

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

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NOVA SCOTIA.

Officers of the F. B. Y. P. U. President, Rev. J. E. Gosline; Vice Presidents, Rev. J. W. Smith, Miss Etta VanHorne, Mrs. Chas. Ross Rec. and Cor. Secretary, Mrs. A. M. McNitch; Treasurer, Mrs. G. M. Wilson.

Christian Endeavor Ruts are How to Avoid Them.

In musing over the philosophy of ruts in human life, rather road life, it occurred to me that the deepest and ugliest ruts were made not by one wagon alone but by many following each in the track of the preceding one, thinking that that part of the road must be the best, because it had been so often used. In human life there is no well beaten track carefully made smooth for us by others. The moment we attempt unreservedly to follow in the path that another has trod, we lose the originality and spontaneity of our existence in lifeless mimicry of the example of another,—the result, a hopeless rut! So it is in Christian Endeavor work, we may get much from the study of the best methods, plans used successfully by others—a thorough knowledge of these is very essential to intelligent C. E. work, but on the other hand, each society must have its own individual plans, they must be flexible and open to change and must easily respond to Providential indications. There are, however, some things that many societies can easily do. In offering some humble suggestions for avoiding ruts most common to Endeavor societies, I shall consider my paper fortunate, and the time well spent in the Master's service if you gain but one thought that may be adapted with success to your own society work.

The one great rut into which I fear many of our societies have fallen is the rut of monotony. There is so often such a lack of spirit and enthusiasm in our meeting that I little wonder that the stranger passes out the door with a sigh of relief that he can breathe the fresh air again after the dull, heavy atmosphere that pervaded that meeting of God's children.

RUT NO. 1.—POOR SINGING.

This is usually caused by singing the same old pieces over again until the force of the singing reaches such a low ebb that a foreigner passing might easily mistake it for the dreary monotone proceeding from the prostrate worshippers in a Mohammedan temple. Remedy.—Appoint a new music committee, a wide awake one, if not, make it so by your own efforts. Have a special piece of music; as an anthem or solo for every meeting. Learn new songs, not in the meeting usually, but have rehearsals at the home of one of the members. Invite to this all singers of the society and spend the evening pleasantly as may be besides learning songs. Let the leader choose songs which have an especial bearing on the lesson and sometimes remark as he announces the hymn why he has chosen that particular one. This draws attention to the sentiment in song and adds interest.

RUT NO. 2.—DRY TALKS.

Nearly everybody begins by saying "It seems to me." Leave off such set phrases and go right on to say what you think, if you think anything, and if you don't think anything, keep your seat and let somebody else talk.

RUT NO. 3.—LONG PAUSES IN THE MEETING.

Some one gets up and says, "Well to pass away the time" or "to fill in time," and then goes on to "kill time." Better not fill in time than to have it filled by a fellow who has no other object in his talk. To avoid such pauses should be the especial charge of the Prayer Meeting Committee. Let the members of this committee prepare the lesson so carefully that if a break occurs, they may fill it with a bright, breezy remark, even taking part several times if there be opportunity. A good leader may smooth over such pauses by calling for an appropriate song, short prayers for some special blessing naming different members to lead in them or if you have a praying society call for sentence prayers, into which all may join. Close the meeting as soon as all have taken part, even if

the hour be not quite out. "Linked sweetness long drawn out" is a dangerous motto for C. E. work. I have seen this plan work with great success in obtaining earnest, interesting meetings. The Prayer-Meeting Committee meets for a five minutes prayer service in the pastor's study just before the regular meeting commences, asking that God's blessing may rest in an especial manner on that meeting and that some certain person may be brought to the Master in that service. It can not fail that the divine Spirit will rest upon a meeting thus prepared for by consecrated Endeavorers.

RUT NO. 4.—MONOTONY IN BUSINESS MEETING.

How many a president has been at his wits' end to know how to avoid the continual answer of "no report" from chairman of committee. I have found it the best plan to demand that no report be received or recorded that is not written. Many a person will thoughtlessly and carelessly answer, "I haven't much of a report" when to write it down would be quite a different thing. Let the president make it a point to see the chairman of all committees before business meeting, and if possible, meet with the committees giving and receiving suggestions. The business meeting can be made very interesting by a little extra effort.

RUT NO. 5.—THE SUNDAY RUT.

Henry Ward Beecher once said, "At New York Harbor the tides come in once each day but in the Christian harbor, the tides come in once in seven days and go out on Sunday night to stay out all the rest of the week." That is a poor religion which we cannot carry with us to the least duties of daily life. However, we are often so absorbed in the cares and duties of the day, that we forget everything of the Master's work outside our daily individual service. This may be avoided by assigning to members some special work for the week to one visiting a sick or needy one, and administering assistance at the Sunday School Committee may delegate to bring some friend to the Sunday School, etc.

RUT NO. 6.

Resting on our oars, so to speak; claiming lots of glory for what the grand movement of C. E. has done in the world, sharing the laurels won by the leaders, boasting about it and doing nothing. Remedy.—Read Romans 12: 3. (not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.) The laurels in C. E. work have been so abundant that there is a tendency, I fear, among Christian Endeavorers to do more bragging than anything else. Do so well that others will have to brag on you and then there will be no necessity of bragging on yourself.

There is a lesson for Christian Endeavorers in the steel mills, says Francis E. Clark. At night with their belching flames and multitudinous sparks, these mills illuminate all the region. But those great works do not exist simply for the sake of keeping men employed much less for the sake of throwing off showers of sparks. They exist for just one purpose, to make steel rails, strong, symmetrical, serviceable steel rails. Our societies exist for no other purpose than to make strong, symmetrical Christians for the Church of Christ. The swartly workmen do not spend all their time over the same rails, remelting and recasting them, but are continually bringing in new ore, melting it and fashioning it until it assumes the proper proportion and toughness. This is just what every C. E. Society should do—bring in new material, get it under the melting power of God's love fashion it by prayer and service until it is ready for work.

The first and greatest work which any Christian Endeavorer can do is that which is in close touch with its own church. Our pledge and our motto inculcates the quintessence of loyalty to the church, but it is not the high sounding alms giving and offering but simply living with "Christ in us" doing the work nearest as willingly and earnestly for Christ and the Church.

The sixteen years of marvellous progressions in Christian service has fully demonstrated the fact that the world needs and is getting in the C. E. not a crusade for temperance or missions or cruelty to animals and children, but a crusade which is the upbuildings in all ways of the church of Christ. C. E. has but one axe to sharpen and that is the axe which our individual church lays upon the grindstone.

Though this be our primary mission, there is also a spirit which cries out for larger, and better and grander things, which while holding to the principles involved in the pledge and the Lookout Committee, and the consecration meeting, would apply the spiritual strength, gained through these means to all the needs of mankind.

Under this, there is a great field for larger missionary effort. Just now comes the cry of need and want from the dry, baked plains of southern India, where thousands are reaching out beseeching hands for bread, to satisfy body and soul hunger; from Sultan cursed Armenia; from the thronging wretchedness of the narrow streets of China comes alike the cry "Come over and help us." If this call appeals to us as did the little province of Macedonia to the apostle of old, and we have at last interest for the nations low in the dust at the feet of Allah and Brahma and if our missionary spirit be so great that it wear a rut in our society work, may God bless the rut, and help to wear it deeper and deeper until we may break through at its lowest depths on the other side and shake hands with our oriental brethren and lead them personally to drink of the Fountain of living water from which they shall thirst no more.—Exch.

The Pledge.

There are some who do not like to take the pledge upon themselves, fearing they will not be able to keep it.

And do we keep it? Perhaps we do to the letter, and fail in the spirit.

We pray and read the Bible every day; but our thoughts often wander back to the things of the world.

Perhaps we sometimes forget to read the Bible; or lose our tempers, and think hard, bitter thoughts; or say unkind things; or commit other of the little sins; which after all, are so very grievous and unchristian-like. And we have broken our pledge and think it would have been better, never to have promised. But would it?

Even though we have failed; have we not been stronger than if we had not tried?

Has not the pledge been as a guardian angel to keep our feet from evil.

Has not the pledge helped us to see our failings, and so made us stronger to resist temptation in the future.

We think so and say, take the pledge; and with God's help; keep it, to the best of your ability.—Sel.

The Stragler

If a stranger should "happen in" at the weekly Christian Endeavor meeting, and there would be six or eight Endeavorers ready to break every sentence with some sparkling message, how cheerful that meeting would seem to him. Were he not a Christian he certainly would say, "There must be something in it." Societies with sincere, loyal, whole souled Endeavorers are continually endeavoring to attract the attention of the unsaved. Unless we live a "solid" every-day Christian life our religion will suggest an ill omen to our non-Christian friends.

Can we afford? How dare we do it. Our Sunday religion depends upon every-day religion. Let's so live through the week, that when we enter the Endeavor room on Sunday, our firmness, earnestness, cheerfulness, and joy will penetrate to the core of some one's heart. Let's be more like Christ. Be soul winners in His name. Dear reader, is your Society a "Model" society? Are you doing all you can?—Sel.

The Leaders.

One of the duties which the members of the Christian Endeavor Society neglect, is, I think the encouraging of the leaders of the prayer meetings. We go, enjoy the meeting, take some little part, and go away never thinking that the success of the meeting depended upon the earnest interest and prayers of the leader, together always with the prayers of every member for God's presence and blessing. He has promised as much, if we seek him believingly. The leader has load the greatest interest concerning the meeting and should certainly be praised for the success.

Very often the leader is a new member, perhaps an associate member. This may be the first step forward in "taking up his cross." If an old member, a word of encouragement will make him the stronger in God's service. Don't leave this for the Prayer Meeting Committee, saying it is their duty, but let each one as followers of Christ remember to speak to the leader in regard to the meeting, it will not cost us anything and "well done" may help him in living more like Christ, and make it easier next time to serve Him in a Christian Endeavor Prayer Meeting.—Sel.

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"Help Him Out, Then"

BY LETTICE A KING.

Yes, said Uncle Dan, He supplies all my need. I don't have to worry; and I never do.

Once I got down very low. No work was coming in, and at last I had but three cents in my pocket. I ate a good supper—cleaned out my cupboard entirely; then I knelt down and told the Lord my case.

Dear Father I says, I have not but three cents in this world. Now, dear Lord, I says, I am not afraid nor anxious. You've promised to supply all my needs, and I trust You.

I got into my bed and slept as sweet as a child.

Early next morning, before I was half dressed, comes a knock at the door. It was a little boy with a chair.

Mother asks you please to cane this chair, he says, and she sends the money, as she don't know but you might be a little short.

Oh, exclaimed Uncle Dan, softly with filling eyes, wasn't that the dear Lord?

Now, he resumed presently, I'm a' going to tell you what I never told anybody else.

One winter I ran short of coal. It was a bitter, snowy morning. I put the last shovelful of coal into the stove, and then knelt down and told the dear Lord. I looked to Him for another ton of coal, for I hadn't no five dollars to buy it with.

When I got into church, Deacon B—comes up to me. How are you getting along, Dan? he says.

Very well, I says. He put his hand into his pocket and took out a five-dollar bill. Guess that's for you, he says, giving it to me.

What for? I says. —I don't know, he says; don't you? The Lord sent it for you.

Let me understand, I says. Well, he says, it's this way.

This morning, he says, I woke up a-thinking of you. Wonder how Dan's getting along this bitter cold morning, I says to myself. I couldn't get you out of my head. Even when I knelt down to say my prayers, the thought kep' e-coming, Wonder how Dan's getting on? So I turned my prayer mostly into a prayer for you.

Well, he says he started to go to church in the snow, and before he knew what he was about, he was down in a snowdrift up to his waist.

As I struggled out, he says, the thought came to me, Suppose Dan was in a plight like this; somebody's 'ud have to help him out.

As I said this to myself, he says, something just seemed to say—just like a voice speaking quietly at my side—Help him out, then.

I couldn't tell what it meant, but I says, I will. I put my hand into my pocket, and there was a five-dollar bill.

So I knew it was for you.

Going Nowhere.

It was Johnny, the seven-year-old, who tired of the merry go-round. The previous summer it had fascinated him, and he could not ride on it too often. This season a single trip satisfied him, and he declined another. No, thank you, grandfather, he said in his quaintly, polite way. You see we ride and ride, but we stay under that old tent all the time. I guess, when anybody gets to be seven years old, they're too big to care about going and going that doesn't get anywhere.

Now may the boy hold fast to his wisdom commented the grandfather, relating the incident.—Wellspring.

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So rapidly does lung irritation spread and deepen, that often in a few weeks a simple cough culminates in tubercular consumption. Give heed to a cough, there is always danger in delay, get a bottle of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, and cure yourself. It is a medicine unsurpassed for all throat and lung troubles. It is compounded from several herbs, each one of which stands at the head of the list as exerting a wonderful influence in curing consumption and all lung diseases.

The Little Sprig of Content.

Elith was only a schoolgirl, but she has some of the wisdom that is better than any to be gotten from books. She does not spend her time fretting over things she does not have. She enjoys what she has.

Don't you wish you were going to the seashore? asked Margaret. I would like it, said Elith, but I'm glad I'm going to grandpapa's. I always have a good time there.

Wouldn't you like to have a new dress like Mary's? said Jessie. Yes; but I like mine just as well, was the answer, Elith has the sprig of content, which gives a rich flavor to everything—Selected.

I love the romantic solemnity of youth.—R. L. Stevenson.

Let no man talk of freedom until he is sure he can govern himself.—Goethe.

The greatest names are those that men have made for themselves.—H. S. Merriman.

A DAUGHTER'S DANGER

A Chatham Mother Tells how Her Daughter, who was Troubled with Weak Heart Action and run Down System was Restored to Health.

Every mother who has a daughter drooping and fading—pale, weak and listless whose health is not what it ought to be should read the following statement made by Mrs. J. S. Heath, 39 Richmond Street, Chatham, Ont.

"Some time ago I got a box of Milburn Heart and Nerve Pills at the Central Drug Store for my daughter, who is now years of age, and had been afflicted with weak action of the heart for a considerable length of time.

"These pills have done her a world of good, restoring strength, healthy action of her heart, improving her general health and giving her physical strength beyond our expectations.

"They are a splendid remedy, and to one suffering from weakness, or heart or nerve trouble I cordially recommend them."

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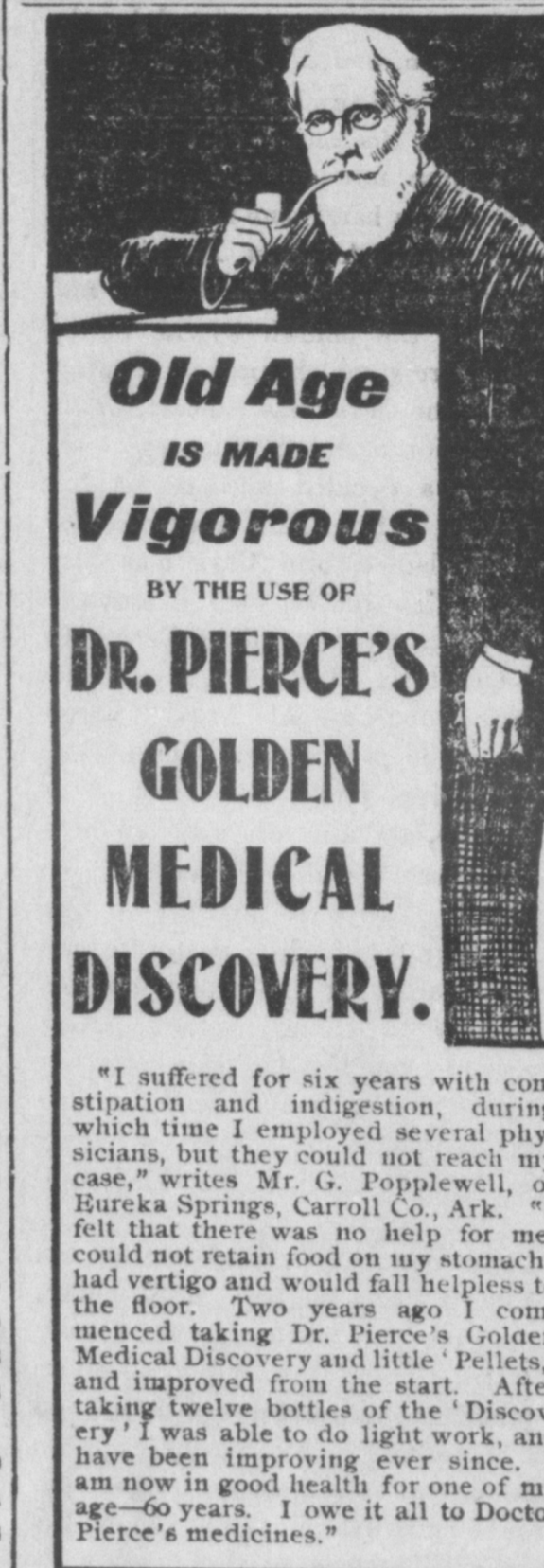
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