

Our Study Circles.

The study of George's political economy, especially "Progress and Poverty," has long been a feature of the League work from time to time. Sam Davison conducted the first class in the little office in Elizabeth Street. In Market Street Dr. R. N. Morris was leader, followed by F. L. Brown.

G. H. Godfrey, M.A., was leader in 1925. Mr. Godfrey came along, when a University student, seeking information so that he could write an essay in connection with the Max Hirsch Memorial. If we remember aright, he won the second prize. A very able little man, whose duties as a lecturer at the Technical College and University have latterly made it impossible to attend our meetings. Gave the Anniversary Address in 1925.

W. Finch, who acted as assistant Secretary for a while. He was a good open-air speaker. His chief service was in coaching Mr. Hobbs, and inspiring him with confidence, was a candidate for

Parliamentary honours for a hopeless seat. Gave the Anniversary Address in 1926.

Henry Cook was the next leader. Mr. Cook was a bookbinder, who lived in Ashfield. He was one of the most consistent and helpful men in our election campaigns in the Western Suburbs. A lovable character, whose class leadership was much appreciated.

O. Corrigan succeeded Mr. Cook, whom he had coached for the position. A quiet, studious and capable man.

E. Hillman has always made a strong point of the need for study, not only of political economy, but of the art of public speaking. He has been leader on various occasions, and when he is not leader invariably attends to lend a hand as occasion may require.

J. T. Curry was the breeziest leader. He blew into the movement like a gale of wind; took to open-air speaking with a considerable measure of success. He is the provocative type of speaker who never fails to get an audience. He would reform the world in a hurry, but latterly we have seen little of him.

C. J. Nicklin, one of the old timers, a very capable class leader. He was a process engraver with artistic tastes, who contributed a number of photo. and line blocks for "The Standard." It was in his term in 1936 that the title of the study circles was changed to the N.S.W. Branch of the School of Social Science.

W. A. Dowe and J. J. Brandon, of the Lakemba League, shortly afterwards took over the classes, and have since carried them on in association with their own classes at Lakemba.

Dr. H. G. Pearce. Notice of the classes would be seriously incomplete without reference to Dr. H. G. Pearce. His first connection with us was through the open-air meetings in the Doman, when he was a medical student. He has a wonderfully capable intellect, with a great knowledge of political economy and capacity for work. His abridgement of the Science of Political Economy was published in "The Standard" as a serial. He has been of great assistance to class leaders. He gave the Anniversary Address in 1927, and also in 1938.

As to Methods and as to the Future.

Elsewhere we supply brief notice of some of the personalities associated with the cause in N.S.W. not mentioned already, or very briefly. Let us now turn for a little while to methods with a view to the future. The experience of those who have been through the mill may or may not be regarded as of much value. Some are disposed to buy their own experience.

The movement in N.S.W. needs a crop of aggressive young men. Here are a few of the ways that they may work with advantage. Attend meetings, especially political meetings, and ask questions, take part in discussions. If no opportunity offers then make one. Pick a strategic position in a meeting.

J. W. Gregg was a past master at this sort

of thing. He had a wonderful knowledge of our laws and public men. He would tackle our foremost public men, and make them look silly because they ignored economic and financial realities.

George Lee is good at this sort of thing. It makes public men and audiences think. The Secretary also has done quite a lot of this sort of thing until he became rather too well known.

H. L. Blackwell is also good in this way. At times you get invited on to the platform. This is usually to stall off a question. He must accept and put his case. In fact, this may be the means of taking a meeting away from the promoters.

There is the classic example of **Luke Gulson** at Albury, who, when challenged on to the platform by E. W. O'Sullivan, a protectionist, who was afterwards Minister for Works, accepted amid the cheers of the crowd. He took the meeting from O'Sullivan and his mate, and they had to retire crestfallen.