

Women's Societies

SUGGESTIONS.

By Miss C. L. Campbell.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith." Jas. 1:5-6.

This Box Demonstration was given at the Virginia Synodical last fall, and has been used several times in Sunday-schools with lasting effect. It is given here by special request, and may be used also in missionary meetings, especially Young People's meetings.

First get together a cigar box, a candy box, a flower box, a hat box, a chewing-gum box and a mite box—six boxes in all.

Tell your audience that you are going to show them how some of America's money is used. Then call number one to come forward, and be sure to have these girls stand where the boxes can be seen; for the whole effort is useless "except to be seen." Number one holds up a cigar box, out of which she slowly draws a long strip of paper on which is written in clear, large figures \$416,000,000. And the leader says: "This spent for tobacco in the United States in one year, according to census of 1910."

Number two comes up with a candy box, out of which she draws a strip bearing the figures \$200,000,000.

Number three brings the hat box, which tells a tale of \$105,000,000.

Number four, a florist's box, \$69,000,000.

Number five, a chewing-gum box, \$21,000,000.

And last of all the mite box, out of which number six slowly and with shamefacedness draws a small, narrow strip on which is written \$18,000,000.

Allow each girl to stand with box and figures well in view until the six are all in line—do not rush through any part of this—and give a quiet minute or two, when all are in place, that the different figures and the boxes to which they belong may print themselves on the minds of all who are looking at them—and all present will be looking.

If in a remote place and it is difficult to secure all these boxes, do not give up using this demonstration; even with the mite box and one other the "story the boxes tell" would not be lost.

While the girls still stand holding the boxes, ask some sympathetic soul to pray, just a few strong words, that God's children will see to it that the mite box may grow larger—large enough to supply the immediate and crying need.

A CALL TO SERVICE.

In the mountains of Virginia there is great need for two women, one younger and one older, to take charge at once of a mission school already established. It is real work, but worth while and encouraging. If you feel any stirrings of response to this call to service for the Master, will you please write at once to Rev. William E. Hudson, Staunton, Va.?

A MESSAGE TO ALL SOCIETIES OF THE VIRGINIA SYNODICAL.

The little Japanese play given at Montreat last summer has been published, and it "tells a tale." Any worker interested in presenting the appeal for missions, "A Call From Japan," can have a copy for the asking. Just write, sending postage, to Carrie Lee Campbell, Synodical Sec. For Missions.

THE FAMILY ALTAR LEAGUE—ITS PURPOSE, PLAN AND PROGRESS.

The Christian people of this country, or of any other civilized country, need not be told of the profound significance of a thoroughly Christian home. Genuine piety in the homes of the world will settle all its problems, national, social and industrial, as well as domestic.

W. H. Grady, who was a true patriot, said to a friend when he looked for the first time upon the White House in Washington: "That, sir, is the home of my nation." But a few days later he went for a trip through the Southland and stopped over-night at a plantation where the planter and his wife were Christians, and in the evening they gathered the children about them and together read the Bible and prayed, and Henry W. Grady said: "I was mistaken when I said that glistening pile of marble at Washington was the home of my nation; the home of my nation is the homes where the Bible is read, where Jesus Christ is respected, where God is honored, and the children are taught to pray."

Old John Randolph said: "I should have been an atheist had it not been for the recollection and memory of the time when my mother used to take my little hand in hers and cause me on her knees to say, 'Our Father, who art in heaven.'"

The Purpose.

There was a time when the family altar was not an exception, but that time, alas, is gone. We have traveled this broad land over from corner to corner, and have been amazed, as you would have been and no doubt thousands who read this article have been, at the sight of the holy influences and environments of home, which make for godly character, all forgotten while the father and mother join with the children in eager and sometimes frenzied pursuit of the world's pleasure and its treasures.

Surely any plan which will serve in any degree to call us back—back from the spirit of materialism from unconsecrated commercialism, the epicurean indifference to the things of God, all true Christians will greatly approve. This is the purpose of the Family Altar League, inaugurated after many months of prayer and conference with God's chosen leaders in religious work.

The Plan.

The plan in brief is this:

1. Christian people are urged to sign the following covenant:

"Believing myself to be largely responsible for the eternal salvation and religious training of my children, and realizing the need of God's grace for my own Christian life, I covenant with God to make it the rule of my life to gather together each day, so far as possible, the members of my family and together read some portion of God's Word and pray for His blessings upon my home."

2. Each covenant is given a special number, and the home thus enrolled is registered in the Family Altar League and its number kept on record at headquarters.

3. The pastor of the parties signing the covenant is then furnished with a card as a reminder that the home is regarded in the Family Altar League as a household of prayer.

4. To every home thus enrolled there is sent in exchange for the covenant card a beautiful wall card, made from five plates, to hang upon the wall, as a daily and constant reminder of the covenant taken. This card is designed by one of the best artists,

is in size 10x12 inches. It is a thing of beauty and is furnished, free of cost, to all those homes which are enrolled in the League. Homes where the altar already exists may also be enrolled by signing the covenant card.

5. Into the homes of the League is then sent each month, at an annual expense of 25 cents, the "Family Altar," a 32-page monthly, containing the following departments:

(a) Daily Bible readings, with comments by the world's best Bible students.

(b) A number of suggested family prayers.

(c) A Bible study department, under the direction of well-known Bible teachers.

(d) A department for beginners in the Christian life.

(e) A department of reports from the field of evangelism and general Christian work.

(f) A sermon each month on the home, or some kindred subject.

It is more especially for the help home will derive from the daily Bible reading that this monthly is issued, although the suggested prayers and other departments have been pronounced by many to be most invaluable. All this it has been taught, and experience has shown it to be true, will assist much in emphasizing our obligation to honor Christ in this particular way in the home. It is the intention of the League to keep in touch with all homes enrolled and to help them in every way possible. Though already upon a solid footing and doing great work, the undertaking is in its formative period, and any suggestion looking toward its greater efficiency will be most gladly welcomed at headquarters.

The Progress.

Far more even than its founders anticipated has this movement taken hold of the churches and Christian public. God has set His seal of approval upon the League. Its growth has been phenomenal. Up to the present the work has been promoted by the volunteer service of some prominent ministers and a few special friends; and yet requests for more than 300,000 cards for signatures of those covenanting to establish the family altar have been received.

It is estimated that more than 60,000 new family altars have been established, and 250,000 lives are being touched and influenced every day in the home because of the efforts of the League.

Letters pour in from every quarter of the United States and from foreign lands, three-fourths of which are from ministers. Pastors everywhere are presenting the plan to their people. Headquarters are being established in foreign lands, and if it please God He will carry the work around the world.

Plans for a Larger Work.

Much has been accomplished, but the directors have planned for bigger things. "An altar in every Christian home in America" is the motto.

To meet the increasing demands a general secretary has been elected, who will devote all of his time to the promotion of the work, as Dr. Blederswolf, owing to his other duties, could not do. New headquarters have been opened in Chicago with an up-to-date equipment. A vigorous campaign of extension will be prosecuted immediately. The country will be divided into sections and each section will be in charge of an advisory director. The general secretary will conduct conferences throughout the country, and whole cities, towns and counties will conduct simultaneously a Family Altar Day through all the churches, closing with a general conference on family religion. The work is to be presented at ministers' meetings, con-

ventions and other associations. How Is This Greater Work to Be Supported?

There are no fees or dues, consequently some plan must be provided to support it. This greater work is to be financially supported, first, by an endowment fund of \$100,000, the interest of which will be used to promote the work. Further, an effort will be made to build up a sustaining membership in the Family Altar League of those who will contribute a dollar or more annually. \$36,000 has been subscribed to the endowment fund, in amounts varying from 50 cents to \$11,000.

Won't You Help in This Glorious Work?

Every dollar you give will live, will have its dynamic part in quickening real homes to be truer and better homes because of family prayer life which you thus help to bring to pass. There is no limit to what can be done. The homes already affiliated may be greatly multiplied.

No matter how small your contribution, if it be only a dollar, it will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Send your contribution and address all correspondence to The Family Altar League, 508 Lakeside Building, Chicago, Ill.

Yours for Christ in the home,
The Family Altar League.

THE PRAYER MEETING

THE MEANING OF CONFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST.

By Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D.

For week beginning January 28.
Read Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:1-13.

Of these two passages the first consists of the words of our blessed Lord to his apostles when he first sent them out to preach. His instructions in regard to confession were intended, first, as a spur to the apostles themselves in their work, and, second, as a criterion by which they could judge of the effect of their preaching upon others. The second passage consists of the words of the apostle Paul, in which he emphasizes the importance of an open confession of faith in Christ. There is quite a disposition on the part of many in the present day to discount the importance of confessing Christ. They contend that they may live the Christian life just as well without it. Seeing that our Lord and the apostle Paul are so clear in their teachings upon this subject, it is impossible to imagine where any serious-minded person could ever have gotten his information upon this subject if he takes the position that confession is unnecessary.

That it is necessary to personal salvation could not be more strongly stated than in these two passages. It is not necessary, of course, in the sense that it saves the soul. But it does mean that the man who will not confess Christ has not accepted him as his Saviour; and if he denies Christ, Christ himself denies that such a man is his disciple. Confession seems to be the necessary product of faith. If you are a foreigner and come to this country, how can you become a citizen unless you take out your naturalization papers? It matters not how long you may stay here, you cannot vote, or hold office, or exercise the privileges of citizenship until you become naturalized. So you cannot be called a Christian, nor are you entitled to enjoy the privileges of a Christian until you have confessed Christ before men. It is possible, of course, for a man to be saved who believes in