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Question Box.

Note:—This feature of the "Column" will appear as often as the questions submitted may require. Readers are invited to make free use of the "Column." Will a number of our workers answer Ques. 29 and tell us what kind of report is most helpful to you.

Since answering "Inquirer" Sept. 19—Miss Hartley has moved nearer the Sea and her address is: East Northfield, Mass.

"Bour" Miss Hartley, in a personal letter mentioning having received letters from a number of friends in our Y. P. P. League, which were very welcome but on account of extra work at the beginning of her school year it has been and may be for some time impossible for her to reply to them all.

Address material for the "Column" to Press Com., Care of Gertrude Seely, West St. John, N. B.

Ques. 29.—Is it best in writing a report for the column, to mention only the pleasant and encouraging features of the work? C. S.

The Prayer Meeting Committee.

READ AT F. B. Y. P. P. LEAGUE SUSSEX, BY MR. F. H. KNOLLIN.

The prayer meeting committee shall consist of three or more members, and they shall have charge of the prayer meetings of the society. It must not be thought that this is an unimportant committee, perhaps there is no more important one in the whole society than this, important because on it depends the character of the meetings; and the amount of work done and the impression made depends to a large extent upon the kind of social meetings; important because if the object of the Endeavor is to be realized viz: the leading of the associate members to a saving knowledge of Christ, and a bringing of all into a closer relationship with the Master, it must be largely through the labors, the prayerful planning of this committee; their business is to have a true revival of religion in the society to make the meetings bright and attractive not so much by the entertainment furnished as by the presence of the Spirit. A meeting may be lively and interesting with very little of spirituality. It is the object of the meeting to bring the soul face to face with God, to bring over the audience that indescribable thrill and holy hush that betokens the presence of God. Be sure that a good prayer meeting "never happens" It is not a thing of chance, it is the result of much planning and careful prayerful thought, yes of a strong wrestling on the part of some one for the meeting.

The Committee must be thoroughly devotional itself, must be all on fire, must have an aim and work it out, must be persevering, must be sweet gentle and persuasive at all times.

No Committee has a more delicate work to perform, no committee has greater responsibilities or privileges, no committee can do more to aid the pastor, and the cause for the prayer meeting has been well called the pulse of the church.

Although the work is difficult and important no committee need fail if thoroughly consecrated to the work, if it constantly and humbly seeks divine guidance. There is always "some open highway or quiet byway into the heart of every one if we can only find it."

Great care should be taken by the committee to obtain good leaders for the meetings. I do not mean however that the weaker and less gifted members should be debarred the blessing that may be gained in leading a meeting. A wise committee will have pairs or sets of leaders the weak ones being coupled with the strong. One may offer remarks on the topic for the evening the other may have charge of the singing or read the scripture lesson, thus, while the meeting is made interesting and deeply spiritual, through the experience and life of the one, the other is taught, the

mind aroused, the spirit quickened and made more sensitive to the teachings of the Holy Spirit.

The committee must be careful to preserve the meeting from monotony. They must not allow things to get into a rest or once in to remain there. Temperance and missionary meetings in which the pledge is discussed etc., greatly aid in this work. The meeting ought not to be opened in the same way always. It is not well to begin every meeting by singing a half dozen hymns as this encourages tardiness. Vary the opening exercises as much as possible. A number of prayers at the very beginning often makes a deep impression and introduces into the meeting at once a deep devotional spirit.

Another problem that the committee has to strive with is how to fill up those long tedious pauses that seem to destroy the spirit and effectiveness of the meeting. The committee itself should of course be ready to take its part at the first opportunity, and it is well to have it understood with a number of members that as soon as one of those destructive pauses begins to make itself felt, that they shall at once fill the blank.

You can greatly aid the spirit of your meetings if through the week you visit the homes of those who do not or cannot attend the prayer meetings and pray with them; perhaps nothing will so deepen the experience of your members or so enliven and brighten the meetings as these quiet little cottage prayer meetings.

Everything that you can do to bring your people into close touch with the Master and his work adds to the power and interest of your meetings, and in proportion as you get your society to work outside of the meetings will the certainty of their success be assured.

The task is an important one, the difficulties are many but nothing is to great for the power of God to overcome, indeed nothing is too difficult for consecrated humanity to perform for the power of God moves through them.

With hearts purified and chastened, with souls filled to the brim with love, with minds enthused and fired with an earnestness almost fanatical, with a passion for souls like unto that of Christ, let us forward in the Master's name, and in this coming year may there be a marked advance in the power wielded by our Prayer meeting.

The Secrets of Committee Work

BY REV. FRANK S. HUNNEWELL.

1. Get the series of leaflets on the "The Model Business Meeting," published by the United Society. See that each committee has a number of leaflets treating its special line of work. These leaflets will give your committees valuable information and spur them to activity.

2. See to it that the members understand what a committee is for. It is not for ornament. It is not a society for the promotion of mutual indifference. That vice does not need cultivating. A committee is appointed to plan work or to do it, or both. If there is no work to plan or to do, the committee has no excuse for existing. It had better take down its sign and shut up shop.

3. As a rule, the smaller the committee, the better. Large committees, like large armies, are unwieldy. They do not mobilize easily. The efficiency of a committee is usually in inverse ratio to its size. Quality counts far more than numbers.

4. Respect the principle of adaptation. It is worth while to take time for selecting. Put on a given committee the members who are best adapted to the special work. Do not put your deaf and dumb members on your wall-flowers on your social committee. If a member is specially fitted for a certain work, don't be afraid to keep him on the committee having that work in charge. At the same time, do not forget that we train workers by putting them on a strong committee.

5. Before you appoint a committee be sure that there is definite work for that committee to do. Don't have a long list of committees simply because other societies have them. Appoint only such as you need. Nothing so discourages a committee as the discovery that there is nothing to commit! The Sunday-school committee is a dead letter in many of our Endeavor societies, because the work suggested by the name is so vague. A committee to reform the world would be doomed from the start. This one thing we do is a good motto for a committee.

6. Leadership is essential to good committee work. See to it

that each committee has a good head. Select only first grade members for this important position. A poor committee with a good leader will accomplish more than a good committee with a poor leader. But a leader should lead, and not do all the work himself.

7. If a committee is to do good work, regular conferences are necessary. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," is another text I would commend to committees. Indian war tactics won't answer. A committee must work with closed ranks. I suggest that each committee have a rallying point in the vestry, where the members meet at the close of each Endeavor service, and talk over plans, and pray for the work. Cog-wheels must interlock if the machine is to do work.

8. Efficient committee work demands a consecrated membership. A committee is a collection of units and has no more power than is resident in its individual members. An unfaithful member is a cog dropped from the wheel which retards the movement of the machinery. There is no room for drones. If a member will not work, he ought to resign.

9. Honor your own committee. Let not the flower committee despise itself because it is not the social committee. Believe in your committee. Work on it as though all depended upon you. Honor your committee by making it indispensable. Put the enthusiasm of a specialist into your work. Don't be afraid to be known as a crank in your devotion to it. If the crank turns something, you will soon change criticism into praise.

10. Carry your committee on your heart. Do your work from love, not from compulsion. "The love of Christ constraineth us," is a third text that will incite good committee work. Love is the oil that keeps the machinery well lubricated. Let all the ends you aim at be love's, and your service will be energized with divine power, and thrill with an absorbing joy.

Mrs. "But"

Mrs. But is our next-door neighbor. Her real name is Green, but Jonas, whenever he sees her marching up the walk, remarks, "My dear, here comes Mrs. But. He is not given to calling people names; he says it merely to put me on my guard, for he knows our neighbor's failing. She is a bright, breezy little woman, and as long as the conversation is confined to the weather and the household affairs I quite enjoy chatting with her, but the moment that a human being, living or dead, chances to be mentioned, I begin to quake.

The first time she called—it was soon after we moved into the neighborhood—I happened to say that Mrs. Goodwin, from the opposite side of the street, had been in to see me, and that she impressed me as a very lovely character.

Oh, she is, indeed, said Mrs. But, heartily, she is such a devoted wife and so good to the poor. But, she went on, lowering her voice, there used to be a good deal of talk about her when she was a girl, and though I don't suppose half the things that were said were true, people don't seem to forget it.

What necessity there was for this drop of poison to be instilled into my mind I could not see. Mrs. Goodwin's youth was in the far past, and in the gossip concerning her in that remote period I had no interest whatever. I was quite willing to take her as she was in her sweet, ripe womanhood.

One day when Mrs. But dropped in she found my little friend, Nellie Gray, at the piano. Nellie is a shy brown-eyed girl of fifteen, gifted with a wonderful ear for melody, and, as the Grays had no piano, I had offered her mine. I can't help loving the child, she is such a warm-hearted little creature, and so eager for music, I said, as the door closed behind her.

My visitor gave a scarcely perceptible shrug.

Yes, Nellie seems to be a very nice girl, she admitted, but I suppose you know that she is a poor-house waif.

No, I said. I know nothing of the kind. Mrs. Gray had introduced Nellie to me as her eldest daughter, and the information volunteered by Mrs. But was utterly uncalled for.

One evening, on our way home from prayer meeting, Jonas remarked that he always enjoyed listening to young Spaulding, he was so devout and earnest.

Yes, he is a very interesting speaker, said our neighbor, who had joined us as we came out of the lecture-room, and he seems very sincere, but I can't help feeling a little suspicious. I knew him when he was a boy.

Jonas made haste to change the subject; a word of encouragement:

would have resulted in our hearing the whole history of the young man's boyhood.

I've no patience, he exclaimed the moment we were by ourselves, with people who are always bringing up the past. Just imagine what heaven would be if the inhabitants were disposed to indulge in that sort of retrospection! The Angel Gabriel himself would hardly be safe from their disparaging butts, and the whitest robe in all their white-robed throng would be in danger of being smudged.

And yet, I said, Mrs. But evidently considers herself a Christian. Oh, I don't dispute his title, said Jonas, but I can't help thinking that she might be able to read it clearer if she would rub up her glasses with the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians.—Christian Intelligence.

At the Wedding.

A sumptuous wedding was being held in a colored church, which was thronged for the occasion. After the wedding march to the altar and the ceremony, the bridal party left the church to the strains of Mendelssohn's Reconciliation. Heaving a great breath, a young woman spectator, who had evidently been laboring under the excitement of the occasion, turned to her neighbor and said: "There, it's all over!"

The latter was a woman of large proportions and of the old-fashioned type of colored mammy. "Deed it ain't, chile, she replied fervently. Dat's only de beginning. De meat and potatoes is to come yet."

The young woman's mistake is more common in the Christian life than at weddings. The impression prevails more widely than we care to believe that when one has publicly confessed the Master, the end has been reached. The evil one has put few more subtle or dangerous notions into the mind of God's friend than this one—that conversion is the end of the Christian life. Instead of the end, it is only the beginning. It is the Christian what the wedding ceremony is to the bridal couple—only the beginning of real life and service.

Christ should mean more to a believer with each passing day, and the believer should mean more to Christ. Increasing ability in the Master's service and increasing graces in character should follow the glad day when the name of Jesus is for the first time publicly confessed. Let us not mistake beginnings for ends.

Don't Be Morbid.

It is an easy thing to get into a morbid state; to imagine that people do not care for you, and to be over-sensitive, and to think slights and neglects are intended, when this is not the case. Your tears are very quick to come, your heart is heavy, and you are a sorrow, not only to yourself, but to every one around you.

The cure for this state of mind is simple and practical. Busy yourself in making other people happy; remember there may be other girls who feel as you do, and show them some kind, pleasant attentions. If you have felt left out of a conversation because you did not know about the subjects being discussed, and the talker turned to some one who did know, do not draw away and feel hurt; forget yourself, and show an interest by attentive listening, or asking sensible questions—there is nothing a talker likes better than an interested listener.

Putting yourself in somebody else's place is a good antidote against the heaviness which comes when you allow yourself to think you have been neglected.—Farm Journal.

The ragged youngster of the street may in a few years be a leader of the nation, and the treatment he receives now may determine what kind of a leader he will be. What he may become no man can tell. There is scarcely a limit to his possibilities. Therefore we should respect childhood for what it may become as we respect age for what it is.

You need not cough all night and disturb your friends; there is no occasion for your running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you can get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

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Convincing Proof.

A visitor to the Hawaiian Islands a few years ago said to Kamehameha V., Well, really, now, don't you think things are in a worse condition than before the advent of the missionaries?

I leave you to judge, answered the king. Since you have come into my presence you have broken the ancient law of tabu in three ways. You walked into my presence, instead of crawling on your hands and knees; you crossed my shadow; you are even now sitting in my presence. In the old days, any one of these things would have cost your life. It is scarcely necessary to add that the visitor was effectually silenced.

The Separation.

We have a beach in England where the sea has laid the pebbles in long rows, accurately sorting them out according to size. The great ocean of time, when it comes up on the beach of eternity, will lay us beside our likes. Judas went to his own place, as Peter reticently and solemnly said about him.—Alexander McLaren, D. D.

The church has a right to the best gifts of all its members.

Prosperity is dangerous. The moon is never eclipsed but at the full.

TALL CORN

doesn't come by accident. A fertile soil and careful cultivation are necessary to produce the towering stems and heavy ears.

Let the farmer who understands that he can't have a healthy corn crop without feeding and weeding, seems to think that he can have a healthy body without either care or culture. But the body is built up just as the corn is by the assimilation of the several chemical elements on which vitality depends. And what feeds are to the corn, and diseases of the stomach and nutritive systems are to the body; they divert the necessary food supply from the proper channels, and the body becomes lean, sickly and ill-nourished.

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