

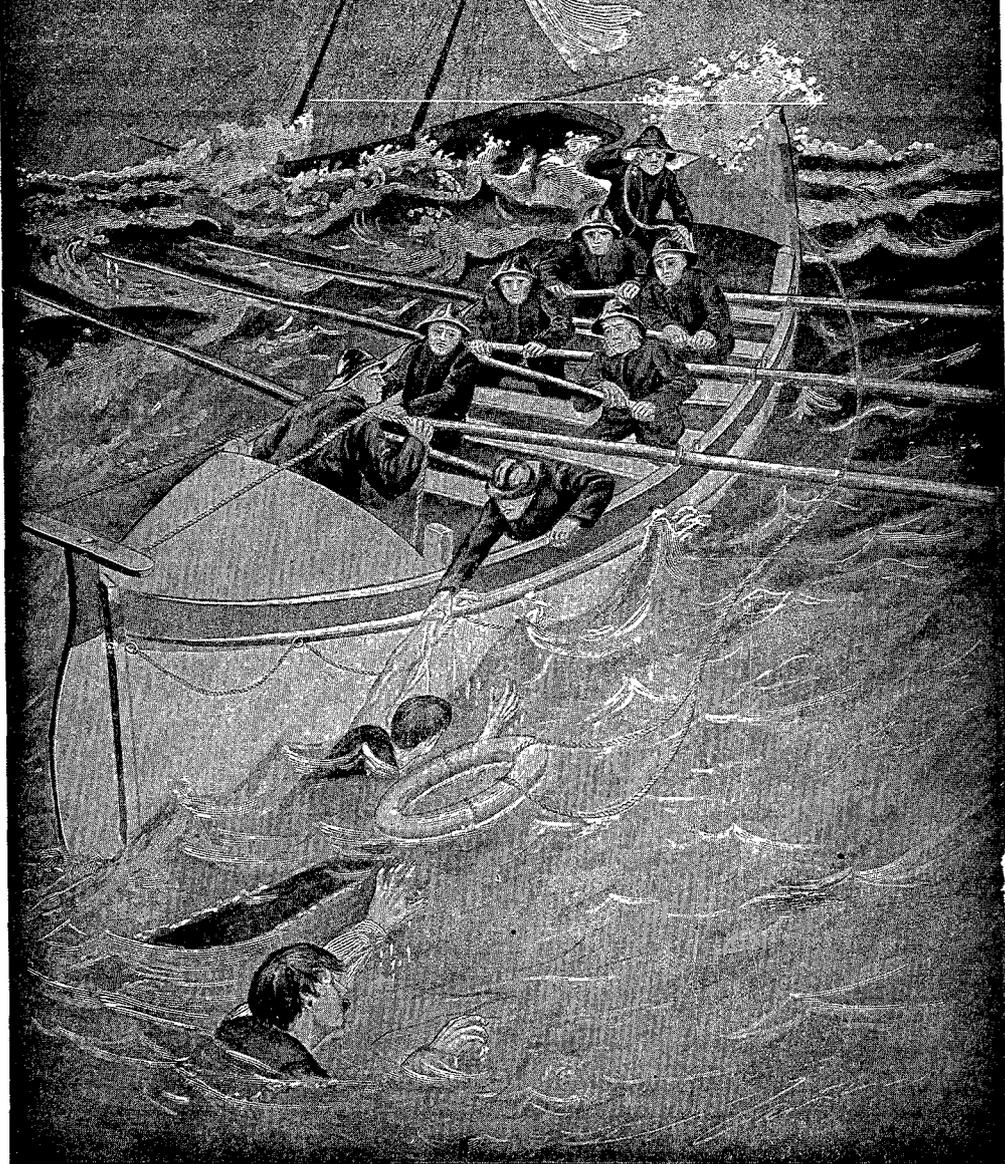
Why novels are read so extensively.

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THE LIFE BOAT



Are You a Soul Winner?

A Warning and a Responsibility.—Mrs. E. E. Kellogg.

Volume Seven
Number Six

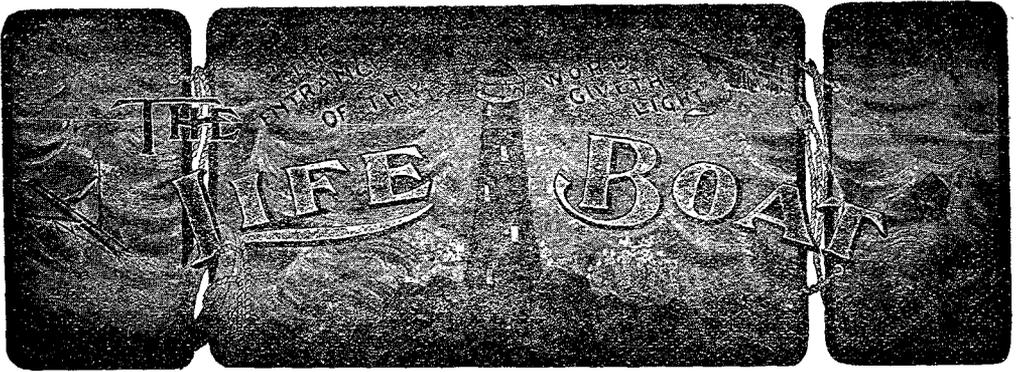
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THE REWARD OF SERVICE.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds both great and small
Are close-knit strands of an unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells;
The Book of Life the Shining record tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes
After its own life working. A child's kiss
Set on thy singing lips shall make thee glad.
A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.

—*Elizabeth Barrett Browning.*

**WHY NOVELS ARE SO EXTENSIVELY
READ.**

W. S. SADLER.

[The writer of this article has made a careful study of the causes of the novel reading mania. He has made it a practice to interview readers of fiction, to learn from themselves the reason for their choice of reading. The results are given in this article, which we

believe will be read with deep interest by all.—Ed.]

Much has been written concerning the harmfulness of fiction, especially with reference to the demoralizing influence of the dime novel. Public attention is frequently called to the fact that this trashy literature is responsible for the making of many criminals. But the study of the baneful effects of fiction reading does not always disclose the multitude of *causes* which lead to its reading. The *causes* of the rapidly-growing fiction habit must be discovered and removed before we can consistently expect relief from the undesirable effects. There surely must be some reason why the far greater bulk of the books drawn from the great public libraries are fiction.

What leads the otherwise conscientious housewife and mother to neglect household duties, and even her offspring, to peruse the latest novel? Why do children hide away from school that they may read these stories? What inspiration is it that leads the young girl to stay up all night and devour a novel, even when weary in body from a full day's toil? Why is it that the devotee of fiction soon becomes as helpless and dependent upon his novel as are the habitues of alcohol and tobacco regarding those things?

The writer has for several years made a study of this question, and sought by numerous interviews, ranging through all classes of society and all ages, to elicit information with reference to the *real* causes which lead to this inordinate hunger and thirst for fiction that has so largely taken possession of the reading public. This article is the result of these observations and inquiries. It is offered in the hope that it may provoke some novel reader to conscientious thoughtfulness and arouse

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parents and guardians of youth to a realization of the necessity of fighting fiction with *truth*, overcoming evil with *good*.

Let us, then, proceed to the consideration of what might be termed the chief underlying causes of the novel reading habit.

I. THE ALARMING DECLINE OF SPIRITUALITY.

Novels are extensively read because the soul is starving and conscience sleeps. The higher senses of moral obligation and duty to the world are more or less stupefied. The minds of thousands are underfed and poorly nourished. The physical and dietetic habits of a large part of the race are such as to decidedly unfit them for hard intellectual work. The brain must have food of some kind, and the mind will eagerly devour novels unless more wholesome and nourishing mental food is provided. The growing spirit of dishonesty, disloyalty to trust and infidelity even to sacred vows renders the scenes, betrayals, plots and intrigues of the popular novel exceedingly tasteful and enjoyable to these classes of minds.

A typical young woman of this class told the writer that she enjoyed her novels as much as her mother enjoyed her Bible. The decrease in Bible reading has kept proportionate pace with the increase of novel reading, and this is true of the reading of all classes of fiction by all classes of people.

II. MENTAL LAZINESS.

Novels are extensively read because the majority of people do not enjoy hard mental work. It requires but little mental effort to absorb them. They afford a theme for contemplation without taxing the mind with facts to master, problems to solve or principles to assimilate. Novels can just be *read*, and everybody knows how to do that. Unfortunately a hunger for knowledge, a thirst for truth, is not the crowning characteristic of the rising generation. I recently heard a young man say that he enjoyed his novels because they were easy reading, and he did not have to "crack his brains" over them.

III. THE AMUSEMENT-LOVING SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

Novels are in great demand because this is an amusement-loving age. This is the theatrical era, and for the same reason that theaters are well patronized novels are popular; because the stage is only a place where novels are *acted*. Life in our cities is such as to excite the imagination and intensify the emotions. The rank and file of the people are in quest of something that diverts the mind, appeals to the imagination and excites the emotions, and this they find in the adventures and uncertainties of novel plots. This is pre-eminently an age of the sacrifice of reason to emotion. In answer to the question, "Why do you read novels?" a mother of three children answered, "Because they are so entertaining, and I can remain home with the children; and I enjoy them just as much as the theater."

IV. MENTAL FASCINATION WITHOUT MORAL CONVICTION.

People like novels because they fascinate the mind, stimulate the emotions and excite the imagination without *convicting* the conscience of neglected duty or unattained ideals in the practical phases of human experience. Even the supposed inspiration to better things that sometimes comes from the reading of fiction and from so-called religious plays is but short-lived and wholly superficial. While fiction pleases the mind and exercises the emotions, truth stirs the soul to its very depths, probes the conscience, arouses reason and duty, and these vigorous awakenings of the higher powers are not welcome to the carnal mind; hence truth is unpopular and unsought as compared with fiction.

V. THE NOVEL-READING HABIT.

The consumption of novels is steadily increasing, because it is a law of all forms of unnatural stimulation that its continuance creates an increasing demand for further gratification. This is equally true whether applied to the vices of mind, soul or body. The novel-reading habit steadily grows, for the reason that continued indulgence in cigarette smoking inevitably leads to the cigarette habit. The constant appeal to curiosity, which produces continuous surrender of the mind to adventurous tendencies, creates mental conditions which clamor for further gratification and exercises as absolute sway over its victims as does the well-recognized liquor habit. The chance and uncertainty which predominates in fiction likewise appeals to many minds, for the same reason that gambling has such a fascination for so many. A bright young woman, who even had missionary ambitions, once told me she would rather die than be deprived of the pleasure of reading novels.

VI. THE UNIVERSAL INTEREST IN HUMAN AFFECTION.

Novels are exceedingly popular and almost universally read because they invariably touch upon some phase of that fascinating and ever-interesting subject, human affection. It is undoubtedly true that for a very large class the chief charm of the novel lies in its treatment, or rather *mistreatment*, of love, courtship and matrimony, together with divorce and other phases of human experience so well known to and so easily comprehended by the common people. The writer was somewhat surprised upon a recent occasion when interviewing those who were drawing works of fiction from a public library to learn that the chief interest in novels on the part of those interviewed lay in the love story, with its plots, divorce and desertion episodes. This means at least two things. First, that young people are allowed to grow up without any wholesome and practical instruction with reference to social attachments and affairs of the heart. Around the hearthstone little or noth-

ing is said about these sacred things, except, as a rule, to provoke a smile or constitute the basis of unwelcome teasing. Youthful minds are literally starving and wholly without instruction on this most vital of all social topics. No wonder they are eager to satisfy their mental longings at the tables of fiction when they find no food at the board of truth.

Second, a terrible drifting into the maelstrom of divorce has taken possession of civilized society. Divorce court proceedings are eagerly read in the newspapers. Almost everyone is in some way more or less interested in one or more divorce cases. It is no wonder, then, that novels appeal to the people, when one pauses to consider that in the last twenty-five years more than 700,000 divorces have been granted in the United States.

VII. FALSE STANDARDS AND EDUCATIONAL ERRORS.

Novels are popular because of the false ideas young people entertain of true success, human happiness and practical life; because of their false ideas of what constitutes genuine bravery, heroism and nobility. False standards of social life, coupled with impractical training in school, serve to develop a character that is more effectually appealed to by heroes and triumphs of fiction than by the small and unattractive opportunities of everyday life, which require hard work and perseverance to gain success. It is easier to read one's success out of a novel than it is to *work it out* of present opportunities. Failure to train young girls in practical household affairs lies at the bottom of much of this novel reading; even as one young woman in Chicago, without friends and without work, told my wife, with tears in her eyes, "The whole trouble with me, Mrs. Sadler, is that *my mother scrubbed while I read Shakespeare.*"

If the rising generation could but obtain higher and more practical ideas as to what constitutes genuine manliness and womanliness, novels, with all their falsity and unreality, would become as distasteful as they now are inviting. A correction of the false notions with respect to courtship, love and marriage alone would render novels so distasteful as to be unacceptable in their current cast.

VIII. THE SUPERIOR LITERARY MERIT OF MANY WORKS OF FICTION.

Fiction is read, especially by the more intelligent and adult classes, because there are some really good things in it. Some of the brightest minds in literature have unfortunately given us only fiction. In contrast to this, very much of the literature of science, history and religion possesses but little literary merit; hence it does not appeal to casual readers and is appreciated only by earnest and enthusiastic students who search for truth and knowledge as for hidden treasure. Ten thousand novels are sold where one work of science or history

is called for. Perhaps this explains why such painstaking labor is bestowed upon making novels interesting and entertaining. And, too, it seems to be easier to manufacture pleasing fiction than to present truth entertainingly. We would not convey the impression that no good thing dwells in fiction. Many of the standard works or so-called classics undoubtedly contain much that is free from serious objections, yet we can but regard it as a misfortune that such great minds did not apply themselves to embellish truth and render science entertaining as well as instructive. It can be done. When but eight years of age I well remember receiving a history of the United States, which I would gladly have remained up all night to read had I been permitted. We have seen young children read well-written books on science and religion by the hour; in fact, scarcely stopping until the book was finished. Why can we not have more literature which will not only be instructive but also interesting and entertaining?

IX. DIGNIFIED BY RELIGIOUS PULPIT AND PEN.

Today fiction is popularized on the lecture platform, is heralded from the gospel pulpit, and in recent years has been brought before those who formerly spurned it in the form of the so-called religious novel. There can be little question that such extensive pulpit discussion of the themes of fiction and popular novels has had much to do with creating an increased popular taste for such literature. Thousands of young people today whose novel reading began with the perusal of some popular religious novel have turned out genuine devotees of fiction and formed the novel-reading habit. We consider the religious novel as a great calamity. It is a sort of masked fiction, calculated to do inestimable harm. Why should we turn to fiction to secure food for the soul when the Bible teems with its thousands of "exceeding great and precious promises," as well as its parables, miracles and thrilling accounts of heaven's dealings with the children of men?

Recently the minister of a fashionable church called attention to a current novel, and as a result every copy in the public library and practically all in the city book stores were gathered up during the following week. This is a practical illustration of how the pulpit is promoting the novel-reading habit.

X. CONFORMITY TO POPULAR OPINION.

Many read a given novel because other people do. It is freely talked about and they do not care to appear to be behind the times. They want to be in the fashion. So they read the book and manifest enthusiasm or indifference according to popular approval or criticism. Again, the newspapers and magazines are filled with fiction. This is distinctly a newspaper era, and every paper has more or less fiction in it.

It might be urged that novels are more extensively read because of the remarkable cheapening of and general increase in literature. This may be true, but novels are the cheapest literature on the market today, chiefly because of the fact that they attain such a tremendous sale. The authors today who are making money are novel writers.

Let us labor incessantly and pray unceasingly for such a mental, moral and physical walk as shall deliver us from all tendencies toward that which is fictitious, unnaturally exciting and stimulating in all our physical and mental habits.

A PATHETIC EXPERIENCE.

LUCY PAGE GASTON,

Superintendent Anti-Cigarette League.

A splendid looking, well dressed, young man came into my office the other day. At first I supposed him to be a reporter, but he had only talked with me a minute before he began this touching story:

"I am on my way to California to die," were his first words. "Galloping consumption has fastened itself upon me but I am going West in the hope that my life may be prolonged for a time. I have traveled all the way from New York and I stopped here in Chicago especially to tell you my story that you might use it as a warning to thousands of others who are doing the same thing I did.

"I came from an honored and respected family, had a good Christian home and everything that money could procure, including the best education the schools and colleges of this country afford. Up to the time I left home to go to college I had never tasted a drop of liquor or had any bad habits. When I entered college I found that in order to be a 'good fellow,' not only was I supposed to drink, but also to smoke. It was there that the cigarette habit took hold of me, and it is for that reason that I am now dying by inches.

"At first I did not notice any ill effect from smoking, but after a time it disturbed me not a little. I thought I could master it, and I did stop several times but would always begin again. This went on for some time and in spite of the habit my sound physique enabled me to hold out and I was graduated with honors.

"After graduating I began work in a morning newspaper office, but became more and more addicted to the use of liquor and cigar-

ettes. I was going from bad to worse, but at this time at the tearful entreaties of my mother, I gave up the use of liquor and have never tasted it since; but I could not give up cigarettes.

"My associates were cursed with the same habit that was killing me, and before we would begin our day's work we would each roll sixty cigarettes and lay them near at hand on our desks. By the time our work was done we would have them all smoked up. This practice soon began to have its effect. I could not study, I could not sleep, I could not enjoy life.

"At this stage I was sent to interview a prominent man. After he became acquainted with me he offered me a position such as any young man in this country would have been glad to accept. The arrangements were all completed, but his final words were, 'I notice that you smoke cigarettes. If you accept this position it must be on condition that you stop.' I gladly accepted the position, determined never to smoke again, but soon began to suffer the agonies of the damned. I finally had to give up the position and went back to my newspaper work and my cigarettes. A young fellow who had not a tenth of the education and ability I possessed, but who was a non-smoker, took the position and will probably make a grand success of it."

Tears were flowing down his cheeks as well as mine and he could not continue. "That is what cigarettes have done for me," he said between sobs, "and they are ruining the lives of thousands of others in just the same way. *Why don't somebody do something for the boys in our schools and colleges?*"

I could only say: "If God will give me the strength and the means I shall never rest till it is done. I am glad that I believe that the Lord will provide both."

A WARNING AND A RESPONSIBILITY.

MRS. E. E. KELLOGG.

THE influence of good reading matter is of untold worth in the right formation of character; that of pernicious literature is as immeasurably harmful. A bad book is even worse than an evil companion, since it is accorded greater intimacy and exerts its influence upon the mind under such environments as are least likely to call forth a resistance of will power.

The vigorous crusade which, under the leadership of Mr. Anthony Comstock, has been carried on during the last few years against the dissemination of openly vicious and immoral literature, has resulted in laws which keep such largely in abeyance. But the enemy of good is not to be baffled thus. In many an alluring form he appears in print, warping and poisoning the mind of those who read. So adroitly is the evil mingled with the good in bright and fascinating text, that to the unthinking, inexperienced mind, it may be almost imperceptible. Such is the characteristic of much of the fictional literature in newspaper, magazine, and book form which makes up the bulk of the mental diet of a large

proportionately harmful, the majority of such literature only captivates the fancy and perverts the taste for that which is good and pure.

"Life is real, life is earnest," but the picture of life drawn in the sensational literature of the day represents it as anything but real or practical. On the contrary, it is portrayed as a fitful, fantastic, feverish existence in which just motives, aims, and purposes, are so mixed up with bad and unworthy ones that the reader is left in doubt as to which is considered the more desirable, an upright life or a life of sin.

The mind grows by what it feeds upon; one who indulges in this kind of reading will



Mrs. E. E. Kellogg.

class of both old and young. Were the matter all chaff, it would be recognized, but there is wheat along with it. So intent is the reaper that he does not stop to measure his store until the field is gleaned, but then it is too late; his basket is filled, with both chaff and wheat. Another misfortune awaits him. All the threshing and winnowing may not suffice to rid him of the evil thus taken in. Bad thoughts once implanted in the mind are likely to remain there through life, despite all efforts to dislodge them.

The novel reading habit is a most unwholesome one, fraught with danger to intellect, heart, and morals. While all novels are not

soon find that the unreal fancies gained from story books and papers, romances, love tales, and other works of fiction, will supplant all aspirations for that which ennobles and exalts; the thoughts will become lower in tone until the mind is emptied of all noble and lofty aims. And when the habit is once thoroughly fixed, it becomes as inveterate as the drink habit or the use of narcotics. Work is neglected, study is forgotten, time passes unnoticed; so absorbed is the reader that nothing short of a cyclone is likely to distract his attention until the whole story has been absorbed. Then with a sigh, and a feeling of weariness the novel devotee turns again, per-

haps, to the practical duties of life, but the incentive to do well the tasks before him has largely been lost, owing to the unhealthy condition in which his mind has so long been. The abnormal state of mind produced by novel reading reacts upon the nervous system, and physical ill health, as well as intellectual and moral disease, frequently results.

The whole general trend of this kind of reading is downward. Hundreds of young people have fallen into evil ways because of the sentimental ideas and poisonous thoughts instilled into their minds by popular novels. Not all works of fiction might thus defile the mind, but it is far safer not to play with fire. It is better to abstain from reading all such literature which, while it may have some good in it, has also an admixture of evil, for, as an eminent writer has said, "The heart of most people is like a sieve, which lets the small particles of gold fall through but keeps the great cinders. Once in a while there is a mind like a lodestone, which plunged amid steel and brass filings, gathers up the steel and repels the brass. But it is generally the opposite. If you attempt to plunge through a hedge of burrs to get one blackberry, you get more burrs than blackberries."

Life is so short, and the time for improvement so limited, that one can not read an inferior book without giving up an opportunity to read a good one.

No one thing over which parents possess control should be more zealously guarded than the literature their children are permitted to read. Fathers and mothers who would not think of allowing them to partake indifferently of wholesome and unwholesome food, with seemingly no concern, let their children read anything and everything that comes to hand.

Others who are awake to the baneful influences of the cheap, sensational literature which floods the land, and prohibit its entrance to their homes, overlook the fact that evil is not always bold-faced. Many standard works of fiction, the religious novels, so-called, and even stories from Sunday-school libraries may foster thoughts and tendencies in the highest degree damaging. Parents should not take it for granted that a book is a good one. From whatever source literature comes into the home, it should first be given careful scrutiny before the eager and receptive boy or girl is permitted to peruse it. Parents can not be too watchful regarding the intellectual food furnished their children. Preventive measures alone will not suffice. The evil must be overcome with good. Build up bulwarks against evil by cultivating a love of such reading as gives the mind sturdiness and vigor, as calls into healthful activity the higher, nobler, spiritual part of a child's nature. A taste for the good in literature established in the early years of childhood will make it less likely that reading matter of an inferior quality will appeal to him in later years.

BRAIN PICTURES.

DAVID PAULSON, M. D.

Careful medical observations have revealed the fact that there are definite portions of the brain wherein are stored up certain classes of mental pictures. For instance, a tumor or injury on the lower left side of the brain will cause the patient to forget how to speak words, the memory of which he has been gradually storing away there from earliest childhood. A similar injury in a certain place near the back of the brain will cause him to lose the memory for all written language.

What we read, see, or hear, is as real as the money we put into our pockets; and although we are unable to recall it all yet it is there. During a fall from some high building, or when brought face to face with some great crisis, some have often had flashed back to them a multitude of past memories which had been forgotten for years and years.

The picture you gaze upon to-day is leaving an impression on your brain that is as real as the picture that the bill-poster is posting on the bill-board, and no one but the Hand which can wipe away sin, can erase it from your mind. The Spirit of God brings to your remembrance (John 14:26) what it has been prompting you to put into your mind during the past. But how often is it the case that the devil leads people to store their minds with the chaff, the dross, and the vile, so that there is scarcely anything fit for the spirit of God to bring to remembrance, but an abundance which the devil can bring to remembrance when he is given an opportunity. Many a mind has for years been used by its possessor as a cess-pool wherein he poured all manner of literary sewerage, until it has become the "habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. Those who have had this experience, if they have really repented of their wrong course, should take special comfort in the fact that Christ *cleansed* the temple, when it had been transformed into a den of thieves. He can, by the same miracle-working power, transform such a mind into a vessel, sweet and wholesome, "meet for the Master's use." 2 Tim. 2:21.

"PLEASURE AND PROFIT IN BIBLE STUDY."

[We never really understood the secret of Moody's wonderful power until we heard him speak to a company of Christian workers. He pleaded with them to rivet all their soul-saving work to Bible truth. He expressed implicit faith in every word of the Bible, and had absolutely no confidence in those higher critics who discredit portions of God's Word. His love for the Word, and his knowledge of

it revealed the secret of his power over the masses. If a man is wonderfully used of God to win souls, you will find him to be as well-acquainted with his Bible as a traveler is with his guide books.

Shortly before his death Moody wrote one of the most helpful books, "Pleasure and Profit in Bible Study." From it we quote a few extracts, trusting they will serve to create in the hearts of our readers an earnest desire to work for themselves in this spiritual mine for treasures of divine truth. You can secure this book for four new subscribers.—Ed.]

"A man stood up in one of our meetings and said he hoped for enough out of the series of meetings to last him all his life. I told him he might as well try to eat enough breakfast at one time to last him his lifetime. That is a mistake people are making—they think the meetings are going to do the work. But if these don't bring you into closer contact with the Word of God, the whole impression will be gone in three months. The more you love the Scriptures, the firmer will be your faith. There is little backsliding when people love the Scriptures.

"We have a great many prayer meetings, but there is something just as important as prayer, and that is that we read our Bibles; that we have Bible study, Bible lectures, and Bible classes, so that we may get hold of the Word of God. When I pray, I talk to God, but when I read the Bible, God is talking to me; and it is really more important that God should speak to me than that I should speak to Him. I believe we should know better how to pray if we knew our Bibles better.

"Some Christians read the Bible as a duty if they read it at all; but as soon as a man or woman sees Christ as the chiefest among ten thousand, the Bible becomes a revelation of the Father's love, and a never-ending charm.

"A young man said to a young convert, 'How can you prove that the Bible is inspired?' He replied, 'Because it inspires me.' I think that is pretty good proof. Let the Word of God into your soul, and it will inspire you, it can not help it.

"I want to show how absurd it is for anyone to say he believes the New Testament, and not the Old. Of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, it is recorded that our Lord made quotations from no less than twenty-two. If Jesus Christ could use the Old Testament, let us use it. May God deliver us from the one-sided Christian who reads only the New Testament, and talks against the Old.

"Read the Bible itself; do not spend all your time on commentaries and helps. If a man spent all his time reading up the chemi-

cal constituents of bread and milk, he would soon starve.

"I took up that word 'Love,' and I do not know how many weeks I spent in studying the passages in which it occurs, till at last I could not help loving people. I had been feeding so long on love that I was anxious to do everybody good I came in contact with.

"I suppose that if all the time I had prayed for faith was put together, it would be months. I used to say when I was President of the Y. M. C. A. in Chicago, 'What we want is faith; if only we have faith we can turn Chicago upside down, or rather right side up.' I thought that some day faith was going to come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.' I had closed my Bible, and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible, and faith has been growing ever since.

"Let a man feed on the promises of God for a month, and he will not talk about his poverty, and how downcast he is, and what trouble he has day by day. People tell me they have nothing to say. 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' Get full of Scripture, and then you can't help but say it. It says itself. Keep the world out of your heart by getting full of something else."

DO YOU KNOW HIS VOICE?

A. T. JONES.

God can move all the members of His body without a clash. Each one must know God's voice for himself, for there are many other voices today; but the Lord will keep everything perfectly balanced, and all we have to do is to keep right on in the way He directs us to go. Then when we have that assurance, if someone comes along and tries to frighten us away we will not run off. So, consecrate yourself to the work and it will enlarge, for Christian work is bound to grow, and we will grow with it, so that it will not become a heavy load which we have to carry. It is not necessary for us to carry a great load of anxiety, for the Lord is willing to carry the load for us.

"TAKE THESE THINGS HENCE."

If Christ should enter your home, as He did the temple, what would He have to cast out? Take an inventory of your book shelves. Is there anything there that you would be ashamed to have His eye fall upon? If so, remember even now Hagar's words, "Thou God seest me." Gen. 16:13.

Life Boat Mission

HAS THE CURRENT OF YOUR LIFE BEEN CHANGED?

Two years ago, on April 23, 1902, Brother Abrams gave his heart to God, so that the opening of the Life Boat Rest in its new quarters was also the second anniversary of his conversion. He was asked to say something about this event and the difference it



D. K. Abrams.

had made in his life. He said: "I thank the Lord for this privilege. I have been happier than I can express. I can say I have had two years of happiness, joy, peace and contentment which the world can not give or take away. And although I have not talent whereby I can give a suitable talk in public, yet the thought came to me this evening, 'We can live our life.' And I thank God for this privilege."

Among those present at this service was G. C. Tenney, editor of the *Medical Missionary*. He was invited to say a few words, and complied with the following:

"After an absence from Chicago of five or six years I am profoundly impressed with the fact that the current in the Chicago River has been changed, and is now running in the opposite direction. Instead of a sluggish, slimy pool of filth flowing out in the direction of your drinking supply, we now have the pure waters of the lake coursing in a tide into the river, and on through the great canal toward the Mississippi River. I wish that I could have observed a *similar* change in the moral and spiritual current of the city, but the moral tide still seems slimy and sluggish, yet we can not tell by figures what has been done by God, but I am thankful that we do see what we do. My heart has been deeply touched here tonight in reference to the rescue work, and I am so glad that we have in the life of the Saviour that wonderful picture of the poor trembling woman, and a record of those gracious words from the Saviour of men, 'Hath no man condemned thee?' 'No man, Lord.' 'Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more.' John 8:11. If there is a pitiful creature under the sun, and one over whom the angels weep more than another, it seems to me it must be the girl who has lost all, and to whom no one cares to extend a helping hand or speak an encouraging word; for whom the world has nothing but hatred, nothing but the lot of an outcast.

I have seen the child widows of India, and if you want to see human wretchedness in its depths you have only to see them; and next to them are the poor girls of our own country and our great cities. I can only fervently pray to God that He will abundantly bless His work, and that He will teach every one of us to do all that lies in our power of such a work as is being carried on here."

Half a dozen consecrated earnest young people can be admitted into the Chicago Medical Missionary Training School work.

THE CONVERSION OF A SOUL WINNER.

MRS. D. K. ABRAMS.

Eight years ago I was living only for money and dress, and was prepared to do anything to get them. After Mr. Abrams and I were married, we used to plan and scheme how we



Mrs. D. K. Abrams.

could work somebody out of their money. But money and fine clothes did not bring happiness to me, nor will they bring it to any one.

One night while on our way to the theater we passed the Mission when it was on Custom House Place. Just then its doors swung open. The Spirit of God was there; for as they sang that beautiful song, "Oh, it is won-

derful, very, very wonderful," I thought I had never heard anything so beautiful in my life. I said to my husband, "Let us go into the Mission." He said, "Not to-night!" "Yes," I said, "*to-night* is the time. I am tired of this old life and want to live a Christian life." I persuaded him to go in. As we listened to the testimonies of saved men and women, I believed that if God could save them He could save me; and I just surrendered my life to the Lord. I said to my husband, "Come, let us go and give our hearts to Jesus." He said, "Not to-night." "Well," I said, "I am ready to-night to give my heart to the Lord." He said, "If you do, I'll not worry you." That was pretty good for a gambler. And oh, how glad I am that I did go ahead. I gave my heart to God, and He took away my sins. I had not looked into the Word of God for years, but I believed what those men and women said, and I stepped right out on the promises of God that night. From that night on I commenced to pray for my husband. I believed that God could save him, and that He would use us both to His glory, and the salvation of other souls. God is prayer-hearing and prayer-answering, for two years ago to-night Jesus spoke peace to my husband's soul. I praise His name for the peace and joy we have had in serving Him. We are now both working for the salvation of souls. We work for the prisoners and wherever God has anything for us to do. God saved us for a *purpose*.

After I was converted I wrote the news to my dear mother. She wrote me, "When I received the news I got down on my knees and thanked God for saving my only girl and said, 'Lord, take her, and use her as an instrument in Thy hands to save others.'" And that is what the Lord has been doing; and since I was converted my mother has been *re-converted*. I went home to sell THE LIFE BOAT, and to be a witness for Jesus, and God blessed me wonderfully. I said, "Mother, why did you not tell me when I was living a life of sin, to give my heart to God, and that He would take away my sins?" She said, "My dear girl, I did not have God. How could I give Him to you?" I said, "Do you mean to tell me that you did not have God? Were you not a Christian? You prayed, and read your Bible; you went to meeting." "Yes," she said, "my dear girl, I know I did that; and I *thought* I was a Christian; but I was not, or I would never have done the way I did with my children."

I want to speak a word in behalf of my sisters in sin. Don't turn them down; you don't know the cause and the reason. They can't always come out and tell you; but God knows. Christ died for them. Put your arms of love around them, and show them that you do love them and care for them. One reason why so many have ceased to care for themselves is because they think that everybody is down on them. Love them into loving Jesus.

There is many a poor girl to-night who is as anxious to live a Christian life as I was. In my sinful life, I tried many a time to do what was right, but as it was in my own strength, it was always a failure. But when I gave my heart to Jesus, He imparted to me His mighty power to keep me. When I was behind prison bars, no one came to me and said, "Give your heart to Jesus," but they came and said, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself." They did not need to tell me that; I was ashamed of myself. But I thank God I have had the privilege of standing in front of those very bars, and telling the story of Jesus and His love to my sisters who are down. I have talked to many a girl who would love to live a better life if she could see her way out. Many have said, "If we only had some one to help us, or do something for us, it might be different." In the old life, if I had some one to put their arms about me, and tell me about Jesus, my life would have been different. But no one said that to me. I thank God for eight years of peace and joy and happiness that the world can not give nor take away.

I want to add one word to the Christian workers. "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die." Rev. 3:2. And a word to the unsaved. You can not save yourself. I tried. But you can do all things through Christ which strengthens you. (Phil. 4:13.) "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:38, 39.

[Related at The Life Boat Mission on the second anniversary of her husband's conversion.]

WHY SOME MISSION CONVERTS DO NOT HOLD OUT.

E. B. VAN DORN.

Supt. Life Boat Mission.

Sometimes we are asked why some Mission converts backslide. We can answer, for precisely the same reason that some church members backslide. The following illustrates the most prolific cause of backsliding, and we give it as a warning to all who may read these lines.

A few days ago I called on a man who had been out of prison about two years. When he first came to the Mission, he was ready and willing to accept anything that would save him from some of the things he had suffered in the past. He gave his heart to God, began to study his Bible, and attended religious meetings regularly. He grew in grace and prospered. It was a real inspiration to others to see the great change in his disposition and general appearance.

This good work continued for about a year. Then he began to breathe in the misty clouds of unbelief and criticism. When I last saw him, he condemned all that was good, pure and noble. I wondered what had brought all this change, so I began to draw him out. Finally I discovered that his trouble began with a neglect of Bible study for his own spiritual food, and soul's salvation. When he ceased to drink of the refreshing waters of Lebanon, he hewed for himself a broken cistern that could hold no water. He turned from the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, and drew about him the dark robes of ignorance of God. This one neglect brought everything else in its train that is recorded as the works of the flesh in Gal. 5:19-21.

When he left the Bible which had been a source of life to him, to partake of the tree of evil, it brought to him only leanness of soul.

Reader, you may never have been in prison, or passed through the experiences this man has, but if you are beginning to neglect your Bible, the same power of evil that forced him into the state of mind he was in, will as *surely* drive you to spiritual destruction.

THE WORKINGMEN'S HOME.

M. D. SMITH.

This institution has been running about eight years. We now have lodging facilities for 225 men and the average number accommodated is about 200 per night.

In the basement every lodger may wash and dry his clothes. To men coming in from the outside this privilege is granted for 10 cents.

Any one coming in for the first night is required to take a bath, and can have his clothes fumigated if he chooses. For other than lodgers the bath is 5 cents, and may be either a full bath or a hot or cold spray.

There is also a lunch counter where men can get a bowl of soup or oatmeal, or three slices of bread, or vegetables, for 1 cent.

Meetings are held evenings and Sabbath school on Sabbath afternoon. Many men date their first experience in religion from one of these evening meetings.

Do you find that your interest in missionary work is waning? Perhaps you are not supplying the missionary fire in your soul with missionary fuel. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out." Prov. 26:20.

Prisoners' Department

CAN YOU EMPLOY ONE OF THESE MEN?

As a result of the list of prisoners that was printed in a previous number of THE LIFE BOAT, we have been able to secure employment for some of them. The following is an extract from a letter recently received from one of these men for whom we secured employment on a farm: "I am settled down in the place you so kindly got for me and I like it. I do so want to do right and prove myself worthy of your kindness, but there are times when if I did not think of all you have done for me I am sure I would fail. I pray to God, as you told me, and by doing so I obtain strength to persevere."

Are there not others who could give some of these men honest employment and at the same time take an interest in their moral and spiritual welfare? Please look over the list given below and write us what you can do:

PRISONER.	STATE.	TERM EXPIRES
1 T. W.	Menard, Ill.	Soon.
2 J. W. W.	Joliet, Ill.	
3 A. B.	Nashville, Tenn.	
4 W. B.	Waupun, Wis.	
5 E. P.	Auburn, N. Y.	
6 W. R.	Menard, Ill.	
7 W. B.	Menard, Ill.	July.
8 J. L.	Concord, Mass.	June.
9 F. J. H.	Concord, Mass.	Soon.
10 A. B.	Lancaster, Neb.	September.

FOUND IN A DIRT BARREL.

A prisoner in the State Reformatory of Massachusetts writes:

"I have just received your kind letter. I do study my Bible every night before I go to bed, and ask God to help me, and I know He will, if I do what is right. I have two old LIFE BOATS which I found in the dirt barrel here, and have read them over and over again, for they are the only comfort I have as I sit in my cell at night. They are the best books I ever read. They tend to make me a good boy, and turn me against all evil ways. When I get out of here I mean to be a better boy, and look to Jesus for my everlasting portion. I shall be very much obliged if you will get a man in Massachusetts to write to me."

WHO WILL EXTEND A HAND?

A prisoner in state prison, Fort Madison, Iowa, writes:

"Reading your LIFE BOAT in my cell the other day reminded me of the time when I was a Christian and a true follower of Christ; and so happy I was. But somehow I let Satan

get a hold on me and here is where I landed. How it makes my heart ache to think of it; but I want to say it has taught me a great lesson. But God will forgive me, and help me to do better if I will only trust Him, and that is what I am going to do from this on. He is one that will not betray me; no, never. I ask an interest in your prayers that I may follow Him to the end.

I have about four months yet and if you can find me any employment at that time I will be truly thankful for it. I can do most any kind of work. I am a baker by trade but was raised on a farm till a young man. I would like to get a good place where I could go to church every Sabbath. May God bless you and the work is my prayer. I have subscribed for THE LIFE BOAT and will send you a small donation."

WHAT LED HIM TO PRAY.

A prisoner in the Wisconsin State Prison writes:

"My parents died when I was twelve years of age, and ever since I have been a rolling stone. From a newsboy in Chicago, I drifted into all sorts of crime, and now am doing my second term in this prison. I never thought of leading a better life till I read your LIFE BOAT a few weeks ago. Those few lines, 'Do you long for a Friendly Letter?' made a great impression on me, and I prayed God for the first time, to help me live a better life, and with God's help I shall. I know God has answered my prayer, for I feel like a different man altogether. Had I seen a friendly hand to help me years ago, how different my past could have been. I thank God to-day I can say I have done with the old life, and the old gang, and am beginning a life worth living. As I read Psalm 23, I wonder that I did not come to God before. My time expires August 30. I wish for honest work of some kind. If you could help me to a place of work, it will be a great help to me. I wrote my sisters telling them of my desire to lead a better life, but received no answer. They would not believe this of me."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM PRISON OFFICIALS.

The chaplain of the New York State Penitentiary at Clinton writes:

"THE LIFE BOAT is always hailed with joy by the men in our prison, and it is frequently called for."

The chaplain of the State prison at Lincoln, Neb., writes:

"We find that many of the prisoners are always glad to receive THE LIFE BOAT, and if you can send us a supply of the April number we shall be pleased to hand them to men who will gladly read them."

A. J. Gates, chaplain Industrial Reformatory, Hutchinson, Kas., writes:

"No magazine coming to this institution is more eagerly sought for and read with more interest than is THE LIFE BOAT. Its influence is of the very best character, and some numbers are especially interesting and instructive."

I. E. Metcalfe, chaplain State prison, Dan-nemora, N. Y., writes:

"The large quantities of THE LIFE BOAT you sent to us have been received and distributed among the men, and we cannot but hope and believe that they may be of great service to the inmates of this institution."

"Allow me to sincerely thank you for the good influences you have had through your excellent paper among the men here. The seed you have endeavored to sow, I am sure, will spring up and sooner or later sower and reaper will rejoice together."

The chaplain of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary writes:

"We received the 600 prisoners' number of THE LIFE BOAT and distributed them last Sunday. The men greatly appreciated your kindness in sending them."

The chaplain of the State prison, Fort Madison, Iowa, writes:

"The 450 LIFE BOATS were received and given to the prisoners Saturday. Accept our thanks for the same. THE LIFE BOAT is highly appreciated by our men. I shall have a number of subscriptions to send you soon."

The warden of the New York State prison at Blackwell's Island writes:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt today of 100 copies of THE LIFE BOAT, which will be distributed among the inmates of this institution, and I wish to return my sincere thanks for your kindness in the matter."

The chaplain of the State prison at Moundsville, W. Va., writes:

"I am in receipt of 400 copies of THE LIFE BOAT to be distributed to the inmates of the institution. I thank you very much indeed for this kindness and assure you the papers will be enjoyed and appreciated by the men."

The superintendent of the prison at Dover, N. C., writes:

"The copies of THE LIFE BOAT received with pleasure. I wish to thank you in the name of my men. There is no doubt they do them great good. A copy of THE LIFE BOAT

will always be thankfully received."

The chaplain of the Hoboken, Pa., prison writes:

"We have received the 200 copies of THE LIFE BOAT which you so kindly sent us and greatly appreciate the favor. We will use them to good effect among the prisoners of this institution. We have over a thousand prisoners here now, but will try to see that each one has an opportunity to read this excellent little book. We will change them from cell to cell as they are read until they are worn out with usage. Many thanks for your interest in this kind of work in behalf of humanity."

H. T. Fisher, a jail worker in Cleveland, Ohio, writes:

"I want to thank you for the installment of the April number of THE LIFE BOAT, which you have sent me for distribution in the Cleveland workhouse, and we shall make the utmost possible use of these exceedingly valuable papers. I thank you for them and shall be gratified to let you know more about our work and possibly of the good that these numbers have accomplished. I shall plan to have a "prison day" next Sunday, when these will be distributed to each of the prisoners."

The chaplain of the Ohio State prison writes from Columbus:

"Your consideration of the people gathered out of all the States into the prisons of all the country is very touching, and it seems to me very Christ-like. You will never know on earth the sum of good accomplished by these silent messengers, which yet speak for the Master. I send you some copies of the latest *Ohio Penitentiary News*, containing reference to your work. I shall no doubt receive several appreciative letters, some of which I may send to you unprinted and some probably printed in the *Ohio Penitentiary News*. I thank you for your interest in the prisoners, which lie like a burden on my heart."

The warden of the Indiana State prison at Michigan City writes:

"Your very much appreciated consignment of LIFE BOATS is here. The same are now in the hands of the men for whom they were intended."

"I am informed by the chaplain that the amount of good these little messengers of hope and of good cheer are doing, while it can never be actually measured, is very great. The prisoners are universally in love with THE LIFE BOAT."

"On their behalf I beg to thank you most kindly for the very liberal supply you gave to us. I think the chaplain has it in mind to arrange for a number of subscriptions for the periodical."

U. S. Deputy Marshal B. F. Hackett, of Indian Territory, writes:

"The quota of April LIFE BOATS for the prisoners at this place and Atoka arrived in

due time and were highly appreciated and eagerly read by the boys. There is much food for thought in THE LIFE BOAT, and it is digested by these men. Many of the articles in it are particularly adapted to the minds and environments of those in prison. It reaches the heart and inspires a desire as well as a hope for living a better life.

"Everything printed in THE LIFE BOAT that tends to get men to throw out and keep out of their thoughts all evil of every kind will bear fruit for good, for the betterment of society. Every contribution to this work is a blessing to the human family."

The former Chaplain of one of the convict mines of Alabama writes:

"This morning as I was sitting in the office, in stepped a sweet little girl about twelve years of age, and asked me in a winning way if I would not like to buy a little book called THE LIFE BOAT. 'I am selling them,' she said, 'to raise money to pay for my schooling. The price is five cents.' I told her I would be glad to buy a copy.

"As she called the name 'LIFE BOAT,' I remembered that I had seen and read it about fourteen months before, when a large bundle of the papers had been sent to the Pratt City Convict Mines, of which I was then Chaplain.

"I remembered, too, how delighted I was with the contents of THE LIFE BOAT, and thought of the good it would do for those who were behind prison walls. I think it the best paper in our land for convicts; and all who will read it and follow its teachings will, I have no doubt, be benefited."

STILL READING LAST YEAR'S LIFE BOAT!

A prisoner in the Indiana State Prison writes:

"I have been reading over and over again last year's prisoners' number of THE LIFE BOAT. What Dick Lane wrote has given me encouragement. I have resolved to live a Christian life right here in prison, and after I get out. If I had listened to my dear mother I would not have done wrong. I am now willing to give up everything in this life, and to let God make a new man of me. I read my Bible every night and morning."

A prisoner in the State Prison at Walla Walla, Wash., writes:

"I have received a copy of THE LIFE BOAT, and have read it over a dozen times or more, and like it better each time. This is the first time I have seen one, but I would like to take it regularly if I were able. I have three years yet to serve.

"Please tell me how I can live a clean, upright, Christian life. Please don't think that all the boys in prison are bad. I want to live a good life from now on."

ONE OF MANY.

STATE PRISON, RUSK, TEXAS.

"One of your prisoners' numbers of THE LIFE BOAT found its way into my hands, and thanks be to God for it, for I was one of the greatest sinners that ever lived. I have been a criminal since I was fifteen years old, and now I am thirty. I have spent half that time in prison. I have served time in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas prisons, and now I am in Texas prison, but, thank God, I am saved. I have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. THE LIFE BOAT is doing a good work and I would like you to send me a few copies of the prisoners' number, it don't matter if they are old ones, I want to do something for the Lord, so I will give them to my fellow prisoners.

I think this is a kind of refining process, for I have plenty of time to think over the past and check off the mistakes so that I may guard against them in the future. I want to work in the Life Boat Mission when I get out."

A prisoner in the New Jersey State Prison writes:

"You will be happy to know that tobacco and I have fallen out since the first of the year, and it all came about through reading THE LIFE BOAT. I feel better in every way. I was so fond of it I used to wake up nights and smoke. Now I don't think of it, only when I smell the smoke from my next neighbor's cell. I used to be dizzy in the head, and sleepy all the time; I could not remember for any length of time, but now my memory is much better, and I feel good."

Letters are pouring in from prisoners all over the country. In order for us to carry on the correspondence with these men it requires money. Who will help us by sending donations for this work? Address The Life Boat, Hinsdale, Ill.

Are falsehoods circulated about you? Be assured that Satan inspires every falsehood that is circulated about anybody, but God permits it either to warn us that we are already in danger of backsliding to such an extent that this very thing by and by could become true, or perhaps because we are already doing something just as wrong in principle. In either case you can allow the false report to accomplish good in your life.

One reason that so many converts backslide is because Satan seals their lips. It is because they are afraid to tell the story of their redemption.—Mackey.



Children's Department



ENCOURAGE THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT.

Children respond enthusiastically to almost any reasonable missionary project that is presented before them. Why not interest them in having a self-denial week and send the proceeds for us to give the poor children a day's outing? Encourage them to donate their Fourth of July celebration money to help to pay for LIFE BOATS for Mrs. Odell to distribute in the children's wards of our great hospitals. We shall be glad to correspond with such children and give any additional suggestions that may occur to us.

THE WORK FOR THE CHILDREN.

CLYDE LOWRY.

The past few months have been a season of real spiritual growth in the hearts and lives of many of our slum children. The attendance at our meetings has been good, and the interest has been most encouraging. Hundreds of garments have been given to needy children, and we have enjoyed many missionary visits at their homes.

Plans are now being made for the summer's work. During the summer months we hope to make many little hearts glad by occasional outings in the country, where they can learn of God's love as taught by the flowers and the birds. The children are still talking of the days spent last summer in the Chicago parks, and look forward anxiously to the day when they can go again.

Beautiful as the Chicago parks are, none of them can compare with the natural beauty of our new sanitarium grounds at Hinsdale, and in the near future we hope to take a number of the children there for a day of healthful, helpful pleasure. It will cost a little more to take the children out to the country, but their enjoyment would undoubtedly be much greater, and we feel sure that all our old friends and many new ones will be glad to help us in this good work.

On the new sanitarium grounds Sabbath School is held each week, and a number of the neighboring children are attending. Missionary flower and vegetable gardens are growing nicely under the care of the children living on the place. Hens are setting, the proceeds of whose chicks have been pledged to the service of the Master. LIFE BOATS and *Good Healths* are being sold by our children, their earnings

going in various missionary directions. Dozens of bunches of wild flowers have been sent to the poor children of the city, who seldom have the opportunity of even seeing green grass and trees. The Mission converts and the sufferers in the hospitals have also been generously remembered.

A number of our faithful teachers have been called away, some to foreign fields, others to labor for the Master in different parts of the country. New teachers from the American Medical Missionary College have stepped into the vacancies and are doing a good work.

Much pleasure and profit have been gained during the past few weeks from a careful study of the parable of the sower, the teachers using "Christ's Object Lessons" as a help. Hundreds of children are being taught to love their Saviour, and little hands are being trained to work for Him. Seeds of truth are being planted which will bear fruit for the heavenly garner, and we hope to do a larger, better work as the days go by.

THE LIFE BOAT MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL.

H. W. R.

On arriving at the Mission I found a goodly number of youngsters, the majority of them the children of foreigners, all waiting to be taught about Jesus. These children were an interesting study. They came from homes in which the sacred names of God and of the Saviour are heard, if at all, only as familiar oaths. The teachers have learned something of the tact and skill necessary to successfully deal with the varied dispositions of such boys and girls as come to the Mission Sunday School. It was delightful to observe how childish mischief was gently and kindly restrained, and the thoughts of these dear little ones were being molded in higher channels than those to which they are accustomed the rest of the week through.

Hung up on the platform in the sight of all was a canvas sheet bearing the words of one of the hymns these children have been taught. The first verse reads:

"'Tis love that makes us happy,
'Tis love that smoothes the way;
It helps us mind, it makes us kind
To others every day."

The leader started the singing and the youthful audience took up the strain with a vigor that would have put new life into many a church service. After a little more singing, the little heads were bowed, the eyes closed, and the words of "Our Father who art in Heaven" were being spoken in prayer. As they get older they will appreciate more and more what a blessing it is to have a Father in heaven to whom they can pour out their petitions, confident that He will hear and answer them.

At this point, the one in charge said, "Now we will divide into classes," and the class groups were formed: four or five here, three or four there, and soon the study of the lesson was in process. How well they behaved! I heard no laughing, no elements of roughness were to be seen. It was a cheering sight—boys and girls from ungodly homes being taught things that are calculated to make their little lives brighter and happier, and to inspire them with love for God and purity and noble living. The school lasted about one hour, then to the accompaniment of the organ they marched out in single file. My heart was touched. I came away from that Sunday School grateful to God for the existence of such an encouraging scene in the heart of a dark and godless city like Chicago.

THE YOUTH AS REFORMERS.

Some of the world's most powerful reformers and most successful missionaries and greatest evangelists began their careers in early youth. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. When he was sixteen he began earnestly to seek the Lord and at the age of twenty he instituted a great reform which swept over the entire nation. In his twenty-sixth year he made the finishing stroke of this great work by repairing the temple and restoring its service.

Do you wish that you were older? Thank the Lord that you *are* young, and say from your heart, "My Father, thou art the guide of my youth." Jer. 3:4. He will then lead you through the experiences and open before you just the opportunities which you will need to qualify you for your life work. Then welcome the necessary discipline that Providence may impose upon you regardless of the pain-

ful experiences it may seem to bring to you. Battling with difficulties or surmounting obstacles is a part of the tuition that every successful man has had to cheerfully pay as a part of the price of his opportunities.

We shall be glad to correspond with any one troubled over this question.

MISSIONARY QUILTING.

Sallie Lue Ramsey, Trinidad, Colo., who, with her pupils, has been making a missionary quilt for the Rescue Home, writes:

"We have sold enough LIFE BOATS to buy the thread and lining for the third quilt. The stitches were put in by little hands but five or six years old. My school is full of the missionary spirit. They have planted a missionary garden, and all are anxious to help in the Life Boat work. Our visit to the jail was a rich experience. We gave THE LIFE BOAT to each one who could read English. The deputy sheriff took some of our LIFE BOATS to sell, and a railroad man sold some for us."

Anna Brinkman, Okeene, Okla., writes:

"I find THE LIFE BOAT sells easily and am asking the Lord to help me to study my Bible so thoroughly that I may know just how to answer the many questions that are asked us when selling papers. I used to think the Bible was especially for old people, and to study on the Sabbath day, but as I have grown older the Lord has shown me He has a work for me, but in order to do it I must make the Bible my study-book."

We are receiving most encouraging letters from parents showing how selling THE LIFE BOAT has been a real blessing to their children and thereby their feet are being led into paths of missionary work.

Teach the children to pray before they go out and to thank the Lord for their success when they return.

If you are trying to make yourself believe that you can fill your mind with cheap, trashy literature and still receive no harm, read God's word: "Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?" Prov. 6:27.



PHYSICAL REDEMPTION



MUZZLE THE DOGS.

In some of our large cities most commendable efforts are being made by the Boards of Health to muzzle the dogs. Why can not we see as great dangers in an unmuzzled saloon or gambling hell, or brothel, as in an unmuzzled dog?

A HOUSE DISEASE.

The secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health calls attention to the fact that "there are always more women who die from tuberculosis than men, because it is a house disease, and women live more in the house."

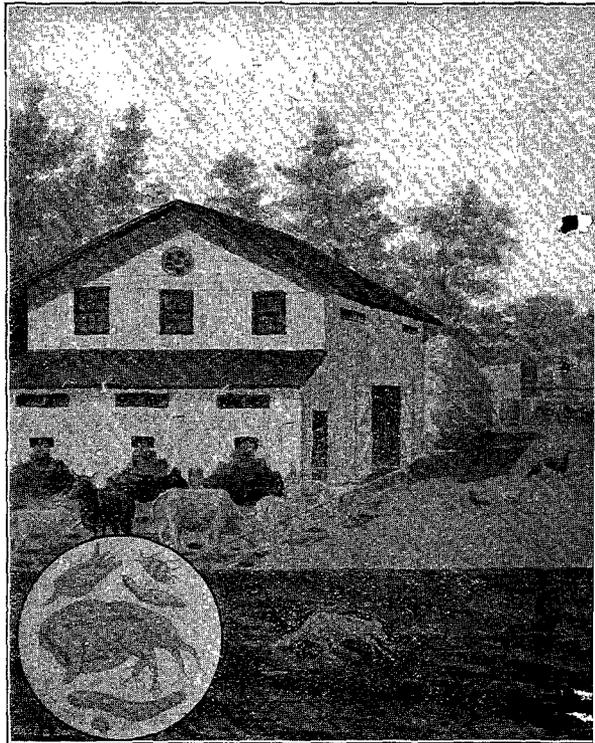
This is stating the exact truth in a striking way. When consumptives live in the open air, day and night, fully half of them make a good recovery. That furnishes a reasonable foundation for the statement put out by the Chicago Bureau of Charities that "death from tuberculosis, as a general rule, nowadays can only be attributed to human negligence. Time was when lack of information was sufficient excuse; that time has now passed."

The State does more for hopelessly insane members of society, from whom it can expect nothing. Equal solicitude for the welfare of those who are dying of tuberculosis would restore thousands to self-support for themselves and their families.

Although the State may never assume the responsibility of caring for poor tubercular patients in outdoor sanitariums, there are none so poor but what they may avail themselves of a larger amount of heaven's pure air, both night and day, and this would be a long step toward lessening the inroads of this well-named "white plague," which at present is responsible for one-third of the funerals of the adult population of our land.

ease our conscience. Those who are finally admitted into the kingdom of God will be those who have stood firm to principle irrespective of what others are doing. It is the *possession* of character, not merely profession, that will finally be admitted through the pearly gates. Are you daily doing something that the Spirit of God is condemning? If so, remember that a day is soon coming when it will be too late to offer as an excuse that somebody else did the same thing. A lady recently wrote us as follows:

"Through the kindness of some one the February number of THE LIFE BOAT was sent to me, and it surely was a godsend to me.



THIS WOMAN IS TAKING THE RIGHT STAND.

When God convicts us of our wrong course, then the devil will generally be on hand to call our attention to some professed Christians who are doing the same thing and this may

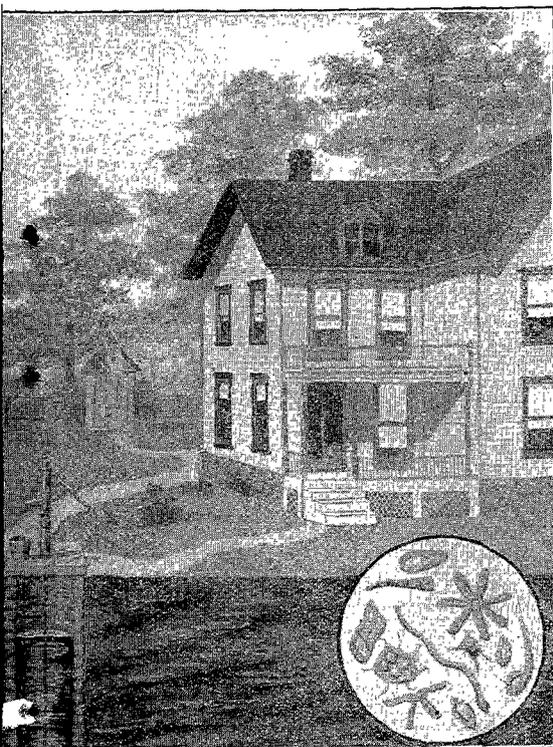
After it was read through I felt condemned with what I had in my store,—tobacco and cigars. I was very thankful when I received the light on this subject, although I owed on

A Contami

the goods and the firm refused to take them back. The desire of my heart is that when my customers come, instead of selling them tobacco and cigars, I will hand them a LIFE BOAT. Before it came I thought I was a pretty good woman, as I was selling it to educated people and church members. I thought if it wasn't a sin for them to buy it, it wasn't a sin for me to sell it, but when THE LIFE BOAT came I knew it was a sin, as it condemned me. I felt after reading it that I could not sell another cigar if I got ten dollars for it, and I wish that there were many others who felt as I do."

DEATH IN THE WELL.

Are you aware that the soil is by no means an efficient filter? Especially do not forget



ed Well.

that soil which has become thoroughly saturated and contaminated with extract of barnyard, cesspools and various sinks and drains can not be depended upon to serve as an effi-

cient filter for the water that is finding its way into your well.

For convenience sake the well is often located between the house and the barn, and but little thought is given to the horrible sources of contamination that threaten the health and lives of all who drink the water. This fact largely accounts for the half million cases of typhoid fever in this country last year, of which 50,000 proved fatal.

If you can not dig a well at some distance from the barn and other sources of contamination, you can certainly take the precaution of boiling all your drinking water, thus killing practically all the disease-producing germs. The universal carelessness in reference to drinking water which is known to be contaminated is nothing short of criminal. It is folly for any one to ask the Lord to save them from infectious diseases if they deliberately avoid the means of saving themselves from them. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Prov. 28:9.

ARE YOU A TOBACCO USER?

You must get rid of tobacco. It is shortening your life, and is it not sin to shorten your own life, as well as to shorten the life of some one else? The Bible says "Thou shalt not kill." You may say you are not using it to excess. Why not say because a man steals only a little he is not a thief? When a thing is wicked, it is wicked. The question for you to settle, is whether *you* will be master over it, or whether this filthy poison is to have dominion over you; whether you will rise up in your God-given manhood, and say, 'I will live without it,' or whether you will lie down and cringe before it.

The greatest help of all will be for you to recognize that God can set you free from this wretched slavery. Get on your knees and pray and continue to pray about it, till God shows you what a vile sin it is, and the filthiness of the habit. Pray as earnestly as you would if a slimy serpent were winding its folds about you, and crushing out your life; for that is the way it will look to you when you view it from the other shore. When the Bible says, "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord," Isa. 52:11, it means just what it says.

You will find it very helpful to eat nothing but fruit four times a day, for several days; drink an abundance of water every hour, and take a thorough sweat every two or three days, and avoid as far as possible the smell and sight of tobacco.



Rescue Service



TO ANY SISTER IN TROUBLE.

Are you passing through deep waters? Do you feel that there is no help for you? Have you decided there is no use trying? Do you wish you had a friend who could help you out of your difficulty? If so, and if you are impressed that we can help you, write to us. It has been our privilege to help a large number, and we want to help you. "Bear ye one another's burdens," the Bible tells us. Address Mrs. David Paulson, Hinsdale, Ill.

THE "NELLIE MAY" FUND.

When the poor widow cast her two mites into the treasury she little dreamed that her example of self-sacrifice would create a response in the hearts of thousands as long as time should last. The example of that gift has helped to sustain missions, to establish hospitals, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick and preach the gospel to the poor. (Isa. 58:6, 7.) But in the day of God she will be permitted to see it all.

Little did the mother of Nellie May realize, when she was led to give the seventeen pennies that were in the little child's bank at her death and which had been regarded as too sacred to use, that her example would lead other mothers to dedicate similar mementoes to the work of rescuing girls whose lives the enemy had sought to blight; but such has been the case, and undoubtedly the heart of many others will yet be stirred to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

MISS FANNIE EMMEL.
Matron Life Boat Rest.

The work I am in to-day I had no idea of taking up when I came to Chicago. I did not answer Bro. Sadler's letter asking me to come, until I was sure the Lord wanted me here. Then I came, and day after day went out with THE LIFE BOAT and the *Signs of the Times*. Each day I had some new experiences that cheered my heart and showed me how easy it was to get into the hearts and lives of my sisters. It was but a step from a social visit to soul-saving work, as I went

among these poor needy souls, and saw how ready they were to be helped.

When the Lord showed us that it was time to open The Life Boat Rest, in a wonderfully short space of time God had impressed the hearts of merchants and friends to give us the things needed for our home, and to this day the Lord has been with us and blessed us beyond all we could ask or hope. It is a fact that many times crises have come in our work when people said it must close up, but I always said: "I know the Lord started it when He wanted to, and He will not close it till He sees fit to do so. Whatever happens I will follow where He leads." I thank God the work has gone on day and night from that day to this, and we feel more than ever convinced that there is a wider field of usefulness for us and a greater work still to be done.

We have moved our headquarters several times since the work opened, and now the Lord has given us the best place we have ever had, and we trust that this union of the Rest and the Mission will be a source of strength to each and also the whole work.

For several years we had planned and prayed for the Suburban Home, and the Lord gave it to us in His own good time. Then we prayed for a Matron to take charge of it, and the Lord sent us Mrs. Crane. All along the way we have seen His guiding hand and there are brighter prospects for the future. We feel that God has given us souls for our hire, and that some of them will yet hold up to the world the standard of light and truth.

I have just received a letter from a girl whom I had the privilege of meeting and praying with in the Harrison Street Police Station. She gave her heart fully and freely to God, and in this letter she writes that she now has a good home of her own. Her case is only one of many which we have helped. Each day I am more convinced that our work will be successful if we are faithful.

[Related at the opening of the Life Boat Rest over the Mission.]

ITEMS FROM ST. LOUIS WORK.

MRS. N. E. HOLADAY.

Whenever I am inclined to get discouraged or tempted to give up, something always happens to give me fresh courage and hope. Last night I came home almost tired out, and I had hardly lain down when two lovely girls, who were perfect strangers to me, came to

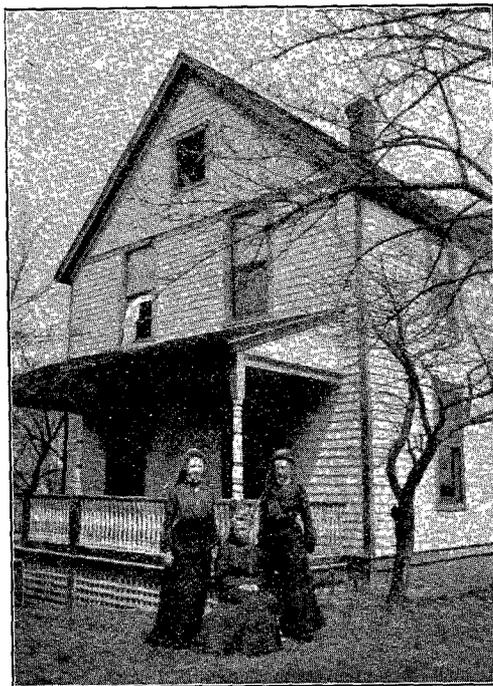
the door and in conversation said they wished to connect with the work. Both began at once to sell LIFE BOATS. One of the girls has had considerable experience in meeting people.

We find that this work is well known everywhere. Nearly every person to whom we speak knows something about it. We are sure that God is preparing the way before us. The greatest hindrance to the work now is the lack of means.

SOUL-WINNING AT OUR SUBURBAN HOME.

MRS. DAVID PAULSON.

The other day as we entered the Suburban Home we noticed one of the girls who had arrived a few weeks ago completely discouraged, and who had decided that God did



Suburban Home and Its Workers.

not love her. She has been very depressed all the time and would not pray, but this time we noticed a great change. She looked happy and cheerful. We called her aside and asked her what had happened. She then said that she was happy because she had found out

that Jesus loved her. We were certainly thankful that the Spirit of God was working in the home and changing lives and hearts. The value of such a work can never be estimated in dollars and cents. What is the value of a human soul compared with a little money?

Four babies have been born in the Home recently, and are there at the present time, so the two or three workers are kept busy night and day. They gladly do this to have an opportunity to save souls. Are there not many of our readers who will as gladly give some of their means as these workers are to give their lives? We will supply all who send us a donation for this work a monthly report of what is being done at the Home, number of girls helped, etc.

Are there not many of our readers who are interested in this work for their less fortunate sisters and who could send us a donation? Let us hear from you at an early date. Address the writer at Hinsdale, Ill.

We need your help to enable us to continue the work for our sisters who will be lost forever unless we help them. We pray, for their sakes, that God will impress you to send us a donation for this work.

FLORENCE CRITTENTON NATIONAL CONVENTION.

MRS. DAVID PAULSON.

It was our privilege to attend the twenty-first national convention of the Florence Crittenton Mission, held in Washington, D. C., April 24 to 29. It was well attended by delegates representing the sixty-five Florence Crittenton Missions in the United States.

We were impressed with the spirit of consecration that pervaded the meeting. Those who are so nobly carrying on this work for their unfortunate sisters appreciate that they can not do it without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some of these workers appreciate that in order to reform these girls morally and spiritually it is also necessary to institute a physical reform. It certainly is true that a stimulating dietary arouses the lower nature, and that is why it is important in our rescue work to adopt a non-stimulating, simple dietary prepared from grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables.

In order to have a practical demonstration at the Convention of such a bill of fare the managers arranged for a health luncheon to be furnished by the Battle Creek Sanitarium to the delegates of the Convention, and it was very highly appreciated by them.

A paper was read from Dr. Kellogg on the relation of health to morality, and Dr. Paulson gave a talk on the application of health principles to rescue work. Mrs. Dr. Nicola, of Melrose, Mass., read a paper on dietetics in reformatory work. Dr. Reed, of Philadelphia, spoke of some of his former experiences with Mr. Crittenton.

The closing meeting was very impressive. A consecration service was conducted by Mr. Crittenton, in which many members of the conference took part and re-dedicated themselves to renewed service for God and humanity. At the close all present encircled the interior of the church, joining hands with each other while they sang.

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love."

A ST. LOUIS PRISON EXPERIENCE.

MRS. N. E. HOLADAY.

Supt. St. Louis Life Boat Work.

Last Sunday afternoon I took some April LIFE BOATS to the St. Louis workhouse to distribute them to the prisoners, after the service for the women inmates. I went to the matron's office and was cordially received by her. She now has ninety poor girls and women under her care, and says they average about that number all the time.

When the services began I was asked by the leader to help conduct the services, which I did. The Lord helped me and gave me a message for those poor dear souls, and many hearts were touched as I told them about our work for girls here this summer, and about THE LIFE BOAT and how many have sent money they had worked hard to earn so that they could have this good paper to read.

After the services the girls all felt free to come and speak to me, and all wanted a paper and promised to read it and then give to girls who were not there.

Oh, I wish I could tell the readers of THE LIFE BOAT all I felt and saw, as I looked into the faces of those poor souls, with no hope, no friends, and everything dear to other girls gone! Oh, readers, think of this: one girl said, "I get out in about a week and have no where to go, and not a friend on earth; what shall I do?" Reader, what *can* she do?

Now again I plead with you all to send us help for our work for girls here in St. Louis during the Exposition and help us to save the girls who will come here by thousands, and before the Fair is over will be lost, and in the awful condition of the poor soul spoken of above.

All expenses are very high here, and unless we have more money than has yet been sent to us our work will be very limited.

We are willing, by the Lord's help, to give our time, so send us money to help us, even if it is only a small amount.

WHAT CAN I DO?

CORA B. COLE.

During my visiting work at the dispensary I have met with experiences which have made me feel my own helplessness and entire dependence upon God. Since the first of January I have spent most of my time visiting and giving treatments to the poor suffering people in their homes. I have seen children burning with fever, lying on a dirty old mattress with nothing but a greasy dress skirt and a piece of a cotton blanket to cover them; beautiful children, who will grow up and perhaps never know any other home than a smoky garret.

During the bitterly cold months of January and February I visited homes where there were no blankets on the beds, no shoes and stockings for the little feet, and sometimes nothing to eat. I have seen a father dying with consumption, and the poor worn-out mother washing, ironing and scrubbing, day after day, trying to earn enough to pay the rent, buy coal and get a little food to keep them from starving. I have seen a mother sick in bed and her children around her asking for something to eat, when she did not have it to give them. One very cold day an old lady came to me who had newspapers wrapped around her body inside her dress to help keep out the cold. She had on no underwear, only a shabby old dress and some newspapers.

Seeing so much suffering and misery, many times I have asked myself, "What can I do? Will the little that I can do be of any use where there is so *much* suffering?" But the Lord has always helped me to do *something*—perhaps a cold compress to a tired, aching head, a cold sponge to the patient burning with fever, a few garments, a dress or gown for a little girl, sometimes a loaf of bread with a few kind words. Thus some little hearts are made glad and some aches and pains eased, and so we go on from day to day. The Lord will surely give each of us something to do for Him if we are only willing.

A business man in New Orleans writes: "Inclosed find \$1 to be used in your rescue mission work. I became interested through reading your March copy, which I found lying around our office."

Neighborhood Gospel Work

DON'T OVERLOOK PERSONAL WORK.

For every public sermon that Christ preached He sat down many times at the well of Samaria, or at the midnight hour with Nicodemus or some other poor sinner, and did *personal* work. That is ideal missionary work. Even a sinner can be persuaded to stand on a platform and say something to elicit the applause of the multitude, but it takes *Christianity* to get down by the side of some poor neglected sinner and persuade him to be a Christian. But successful and effective public speaking must be built on a foundation of personal work, in order to produce lasting results.

SOUL-SAVING WORK FOR MINERS.

MRS DAVID PAULSON.

There are thousands of men employed in the great mining districts of this country who have scarcely an opportunity to hear the gospel. There must be many of these apparently hardened men, who, if the gospel was presented to them in an attractive way, would accept it. There are many diamonds in the rough; let us "seek and find them."

We recently heard from a worker in a distant State who calls attention to the fact that something should be done for these men. We quote the following from her letter:

"No one knows how bad they are in these mining camps. The girls in this neighborhood have no church school, and nothing but dances, so they begin to dance at nine and ten years of age." This expresses in a mild way the sin and degradation often found in mining communities. When we consider their great need of a Saviour it ought to fill us with a desire to help them. Where the greatest darkness is there is the greatest need of light.

It would be possible for the readers of THE LIFE BOAT to help us send a light to these dark places. Possibly this LIFE BOAT goes to people who live in mining districts. If so, could you not interest some one to help you distribute papers each month among the miners? We would be glad if you would write us concerning this work. You may be able to send us some helpful suggestions. Possibly there are some men who read this whom God is calling to this work. If so, don't smother this call, for the field is great and needs laborers.

HOSPITAL BANDS.

MRS. HELEN W. ODELL.

Supt. Chicago Hospital Life Boat Work.

In many of the Chicago hospitals to which we take THE LIFE BOAT there are children's wards. Their helplessness and suffering has always appealed to me. We have felt that something could be done for these children. Recently while in another city on a missionary errand I talked with a group of high school pupils in reference to organizing a hospital band for the hospital work in Chicago. I afterward conversed with one of the teachers who was already deeply interested in such work. She invited me to visit the school the next morning, to tell the children about it. The result was that a hospital band was formed with the teachers as leaders. In the afternoon I was invited into two other rooms in the school where another band was organized. Two boxes of flowers have already been received from these scholars and taken to hospital children, thus making them happy.

What can the children do who form these bands? Many things: they can send to some hospital flowers, toys, pictures, picture books, or little things which they themselves have made; and in some instances clothing and other necessities. Pictures and decorations for the walls would be acceptable. Who will organize such a band? We shall be glad to correspond with them and give them all the suggestions possible.

Three more hospitals have been visited this month. To one of these some unknown friend was already sending a copy each month, and it had been very much appreciated. In this hospital are forty crippled children who would otherwise be homeless. They have already learned to love THE LIFE BOAT.

In another, a nurse as soon as her eye fell upon the little paper, at once took one of them, saying, "THE LIFE BOAT! My old nurse used to have that paper; I am so glad to get one again!"

Are you taking any "comfort powders"? If not, just try it, even though you are not ill or in a hospital. Select several helpful texts from the Bible, take one each morning, and at the end of a month you will find a great improvement in your spiritual health. Your appetite for heavenly food will be improved, your spiritual strength will be much more able to endure hardship as a good soldier for Christ, and you will have more power to resist temptation.

Recently I had the privilege of calling the attention of the North-west Side W. C. T. U.

to the Hospital work. They will be glad to co-operate with us in supplying the National Temperance Hospital with THE LIFE BOAT.

When visiting Berwyn I organized some of the school children into hospital bands, and since then they have sent in two lovely boxes of flowers for use in the hospital work. I also received a box from La Verne, and if the children could see the tears of joy that I saw while distributing them they would not feel that their time was spent in vain.

One day I went into a saloon and asked the proprietor if he did not wish to buy a LIFE BOAT. At first he did not pay much attention, but as I explained the hospital work to him, and told him what work was being done in the prisons and the rescue work, he became more and more interested. Finally he asked me if I would not go upstairs and talk to his wife. I did so, and to my glad surprise he locked up his saloon and went with me. I had a blessed season of Bible study with him and his wife, and it was evident that both were deeply interested. I hope to soon see the man close his saloon for all time.

FROM SOME OF OUR LIFE BOAT WORKERS.

Miss Alberta Wiest left Chicago last November for an extended gospel trip through the South, defraying her expenses by the sale of THE LIFE BOAT.

Among the cities she has visited are Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta, Vicksburg, Jacksonville, Tampa, New Orleans, Mobile and Birmingham. During this trip she has ordered 17,050 LIFE BOATS. Writing from Montgomery, Ala., she says:

"The Lord has wonderfully blessed me in this work. I have trials and tribulations, but the blessings are always greater than the discouragements."

Mrs. Perley Wilson, Mobile, Alabama, writes: "Last night while selling papers a young man called me as I was passing and gave me a nickel and said, 'Don't you remember you gave me one when I was in that cell alone?' He wanted to pay for the one I had given him there, but I gave him another one for his nickel. He is much interested.

"We met two men who said they had seen THE LIFE BOAT and liked it. They also said your workers gave them one in Chicago at the Harrison Street Police Station.

"We frequently meet one who really wants the paper, but has no money, so we give him one, and before long some one generally gives us a dime for a copy, or pays for one without taking it. We have had enough extra money given us in this way to pay for the 100 April LIFE BOATS we ordered for the jail

here. We put tracts in THE LIFE BOATS we sell on the streets, and in the railroad shop, and I have had good reports from them. Some are studying the truth and we hope for good results."

Mrs. Willeford, who has been doing gospel work in Atlanta for several years, and is now selling LIFE BOATS in a number of southern cities, writes the following earnest words:

"It was with tears and earnest prayer I sought the Lord to guide me and lead me to take the right step, and the thought came to me so forcibly that the Lord would send His guiding hand before me, and I feel that He has been with me every step of the way. I have not done as much as some others, as I have visited the small places, but I believe that this is just what the Lord wanted me to do; although I did not earn so much money yet I have been able to pay all expenses and have had rich experiences and many blessings. I have had a good home in every town and everybody soon becomes my friend. I visit the jails and supply them with THE LIFE BOAT. I feel of good courage in the work and pray that I may be able to continue in it."

Mercia Morse, the Life Boat office book-keeper, and Mae Coker, recently started on a gospel trip to Buffalo and return. They write from Windsor, Canada:

"We are getting along well and having a glorious time. The weather has been beautiful and it seems as if the Lord Himself had been planning the trip for us. In South Bend we met a young man who had been converted in The Life Boat Mission. He told us he was enjoying a good Christian experience, and had not smoked a single cigarette since his conversion, a year ago, although before that he had smoked at least a box every day for eighteen years."

Laura B. Little writes from New Orleans:

"We have visited the jail twice, and left LIFE BOATS for the prisoners. We have also visited the hospital, and after the patients became acquainted with us, they eagerly watched for us again. Some of them eagerly call for us before we have time to reach their bedsides. In one ward we found a young man studying carefully the Testament that had been given him. When I handed him a LIFE BOAT he said, 'Why, Jesus has sent you here with some good reading. I don't want to read trashy novels, I only want to read about Jesus and His people.' One lady patient asked permission to take THE LIFE BOAT home for her family to read. We also leave copies in the public libraries and large hotels. Each day before we start out we ask God to guide us, and we have been wonderfully blessed, and are happy in our work."

WHAT THE GIFT OF ONE GOOD BOOK DID.

One of our workers sent as a gift to a friend a copy of Dr. J. Hudson Taylor's missionary book, "A Retrospect." Shortly afterward a grateful acknowledgment of the gift was received, from which we quote the following:

"I have finished reading 'A Retrospect.' It is one of the most helpful and beautiful books I have ever read. After I had once commenced to read it, I could not stop until I had finished. I had been 'blue' much of the time for the last year, and could not understand how certain sufferings were for the best. This book came at just the right time and has been a great inspiration to me. Many parts of it I have read over twice. I think now of the many times I have said just as Dr. Taylor did: 'All these things are against me,' forgetting the words: 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' The book has taught me a good lesson and has reminded me of a great many things which in my troubles I should have remembered, but alas! looking on the dark side, I forgot. You never could have sent the book at a better time. In all my life there has never been a time when I so much needed such a reminder, and when it could have done me so much good, as the present.

"What a grand and noble life Dr. Taylor has led, and at length enjoys a peaceful old age. I long for such faith in the Lord."

If you should feel tempted to give to a friend a cheap, trashy book, to rob him of precious time, stop and think how much more good might be done, if you should do as this worker did. We furnish this book for four new subscribers.

DURING A SCHOOL TEACHER'S SPARE MOMENTS.

Lulu May Henry writes:

"While away on a visit last winter I chanced to pick up a copy of THE LIFE BOAT. In it I saw an article by Miss Alice Burghart, which interested me very much. In the article she wrote: 'There was a still, small voice prompting me to undertake this work and I am glad I did not smother it. If that same small voice whispers to you, do not neglect it, for you will never know what blessed experiences you will miss if you do. Order a supply of LIFE BOATS and go to work even if it does seem that there are obstacles in the way.'

"After returning to my home in Oklahoma I ordered twenty-five copies, and the first

night I sold nearly all of them in about one hour.

"One evening while I was in a store a young man asked me if I was the young lady who sold LIFE BOATS. He said he had bought a paper from me one night and had taken it home and read it, and thought it was the finest little paper he ever saw. On handing me the money to pay for a year's subscription, he said, 'I will not lay the paper down when I get through reading it, but will give it to some of the other boys to read.'

"While in Chandler, Okla., I sold sixty-seven LIFE BOATS in about two hours, to God be all the praise.

"Last week a friend and myself went to Hot Springs; we were told that we could not sell any LIFE BOATS there, but we were not in the least discouraged and sold about one hundred in three hours. Last night we went to a small town eight miles away. We only took thirty LIFE BOATS, but sold them all in a few minutes."

A friend sending us a generous donation for the St. Louis rescue work, the Life Boat Rest, the Prisoners' Fund, the visiting nurses and the foreign work, writes: "In mamma's dying talk with me she said she wanted her money given to the cause of God. She did not specify to what departments she wished it given, but I am sending it to the departments I thought would please her if she were living."

One of Wisconsin's former Governors writes:

"Enclosed find five dollars, for the promotion of your good work with THE LIFE BOAT. During my term of office as Governor, I spent considerable time in prison investigation, and often reflected how sad it was that saving penitence did not come to these men in time to prevent the commission of crime."

A gentleman in Texas writes:

"I was a wanderer on the face of the earth for many a year, not caring for any one, until about a year ago when some one sent me a copy of THE LIFE BOAT. I read everything in it and it did me good. It has been a great benefit to me, and now I want to help somebody who is in need of help."

Paul exhorted Timothy to give attention to reading.

PENTECOSTAL LIGHT AND LIFE MISSION.

MRS. A. E. LOUNSBURY,
Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Early last fall my husband and myself felt impressed to open a mission in Council Bluffs. On searching we discovered an empty church building that had been vacant for some time. The windows were broken and it was so forsaken that birds had built their nests in it. After taking the matter to God in earnest prayer to learn whether He really wanted us to work here or not, we felt assured that we were in the path of duty. We rented the building, repaired what was most needed, and on December 31, 1903, began a series of meetings, walking by faith, trusting in the Lord for all expenses. The attendance has been fair, with good interest and the best of attention. We have strongly felt that the hand of the Lord has led us sometimes over the dreariest ways, but also into paths of peace and joy. We have received many encouragements and the prayers and testimonies of the dear people have been a great blessing to us. Many have thanked God over and over for directing our steps to this work.

THE LIFE BOAT is the only paper I use in my work. It is my daily companion, and is being well circulated over these parts. I find that the more people become acquainted with this valuable little publication the more eager they are to receive it. Surely it is a gospel of itself, sending forth rays of sunlight and comfort and truth everywhere it goes. Children are delighted with it, and after they have once seen or heard its name readily remember it. This little messenger is doing much good for lost humanity, for it presents the gospel in such a simple, truthful manner, and contains food for young and old, saint and sinner.

On April 3 we organized a Sunday school, in which we take great interest. It is rapidly growing and the children are greatly pleased. We found a number who had never had the privilege of such blessings before, and we rejoice that we may teach them, for our Saviour said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Mark 10:14. We earnestly ask the prayers of every LIFE BOAT reader that the Saviour may give us wisdom

and grace sufficient to mold their youthful hearts for Christ, who loves them so tenderly.

SHALL WE READ THE NEWSPAPERS?

MRS. M. C. WILCOX,
Oakland, Cal.

Let us pause a moment, dear reader, and consider this question carefully, for it means much to all of us. Have you ever taken up a daily paper and been confronted by glaring headlines about some startling tragedy, so put that your curiosity was at once aroused to know the outcome, the account of which you did not leave until you had gone through it in all its sickening details of revolting crime to the very finish? If you paused thereafter to reflect, did you not feel degraded and debased in both mind and heart because you had been lured on to wade through that which your better nature told you was entirely needless for you to know?

Is not this same experience true respecting a large portion of the whole paper, which you plead is necessary to be read to become intelligent in the affairs of the day?

Can you afford to go through so much evil to get so little good? Can you afford to spend so many precious, golden moments which might be employed in building a strong and noble character, in reading such literature as daily papers furnish? Have you not from this very source gathered thoughts of crime which you never dreamed of before? Do you wish to associate with such corrupting companions? No, no, don't do it; it is not essential to either your welfare or happiness. Life is too short.

The greatest and noblest men and women do not read the daily newspapers. They simply secure the necessary news of the day in a clear, condensed form. They can not afford to have their minds contaminated by coming in contact with scavenger dailies.

Look over the great men and women of the past and present,—those who have molded powers for good in the world,—Martin Luther, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Noah Webster, Elizabeth Fry, Fannie Moore, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, Frances Willard—and how many of them do you suppose read cheap, exciting, trashy literature?

Especially would I appeal to my young friends to think seriously about forming reading companions, for the sake of the life that now is, and the life that is to come.

Some of the best missionary fuel that we know of is found in Dr. J. Hudson Taylor's interesting account of his early experiences in founding the China Inland Mission. We furnish this book for four new subscribers to The Life Boat.

SOUL SAVERS AND BODY SAVERS.

M. A. MORTENSEN, M. D.

When I think of soul-saving work I am reminded of an experience I had one summer while camping in the northern part of Denmark. Just off the town of Skagen is one of the most dangerous points on the whole coast of Europe. Each year more ships are wrecked and lost there, and perhaps more lives sacrificed, than at any other point. The most impressive sight to be seen there is the life-saving crews, who are constantly

not complete until we have done what we can to save his soul.

The question comes to me many times, "Why am I in this work?" and the answer is, "To save souls." It is a splendid thing to raise a man from the bed of affliction and restore to him health and strength, but "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36. Let us remember this and be up and doing, for the night is coming when no man can work.

UNITE FOR SERVICE.

"One chase a thousand, and two put *ten thousand* to flight." Deut. 32:30. That gives us a glimpse of the possibilities in *united* missionary effort. Arrange for one or more persons who are burdened for human souls to meet with you, and then in earnest prayer present special cases to the Lord. You will be amazed at the wonderful opportunities that will unfold before you. When you meet together, pray for wisdom to do just the right thing at the right time. As you plan together, you will be given divine glimpses of infinite work to be done. Self will be forgotten in the thought of helping others. As you speak of your blessed experiences, others will be impressed to join you in the work. Ever keep this thought in mind: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, *it shall be done for them.*" Matt. 18:19. Remember, also, that "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20. We shall be glad to correspond with each soul-winning company that shall be formed.



The Hill and Lake on the Sanitarium Grounds
at Hinsdale.

launching their life boats to save human beings. No night so dark nor storm so furious that they do not at least try to rescue perishing humanity. A look into their faces is an inspiration. Their rugged strength, utter fearlessness, and expression of courage indicate what their life work is. They are magnificent fellows, who regard their occupation as a matter of love and duty, and God alone can know the real history of their work and lives.

While thinking of the grand work they do the thought came to me that it is not complete. It is *not enough* simply to save a man's body. It is merely a question of time when that will fall into decay, but there is the soul to consider, an eternity to reckon with. Though a man's life is saved, the work is

Do not forget that there are moments in the lives of even the most careless and indifferent when the Spirit of God is sending conviction and awakening them to their real situation. That is the time when, if divinely led, you can do effective missionary work for that individual.

"The only fault I find with **THE LIFE BOAT** is that it does not come often enough. I anxiously wait every month for it. May God use **THE LIFE BOAT** for the saving of lost men and women."

The Life Boat Mission rent is one hundred and ten dollars a month. The amount can be provided by one hundred and ten persons each paying one dollar a month. Will you be one of that number?

Editorial Department

David Paulson, M. D.

The next number of *The Life Boat* will contain the first of a series of articles by Dr. David Paulson and W. S. Sadler on "The Source and Significance of Human Suffering, and True and False Healing."

A SUMMER CAMPAIGN.

Now is the time to lay plans for a summer missionary campaign. A great many ministers, Sabbath School and Young People's Society workers now take their vacation; but the forces of evil do not take any summer vacation. Earnestly seek the Lord how to carry on *active* missionary work during the entire season, and you will receive a rich blessing. If you live in the vicinity of a summer resort, order some LIFE BOATS and sell the papers to the visitors. They will be glad to buy them, as they will have more time to read them than when at home.

ARE YOU READY TO COME UP ON HIGHER GROUND?

Continual tampering with known sin is keeping many Christians on the ragged edge. Suppose one of our Life Boat Mission converts should go out every day or two and get a drink of liquor, and use tobacco, and then come back to the Mission in the evening and try to describe the glorious possibilities of a Christian life—how much faith would a sinner have in it? That is the exact trouble with so many Christian workers. The principle is the same for their pet sins as for the convert's vices. The ax has to be laid at the *root* of the tree, and all known sin to be put aside as fast as God reveals it. Christ is able to save even unto the uttermost.

THE GOSPEL FOR RAILROAD MEN.

Did you ever stop to think what a vast army of men are constantly employed by the various railroads? They are constantly being brought into contact with influences that are unfavorable for spiritual development. Comparatively few of them attend religious serv-

ices of any kind at any time. Most of them are competent, capable men. God loves their souls and wants them won for Him. We feel impressed that the time has arrived to develop a railroad Life Boat work. We already have some openings.

We ask our readers to pray for this department of our work, and we wish to open up correspondence with those who can offer us any suggestions regarding it, and with anyone who will volunteer to place THE LIFE BOAT in the hands of this class of men, or in their reading rooms, and in other ways help to forward the railroad Life Boat movement.

THE SUMMER EXCURSION CRAZE.

When Christ said to His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart . . . and rest a while," Mark 6:31, He gave His divine sanction to vacations and summer outings; but like everything else that the Master has arranged, the enemy has sought to pervert it. The summer excursion craze has become a curse that has withered and blighted the spiritual aspirations of thousands of young people. The foolishness, the frivolity, the liquor, the tobacco, and the immorality, that in various ways taint the very atmosphere of the majority of these excursions, are such that no Christian worker, unless he accompanies them for missionary purposes, could in any way run the risk of exposing his soul to them, without being guilty of presumption.

ARE YOU STORING YOUR MEMORY WITH BIBLE TRUTH?

The men and women who have become the most successful soul-winners, all other things being equal, are those who have most thoroughly saturated their minds with Bible truth. The true way to destroy a craving for sensational and trashy reading is to cultivate a love for the pure, the sweet and the good. Search your Bible until you find what seems to you to be a specially choice and helpful verse. Read it carefully and commit it to memory. In an evil and dangerous hour in your life the Lord will flash it into your mind, and it may save your soul.

NOVELS AND CRIMINALITY.

The whole country has been appalled by the startling criminal career of three bandits who recently ended their lives on the gallows in the Chicago jail. These young men were reared in fairly good homes, and their mothers were heart-broken when they learned of the awful crimes their sons had committed. This naturally raises the question: Why did they drift into such terrible careers?

One of them, Harvey Van Dine, was asked, "What made you a bandit?" He said: "I hardly understand it myself. I was a pretty good boy, and always studied and knew my lessons at school, but I had a lot of five and ten cent novels and liked to read about robberies. Then I began to think it would be easy for me to get money that way. I really never planned to rob anybody—*just thought about it*. Then I ran around a lot with a crowd of tough boys. I took a lot of pleasure in boxing, wrestling and such sports, but after a fellow pays for his living, he don't have much left to sport on. Two or three times I made up my mind to quit the whole thing—but I stuck at it. If you want a warning for others who are tempted as I was, I will give it to you: 'Leave out bad companions; a man won't be very bad when he's alone.'"

Gustav Marx was asked what made him a bandit. He replied: "Dime novels and bad companions. I wanted to quit the business several times, but when a man is in it, as I was, he can't quit."

Peter Niedermeier was asked the same question, and his answer was: "Running around with tough boys and reading dime novels about men who made big robberies and got lots of money. Then we used to play wild west out on the prairie when we ran away from school."

The enormous amount of similar reading is sowing a crop to the wind from which we shall soon reap a perfect whirlwind of crime and iniquity that will rival Sodom. Are you developing in your boys an appetite for wholesome reading?

THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAW-ETH NIGH.

Jack London, in his new book on the London poor, calls attention to the fact that 70 per cent. of England's population are on the verge of pauperism, and yet there never was such an abundance of wealth in the world as at present. This situation is a startling commentary on the fifth chapter of James, where the apostle speaks of the rich having heaped together treasure for the last days (verse three); and where he hears the cry of the dissatisfied laborer (verse four); where he

pictures the great banquets, where fortunes are actually spent in a single night for the gratification of perverted appetite. He admonishes us who are brought face to face with this situation to be patient and establish our hearts, "for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh," and not to make complaints against one another, for at that time "the Judge is *already* standing at the door" (verse nine, Twentieth Century version).

"LIGHT SUMMER READING TO KILL TIME WITH"

We recently saw a list of books which were recommended by the publishers as "excellent light summer reading to kill time with." We wondered if the public had so far forgotten that time is the stuff life is made of, that this statement would be a strong inducement for them to buy these books. David prayed that the Lord would "so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ps. 90:12. Are you praying this, or are you craving trashy reading to waste your time with?

SHOUTING AT THE DEVIL.

Do you imagine that you can drive out of your children the evil spirit of disobedience, stubbornness and willfulness by scolding them or by harsh commands, or by raising the voice to a loud, angry tone? You never can cast out the evil spirit by any such useless method. Instead, keep the voice low and gentle. "Thy gentleness hath made me great." 2 Sam. 22:36. Pray until you are *conscious* that a new spiritual power is taking possession of you; then you will be surprised to find that the *same* power is working on your child, making him gentle and submissive; a great victory has been won, and angels rejoice.

THE ST. LOUIS SITUATION.

There are some who have been skeptical in reference to the truthfulness of the horrible scheme to lure innocent and unsuspecting girls into St. Louis from all parts of the world, to entrap them for immoral purposes. The arrest of Mrs. Sophia Weinzeirl by the United States Inspector of Commerce and Labor dispels all doubt which may have been entertained. This woman enticed ten girls to St. Louis from Germany, by attractive advertisements placed in German papers, and offering positions to handsome girls at light house-work, with good salary, in St. Louis during the World's Fair. It is believed that

many other girls are already on the way to St. Louis as a result of similar advertisements in other European papers. There is abundant evidence that agents of the vice syndicate are quietly operating in many parts of the United States. It certainly is the duty of every Christian person to do all in their power to warn the unsuspecting of the dangers that await them in St. Louis, and above all in answering advertisements purporting to offer pleasant employment at good wages and short hours.

The following Societies will co-operate to assist all young women who go to St. Louis: W. C. T. U., Centenary M. E. Church, corner 16th and Pine streets.

Travelers' Aid Association, 1814 Washington avenue.

Queen's Daughters, 111 N. 16th street.

King's Daughters, Rest room, World's Fair grounds.

The Salvation Army, S. E. corner 8th and Walnut streets.

The Life Boat Headquarters, 1008 Pine street.

WILL YOU BECOME A SOUL WINNER?

Robert E. Speer, one of the men whom God has especially used in extending the Student Volunteer Movement for foreign missionary work, writes in a recent number of the *Christian Endeavorer World*, on "What The Churches Can Do."

We quote a few extracts from this article, believing that the Lord will use them to the good of many of our readers.

"If every Christian laborer, mechanic, clerk, servant girl, lawyer, soldier, doctor, dairyman, farmer, school-teacher, would make it the aim of life to commend Christ by word and life to all who are met in the common intercourse of life the gospel would spread like a fire. The gospel should be carried from home to home. What is needed is an organized evangelization that will carry the gospel into every family circle as such, with tact and continued repetition, with loving persistence. There are millions waiting to be won as soon as the churches set about winning them with tact and zeal and love. We want the homes of the land redeemed.

"The people of the United States spend—or shall we say waste?—twenty-two million dollars a year on chewing gum. That would almost save the world.

"If divine life broke forth in us we should do things. We putter and putter. It is not by mere machinery that our cities are to be purged, our waste places made glad, and our social life redeemed. One spiritual hero is worth all the machinery ever created or all

the committees of worthy busybodies ever devised.

"We are afraid of conventionality. We are the slaves of habitual regularity. Let no one disturb the traditions. Let no one go to extremes. Keep in the middle of the road. Don't offend people. Be moderate. God is patient.

"Christ came to cast fire on the earth and see it burn. It was no thought of His that at the dawn of the twentieth century it should lose its heat and blaze like play fire, only for the amusement of the church and the mock terror of the world. Yet a little while, and He that cometh shall come. Even now the Lord is at hand. And when He cometh, who shall stand before Him?"

DOES THE READING OF STORIES MAKE THE MIND STRONGER?

MRS. E. H. WHITNEY.

What are you doing, my dear girl, with that story in your hand? Or you, young man, whose gifts of mind and graces of character have given such hope for your future? Do you know just what you are doing? Passing a pleasant hour, you say; reading only the best recommended stories, probably; stories with a good moral, etc., etc. Have you stopped to think what else?

What is the effect of a continued course of fiction on the mind and character? I am not speaking of that which is, by common consent, considered immoral and trashy. The influence of such is clearly demonstrated by the rapid increase of unbalanced minds and criminal characters among those whose minds in their youth were largely fed upon it. I mean "good, respectable novels," such as are advertised in the most popular periodicals and crowd the shelves of libraries. Can there be anything hurtful in these? Let us see. Fiction usually appeals to the imagination and emotions. Other powers of the mind are scarcely called into action. The mental muscles, so to speak, are not all brought into exercise. For this reason many who have earlier in life read stories chiefly find themselves crippled when mental grasp and the power of sound reasoning are needed. They have gone under in the conflict of life, unable to hold their own, because at the time when the mental faculties should have been sharpening and strengthening, and the character being symmetrically developed, they were living in a world of imagination.

History, with its wonderful lessons of life, and science, with its marvelous unfoldings of practical truth, lose their charm for the habitual novel reader. The mind that is accustomed only to that which excites the imagination comes reluctantly to the effort to grasp practical things. The habit of careless day-dreaming, which so often accompanies novel reading, is suicidal to vigorous and sustained mental effort. Each time a thought passes through the mind it leaves its track among the brain cells. Every repetition of it deepens and broadens the track, like a footpath across the meadow, till it becomes a beaten way, into which the thoughts turn with increasing ease and a habit of thinking in that channel is formed. Do we wish our minds, which might be busy workshops and treasure houses of beautiful and precious things, to be filled with idle phantoms?

One unfortunate effect of novel reading on the character, and one which follows its indulgence as surely as night does day, is artificial stimulation of the emotions. It is good to weep at the sorrows of others; to sympathize with them in their perplexities and rejoice with them in their joys. It brings us into contact with our fellows, and should lead to unselfish action in their behalf. But to weep over sorrows that we know to be manufactured; to follow with keen sympathy the varied experiences of lives that are imaginary, and which we cannot help, unfits us for the realities of life. The nature becomes habituated to oft-repeated stimulus without resultant action.

The most disastrous feature of this idle stirring of the feelings is its effect on the spiritual life. Those who have had experience in work for souls know how difficult it is to arouse a confirmed novel reader to the point of making and carrying out a decision. The feelings may be touched, but the work often stops there, and the subsiding tide of feeling leaves the individual only weaker than before.

So, then, before the chain of habit becomes more closely bound about you, is it not better to stop and think whether it is wise or safe to risk future usefulness and perhaps eternal salvation by indulgence in the passing pleasure of the moment?

For several years F. E. Belden has been writing and selecting stirring missionary and rescue songs, especially adapted to pioneer work; also material for a book of nature and industrial songs for children, much needed in homes and private or church schools. Suggestions and contributions will be thankfully received. He returns contributions that are not used, on completion of his work. Address him at Battle Creek, Mich.

THE HALSTED STREET DISPENSARY FROM A STUDENT'S STAND- POINT.

W. A. RUBLE.

The Dispensary, located as it is in the vicinity of the stock yards, is a most fruitful field for Christian help work. It is for this purpose that the Dispensary is maintained. The door is kept swinging day and night by people needing help physically and otherwise. No one goes away without receiving some help, but the great aim of those in charge is to point all who come there to a higher plane of living in every way.

Twice a week some fifty students of the American Medical Missionary College assemble here to attend medical clinics. These students aspire to the calling expressed by the center or heart of our college name—"Medical Missionary."

All assemble quietly and await the moment for opening. At the appointed time some patient is brought in and Dr. Paulson, who conducts the clinic, begins by offering a short petition to the Great Physician to be present and aid in all that is done. A thorough examination is then made, and the proper treatment prescribed. The following cases will indicate the varied and interesting classes of patients helped at the Dispensary:

No. 1 was a man who had received a gunshot wound, and was suffering from local dropsy resulting therefrom. No. 2, a man aged twenty-nine. He had been insane for ten weeks; a heavy drinker; had delirium tremens once; drunk almost constantly for eighteen months; used large quantities of tobacco. Suitable treatments are suggested, his habits corrected, and it is hoped he may recover physically and morally. No. 3 is another man, aged fifty-one, who has been sick twelve years, has had twenty years' exposure on an ice wagon; smoked twelve to twenty-four cigars daily; took eight to ten drinks of whisky daily, and twenty to thirty glasses of beer a day; partially blind and suffering with loco-

motor ataxia. This patient has already taken some treatments and seems deeply grateful. He seemed specially touched when just before he left the room the doctor read to him about the land where the eyes of the blind will be opened and the lame will leap as a hart. Isa. 35:6.

No. 4, an insane man who wishes the doctor to go to his home and send to the insane asylum his wife, whom he imagines is crazy. No. 5, a man whose finger was crushed by an iron rail. No. 6, a woman with inflammation of the nerves.

The proper treatment for each patient is given at the time and then the patient is assigned to a student, who follows the case up under the physician's directions, not only in the Dispensary, but also in the home. Rational treatments are administered; suggestions regarding diet and other habits are given, and if the patient intimates a desire to break away from enslaving habits and lead a better life, he is then and there committed to his Heavenly Father in prayer.

The truth that "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" is forcibly impressed upon us by these cases. On the other hand, we can see the miracle-working power of our God in the results obtained from the application of the simple remedies at our command.

As medical students we are amazed at the wonderful endurance of the human body in fighting so long against sinful habits. As missionaries, we wonder that more are not crushed and more lives not despaired of, than there are in such desperate service of sin. If men can endure so much in an *evil* cause, can not we bear much more than we do for the cause of God and humanity?

The United States drink bill has now reached such enormous proportions that it amounted last year to \$18.15 for every man, woman and child. No wonder we are having hard times.

Of the 300 boys brought before Magistrate Crane in New York City the last six months, charged with various crimes, 99 per cent confessed to being cigarette smokers.

We furnish The Life Boat and Medical Missionary together for sixty cents per year.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mercia Morse and Mae Coker recently left for an Eastern Life Boat trip.

Mrs. H. N. Richmond will connect with the rescue work in St. Louis the coming summer.

Who will help to put THE LIFE BOAT into the hands of the miners of this country?

Dr. and Mrs. D. Paulson spent a few days in Washington, D. C., attending the Florence Crittenton convention.

Mrs. H. Swansen is rendering valuable service as assistant matron at the Life Boat Rest.

Miss Ford is one of the workers at the Rest and assists in the evening meetings at the Mission.

Eld. G. C. Tenney spent several days in Hinsdale and Chicago visiting the different branches of the work.

The dedication of the new Life Boat Rest headquarters over the Mission was a very profitable occasion. Report of it is given elsewhere.

Among our recent visitors at Hinsdale were Dr. J. H. Kellogg, Dr. Stewart, Dr. Heald, Dr. Eggleston, W. S. Sadler, Dr. John Morse, Dr. Newton Evans.

The junior medical missionary class has secured a pleasant home on the West Side, near Cook County Hospital.

An interesting and helpful book: "Pleasure and Profit in Bible Study," by D. L. Moody. This is one of Mr. Moody's best books. We offer it for only four new subscribers.

When you are passing through Chicago do not fail to visit the Life Boat Mission, which is always open. It is located in the very heart of the city, on State street near Polk.

Write to Mrs. W. H. McKee, Grand Rapids, Mich., inclosing stamp, for the first semi-annual report of their rescue home for girls. You will be interested in reading of the marvelous providences that have attended this work.

The cigarettes sold in this country last year, if laid end to end, would reach twice round the earth, and there would be enough left to reach from New York to San Francisco and back again.

Gertrude Shockey, of Malvern, Ark., will attend the ex-Confederate soldiers' reunion in Nashville in the interests of the Life Boat work.

DOUBLY AWAKENED FROM SLEEP.

E. B. VAN DORN.

About three months ago, one Sunday afternoon, I talked to the men in the Chicago Railroad Y. M. C. A. In an adjoining room was a man fast asleep who had worked all night. The singing disturbed him and he indulged freely in unpleasant remarks about the meeting being held in the next room while he was trying to sleep. But he could not avoid listening to the gospel. At the close of the service he complained to the superintendent of the association about being disturbed by the meeting.

Shortly after this occurrence the man was transferred by the railroad to a position in the San Francisco division. A week ago his wife wrote to the secretary of the Y. M. C. A., saying that her husband had given his heart to God. This was good news, but that was not all. It appears that his conversion was the result of the meeting which had so disturbed his efforts to sleep in the next room to the meeting place last February. The words he had then heard, instead of being lost, sank deeply into his mind and caused him to think, and the result of his meditations was that he gave himself to his Maker. While the sound of my voice kept him from physical sleep, the Spirit of the Lord aroused him from the slumbers of sin, his eyes were opened to his need of a Saviour and he was enabled to say, "Whereas I was blind, now I see." His wife writes that he wished me to know that he is thankful for the energetic way in which the gospel was presented that memorable afternoon.

As I learned of this I was forcibly reminded of the text which states that God's word shall not return unto Him void, but shall accomplish that whereunto He sends it. Isa. 55:11. May this little incident be an encouragement to those who in faith proclaim the message of salvation, even though their efforts may apparently meet with little or no success. We should *never* let pass an opportunity to sow gospel seed, for we know not what will bring forth fruit to God's glory and the salvation of souls.

The Lord did not permit the printing press to be invented simply to grind out the devil's products.

We still have on hand a few copies of the April Life Boat, which we will mail at one cent each, as long as they last.

Are you acquainted with the "Bible Training School," published at South Lancaster, Mass.? If not, send a stamp for a sample copy. It will help you in your Bible study.

You will see some significance in the stirring events that are taking place in the world if you read the "Signs of the Times." Send stamp for sample copy to Pacific Press, Oakland, Cal.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO READ THIS.

Are you intending to purchase an organ or some other musical instrument, a bicycle or a watch? Write and tell us what you desire, and we will have our buyer purchase it for you at a saving to you. Address The Life Boat, Hinsdale, Ill.

HEALTH FOOD PREPARATIONS.

We are prepared to give immediate attention to orders for health foods, nut products, health confectionery, and sanitary supplies, to be sent to any part of the country. Send for price lists and circulars. Address The Life Boat, Hinsdale, Ill.

We are constantly receiving letters from some who have been aroused to the enormity of the tobacco evil by reading THE LIFE BOAT, and are taking advantage of our offer to give additional suggestions as to how to be delivered from this soul- and body-destroying habit. We shall be glad to correspond with still others. Do not forget to inclose a stamp.

"Your religious experience is, to a great degree, determined by the character of the books you read in your leisure moments."

Edna Moore, whose picture appeared in the March LIFE BOAT, has just ordered five hundred more copies of the April number.

OUR DIRECTORY.

American Medical Missionary College, 28 Thirty-third Place.
Chicago Branch Sanitarium, 28 Thirty-third Place.
Workmen's Home, 1339 State Street.
Life Boat Mission, 426 State Street.
Life Boat Rest for Girls, 426 State Street.
Life Boat Rest Suburban Home, Hinsdale, Ill.
American Medical Missionary Dispensary, 3553 Halsted Street.
Hygeia Dining Rooms, 5759 Drexel Avenue.
Battle Creek Sanitarium Health Food Store, 3314 Cottage Grove Avenue.
North Side Treatment Rooms, 76 Hill Street.
Suburban Sanitarium, Hinsdale, Ill.
The Life Boat, Hinsdale, Ill.

Good Health is the oldest and best health magazine published. We state this without any hesitation. If you will send a dollar to Good Health Pub. Co., Battle Creek, Mich., for a year's subscription, you will be sure to agree with us.

Good Health is furnished in combination with *THE LIFE BOAT* for one dollar per year.

"HEALTHFUL LIVING."

A book full of the choicest quotations imaginable, on the subject of health. Here are a few chapter headings: "Our Bodies Temples of the Holy Ghost," "Natural Law part of the Law of God," "Natural Law Violated," "Vital Vigor and Energy," "Cause of Disease," "Diet," "Dress," "Exercise," "Hygiene." The book contains 293 pages and is substantially bound in cloth. We will send this valuable book for only five new subscribers to *THE LIFE BOAT*.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL?

If not, why not? It is one of the few books that Christ particularly specified. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, (whoso readeth, let him understand)" Matt. 24:15.

The most delightful and fascinating exposition of this book we are acquainted with is the *STORY OF DANIEL*, written by S. N. Haskell, editor of the *Bible Training School*. The price of the book is one dollar a copy, postpaid; or we furnish it for seven new subscribers to *THE LIFE BOAT*.

\$5 FREE.

Christ said the world would be in the last days as it was in the days of Noah and of Lot. The world needs the truth on the subjects of sex today, when false theories are being published and sold even by so-called Christians. Every person married or marriageable should have Dr. Kellogg's 20th Century "Plain Facts for Old and Young of Both Sexes," 1903 edition, revised, enlarged, reset, 800 pages, 350 illustrations; the largest, latest, best work in the world on this theme of vital importance, especially to parents. The time has come when the proper treatment of this subject is vulgar only with the vulgar. Every phase of it considered scientifically and morally in "Plain Facts."

Agents are clearing \$25 to \$50 a week on it. Elegant prospectus book and territory, with full instructions, 85 cents. New and easy method of introducing it. All doors open. Work your township. Fifty per cent to agents. Freight paid on lots of twenty books (100 pounds) or more. Order prospectus and work for your tract society, or order of F. E. Belden, manager Health and Purity Library, Battle Creek, Mich. This year he gives \$5 cash extra over 50 per cent on every fifty books you sell for your tract society or for him, in territory where the tract society or the individual deals direct with him. Special terms to general agents.

"Plain Facts for Old and Young; or the Science of Human Life," is the title of one of the most needed books in the world. If you wish an agency, and your tract society or publishing house "does not handle" "Plain Facts," write to F. E. Belden, manager Health and Purity Library, Battle Creek, Mich., and he will supply books to you at 60 per cent discount, just what he gives tract societies who do handle it, in which case work for them.

DONATIONS. PRISONERS' FUND.

T. Singletary, 20c; G. W. Sandell, \$1; Mrs. Sulton, 25c; James Sugdon, 25c; Mrs. Stevens, 10c; Marcia Thompson, \$2; H. J. Tisdale, \$1; Mrs. Umlandt, \$1; Mrs. M. E. Umlandt, 50c; Maud Vaughn, 50c; Mary Warner, \$1; M. A. Washburn, 50c; Mildred Wilson, \$1.50; T. E. Williams, \$2; Will Wells, 25c; A. W. Wetmore, \$1; Mrs. E. C. Williams, \$1; P. J. Wical, \$1; Mrs. Addie Watson, 65c; Mrs. Waddell, 10c; James Weanson, \$5; Young People's Society, 75c;

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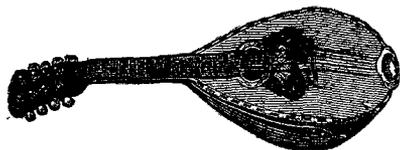
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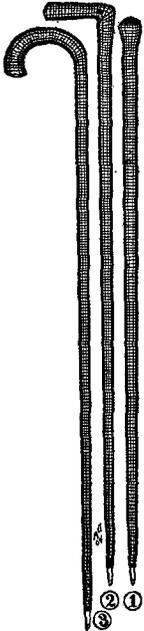
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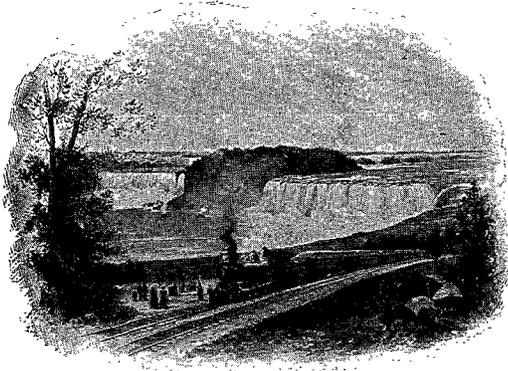
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