organized and efficiently managed Junior society in operation in it without feeling the benefits thereof throughout all its other enterprises. The enlistment of a body of pledged Juniors in the work of the Church, with the generation of such youthful enthusiasm as will result, cannot, if properly guided, act other than beneficially on the whole.

Young life with all its activities consecrated to Christ and employed in His cause, is one of the most powerful and blessed forces possible to the Church on earth; and the testimony of many an older Christian might be given of the benefits of coming in contact with the throbbing life of the young folk. Whatever tends to keep the heart young, will advantage us all; and to prevent any tendency to fossilization in our life and work, is certainly one of the wholesome results of a properly conducted Junior League. The Juniors grow as they live together in the Church, and their growth stimulating others will be felt and manifested right along.

The Church continually needs new life, not only heavenly, but earthly, and this need in a measure the Junior Society supplies. The introduction into its working forces of a number of measurably trained and cultured young people is certainly more desirable in any church than that of as many raw untrained recruits. A number of Juniors, say of fifteen or sixteen years, coming publicly into Church connection and work, after a training of five or six years in their own Society, will be of vastly greater worth than a similar number who have never known such training. The Church cannot afford for her own future strength and success to ignore, and should not belittle, Junior work, and our pastors and senior members generally will do well if they give it their sympathy and support. If "the devil gets an army when he gets a child," by all means let us

get them "for Christ and the Church" before the enemy wins them away to sin and destruction.

Junior work materially increases church attendance. The writer has known many parents come for the children's sake, and in his circuit experience many of the best attended services have been those more especially intended for the children. Reach and interest the boys and girls, and the probability is that you will influence their parents for good. The Juniors occasionally attending divine service in a body, will by their presence command attention and be an inspiration to the service throughout.

Active pastoral work among the young the Editor has proved to be one of the most effective agencies for the prevention of stagnation of interest in the prayer and class-meetings of the local church.

Another benefit to the Church by Junior work is seen in the increase of church benevolences. The Juniors themselves have been a blessing in the distribution of tracts, flowers, and in other simple yet Christlike ways ministering to the needy, as well as in raising funds. Fifty of the Juniors of the writer's League once gave a floral service in the counties jail for the inmates, about thirty aged people being cared for there, their only crime being that they were poor. It was one of the most impressive services the writer ever conducted, and the songs, recitations, flowers, etc., conveyed a blessing not yet forgotten, and of which memory still thinks with pleasure.

The Juniors should not only be instructed in the general subject of missions, but should be active missionaries at work, learning, living, acting the Master's teachings regarding missions, right at home among their own neighbors and friends.

Space will not allow a review of the various ways by which these Juniors may be at the same time instructed and employed for Christ and missions; but many avenues of practical usefulness for them will open up to the wide-awake superintendent, and the Junior League may thus become a valuable auxiliary to the spiritual, social, and financial progress of the local church in all its important spheres of study and service.

Building the New Book Room

The corners of Queen, John, and Richmond Streets, Toronto, are busy ones these days. The work of foundation laying for the new Book Room is proceeding rapidly as these lines are being written, and even before they are read by our subscribers new conditions will exist around the building, so rapidly do modern building methods advance step by step to the finished structure. Last month we told something about the excavations necessary for the caissons on which the great weight of the House will rest. The two pictures given this month show just how the construction of these foundation pillars proceeds. In one view the capacious steam bucket is being emptied into the waiting wagon. From forty feet below the street level, mud and gravel, stones and clay, have been brought to the surface and are being teamed away. Another view shows the laborers emptying a truck load of concrete into the prepared and waiting well. Upwards of 9,000 tons of concrete are needed to constitute the hundred or more caissons which we described last month. The giant mixer in one corner of the lot gets all ready; truck after truck load is run on the tracks to wherever it may be needed; the dump into the yawning well goes on until the gaping hole is filled, and thus solid and immovable pillars of stone are built up. Next month we expect to show the laying of the first steel, and step by step we shall try to picture to our readers the progress of the building until it is fully completed, occupied, and the busy hum of throbbing presses makes the heart of the Book Steward and the host of sturdy employees glad. Methodists will have no occasion to apologize for their new Book Room. That our young folk may be intelligently proud of it we shall keep them informed as to its progress, and trust the pictures will be of lasting profit as well as merely interesting illustrations of passing news events.