

Our Young People

This department is in the interest of the Free Baptist Young People's Societies.

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QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

Any movement after "quantity" which for one moment places "quantity" before "quality" means danger to every society which makes such a mistake.

From many quarters comes evident proof that persons are being received into many societies (for the quantity craze seems well-nigh world-wide), as active members, who have no right to be thus received. We gain nothing by any increase of membership which lowers the imperative, the essential, standard of pledge obligation. Quantity without quality is loss rather than gain.

Fifty members taken into a society upon any condition (implied, permitted, or expressed) which will not require them to be loyal to the pledge, which practically overlooks the obligation to testify, to pray, to lead, to be active, will add no strength whatever. The incoming of such active members brings in certain weakness, pledge-disregard, disloyalty, disobedience, weakness, disorder.

It is to be regretted that any such scheme as rewards for "increase of membership" was ever permitted. The state banner won by an increase of even fifty members (or a certain percentage) does not necessarily imply any more Christian service, than shown by a society which perhaps came nowhere near that percentage. The whole plan of "reward" in any shape for Christian effort, for Christian endeavor, is morally wrong.

It is also to be regretted that the craze after statistics should ever have been introduced into our young people's work. The editor has attended Sunday-school conventions; here, all the young converts are claimed by the Sunday-school. He has attended young people's conventions; here, all the converts are claimed by the young people's societies. He has attended meetings of men's brotherhoods; here all the male converts are claimed by the brotherhood. Amid such confusion and mixture of statistics he has often wondered what the Church of Jesus Christ has done.

Seek numbers, all the increase possible, then seek for yet more, but ever keep quality at the fore. It is thus, and thus only, that we can really build up the Church of Christ.

THE DANGER OF QUANTITY.

It has been recently said (and since being said has been widely quoted, and with almost universal approval): "If we do not increase our numbers we

must die." It is, however, equally true that this very much sought after increase may kill us even more quickly than failure to grow may bring death. Quantity without quality will broadcast the seeds of death much more widely than will a very much slower growth. Seeds of spiritual death are introduced by numerical growth which does not add spiritual power. The very thing which is today, to so large an extent, responsible for the non-growth of the church is the presence of such a large proportion of worldly-minded members, who are much more likely to retard (if they do not actively hinder) a spiritual advance than they are to help it. It is due to this kind of growth (wholly numerical) that our churches and societies are so frightfully honeycombed by every species of worldliness which the ingenuity of man or woman can devise. Who can enumerate the "fearful and wonderful schemes" which have been and are being invented for the purpose of raising funds, affording amusement, developing (?) sociability, etc.? None of these schemes are thought of with the intention of bringing the church or society upon a higher spiritual level. This is not intended, neither is it attained. We do not, as the usual thing, attain by chance spiritual results not prayerfully sought for.

To assert that this condition of things does not exist, is to contradict facts. It can be remedied only by introducing quality and determination not to seek quantity except as we first seek quality. Raise the standard of active membership up to the original intention and keep it there. Subordinate quantity to quality, and thus avoid the otherwise certain increase of worldliness and decay of deep spiritual life.—*Morning Star.*

HEAD LIGHTS.

VII.

CHARACTER STUDY.

In a large measure the lives we study or with which we come in contact govern our lives and make them "for better or for worse." We do not live entirely for the present, but must influence the future. If so, then how important to think the best thoughts, to study the most noble lives, so that we can pass on to future generations the very best contributed by the past, with whatever we can add to make it still better.

Some are dead, buried, and forgotten. Others, "though they are dead yet speak" with a multitude of voices, whereas when living they could speak with but one.

A denomination born for a great purpose must produce lives to correspond. To study these lives must instill nobler desires, fill with larger ambitions, lead to holier living and to willingness to sacrifice (even as they sacrificed that this world might be better), sinking self out of sight and keeping ever before us the great mission plan—living for others and the glory of God.

The good that has come to the writer can be of the most benefit to him by others to greater efforts, as it has him, passing it on so that it may arouse One of the first books I would place in your hands would be "The Life of Ransom Dunn," written by his daughter. Read it, re-read it, and then read it again until you catch the spirit of the man. Always frail, yet strong in the Lord, overcoming difficulties that to many would have been barriers, but to him were "stepping stones" to still higher and nobler service for his King,

he felt that he was an ambassador of the kingdom of God, and that whatever he said or did was not for self, but for His government.

The elements of strength and influence were very prominent—*humility and trust.* How I have seen his face light up with the divine glory as he would speak of the love of God in saving his soul!

He had a mind trained to grasp the deep things of God because he lived in the atmosphere of God's holy love. Nature, to him, was a revelation every day—he saw God and God's love in everything.

His sympathy was unbounded; it went out alike to rich and poor, high or low; all needed the divine sympathy, and he had it. A zeal that was yoked with knowledge, a teacher who who could teach so that the student felt there were heights and depths of love and knowledge that his teacher had reached that made him long with a noble aspiration to attain.

Would you succeed in life? If so, study this life touched by the Master Painter. Would you accomplish the "impossible?" Follow the same Master that he did, and then, long years after God has called you up higher, multitudes will rise up and call you blessed.—*John H. Wolfe.*

THOROUGH WORK.

If you do not want your society to run down, insist on painstaking work. Do not accept a report that is not written. If a committee appears before the business meeting with an oral report, instruct it to report in writing at the close of the meeting or at the next one. Break up the habit of reading Bible verses as testimony; they may at least be committed to memory. Cultivate the habit of rising when you take part in the meeting. It is easier to speak thus, and one is more likely to prepare carefully. Let the Prayer Meeting Committee consult with each leader, to make sure that each meeting is well planned beforehand. Insist that the secretary keep the records with extreme neatness, and give him a good record-book. Take pride in Christian Endeavor work that is of the very best. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well, and of all things our work for Christ is worth doing well.—*Wells.*

THE PASTOR'S SERMON.

It is hoped that many societies will make trial of the Sermon Committee. The members of this committee will take turns in reporting the pastor's sermon at the next meeting of the society. Not more than four or five minutes will be occupied at the meeting, and nothing is to be admitted but a few thoughts or a mere outline. The report of this committee will add variety to the meeting. It should come among the first things. Moreover, it will cheer the pastor to have his sermon thus reviewed, and it will show him that the Endeavorers really want to remember and profit by what he tells them. Besides, it will be helpful to him to know just what in his sermons interests the young people most.—*C. E. World.*

The largest oil ship in the world, the Narrangansett, has just been launched in the Clyde. She will hold 10,000 tons of oil, which can be discharged at the rate of 900 tons an hour.

Rub celery on the hands to remove the odor of onions.

"WILFUL WASTE"



That old copybook maxim finds its most forceful application in the waste of vitality, which is called "burning the candle at both ends." A woman is often tempted beyond her strength by domestic or social demands. Some day she awakens from this waste of strength to the woeful want of it. She has become weak, nervous and miserable.

For weak, nervous, run-down women, there is no better tonic and nerve than Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It restores the appetite, quiets the nerves and gives refreshing sleep. It cures local diseases peculiarly womanly which undermine the general health. It makes weak women strong, sick women well.

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