

Our Young People

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

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OUR TOPIC TALK.

APRIL 26.—*An evening with Arctic Missions.* Job 38: 22, 23, 29, 30.

Christianity has proved its adaptability to the needs of those who dwell in the ice-bound Arctic regions. The total Eskimo population is estimated at 40,000, thinly scattered along the sea board from Greenland to the centre of Asia. Today Christ is known to some extent in all these regions.

Christianity was brought to Greenland more than 900 years ago, when Erik the Red, banished from his native Iceland, established two colonies in this new home. It is said "he called it Greenland because, quoth he, people will be attracted thither if the land has a good name." Almost the entire country is at present evangelized.

In Labrador the Moravians have done excellent work. The Labrador Medical Mission, carried on by means of a hospital yacht, has also proved a great boon to the Eskimos.

The gospel has been established in the regions of Hudson's Bay and northward chiefly through the instrumentality of Edmund Peck, a converted sailor, who wished to be sent to the wildest and roughest missionary field in the world. In Alaska also good results are being accomplished, medical aid to the natives proving very effective.

Socially the Eskimos are not a degraded people. Save for the barbarous custom of casting the newborn infant into the snow to be devoured by dogs and the strangling of the aged who can no longer care for themselves, humanitarian principles rule their conduct. Their child-like simplicity of thought makes it difficult to impress them with the worth of Christian truth, but the same spirit consecrated to Christ is most praiseworthy. It is seen in such expressions as one of them uttered: "I often think on rising in the morning, about this time my Saviour was for my sins crowned with thorns, mocked and scourged; about noon I think, now my Saviour was condemned to death; and in the afternoon I remember his crucifixion and death, and the full redemption he wrought for me; and in these thoughts the time passes very quickly." S.J.C.

PRACTICAL PLANS AND SENSIBLE SUGGESTIONS.

(From the Pages of the C.E. World).

FOR OFFICERS.

I.

Dealing with Resignations.—There is a danger on the part of societies in dealing unwisely with resignations. It is of course a matter of great regret for the officers of a society to have their workers withdraw and there are occasions when resignations are caused by little slights or insignificant reasons. In such cases it may be very well to delay matters and employ all the conciliatory methods possible; and, when tactfully done, such a procedure may result in the continuance of the member in the service.

On the other hand I have known several instances where members have resigned for good and sufficient reasons, and their names, notwithstanding, are kept on the roll and read at the consecration meeting, thus holding them up before the society and strangers present as breakers of the pledge by absence with no response.

One of the most creditable things to a member is to resign rather than withdraw by mere absence. It is an evidence of his loyalty to the pledge; for to resign implies a recognition of one's duty to the society until the relation is terminated by the resignation. To resign is an evidence of conscientiousness on the part of the member, and should be respected by prompt attention. To neglect such resignation is to cast a slight insult upon the integrity of the member, and place him in the wrong light before those not fully cognizant of the circumstances.

I make a plea for the following method of dealing with resignations:

1. That immediately upon the reception of a resignation, the member's name be placed tentatively upon the absent list, either by motion of the society or by power of the lookout committee.
2. That prompt measures be taken to assure the members that the member is withdrawing for conscientious reasons, and that nothing can be done by the society to bring him into more kindly relation with the work.
3. That within two business meetings all action on the resignation be concluded.
4. That no member be held in the society by compulsion, but that, whether the society be composed of three or thirty, they all be recognized as willing, voluntary workers "for Christ and the church."

Committee Night.—The committee chairmen in the Temple Baptist society have found great difficulty in getting the members out to their different committee meetings, so at the meeting of the executive committee the following plan was suggested and adopted. One night each month is set apart as "committee conference" night, and at that time all the various committees meet at the church, and take various parts of the room as their meeting-places, where the chairman and members can discuss their work. After the discussion, a social time is enjoyed; and this also gives an opportunity to practise new hymns and get thoroughly acquainted. No Endeavorer will serve on more than one committee.

For Receiving New Members.—The custom of having a few informal words of welcome to new members is worthy of general observance. It not only gives expression to the hearty fellowship that is a feature of the society, but it gives an opportunity to emphasize the definite service that is pledged by membership. It is well for the older members as well as the new ones to have such a reminder. This will have the more force if it does not follow a set form, and if the welcome is given sometimes by the pastor, sometimes by the president, sometimes by one of the older members.

Good Attendance at Business Meetings.—Our society is a large one for a village, and the meetings are well attended, but few members used to take pains to attend the business meetings, and many times not more than one or two chairmen of committees would be present. We hold our business meetings after the midweek prayer meeting, so we have no time for a social or anything of that sort. After trying the following plans for six months, we now have a largely attended and interesting business meeting. Twice notes were written and handed to the chairmen of committees especially requesting them to be present and bring a report of their committee work. Once it was announced on Sunday morning and evening from the pulpit in an original way. Once the president called up all the chairmen of committees and officers on the local telephone, and asked them to make a special effort to attend, and once the president announced it in the Christian Endeavor service, and urged especially the attendance of members of committees. We have used our local telephone many times to advantage in our Christian Endeavor work.

(To be continued).

THE WEST ST. JOHN JUNIORS.

It is very rarely the case that a Junior Society has nothing interesting to report to the interested; when it is, it is nine times out of ten due to a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the superintendent. The Juniors of the Carleton church are very much in evidence always, but especially so this spring. The society is not unusually large, thirty active members being enrolled, with an average attendance at the weekly meeting of twenty-five. They meet Sundays, just before Sunday-school, and conduct their meetings along the usual lines, the superintendent and assistant superintendent always being on hand to take charge.

The committees are those common to most societies, and do their work along the well-beaten paths, unless it is a little more vigorously and aggressively than is ordinary. For instance, the visiting committee lately reported that last month five calls had been made on an old blind lady, living out of the city some distance, who was in the greatest need. Each time generous baskets of food, and occasionally a bunch of flowers, accompanied the young people, who also took the time to read and sing to the old lady during their call. Her warm words of appreciation has been a great encouragement to the faithful committee. All this was accomplished without the knowledge or direction of



children. But there can be no joy in motherhood without health, and without health for the mother there can be no health for the child.

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