

# **THE CONDUCT OF BRIEF DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS**

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The Conduct of Brief Devotional Meetings by Paul Micou

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# THE CONDUCT OF BRIEF DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

BY

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## PREFACE

The inspiration for this attempt to discuss the conduct of brief devotional meetings came as the writer listened to a masterly address on worship by Professor William Adams Brown. That address has been published in pamphlet form and renders superfluous any discussion in this book of the nature of worship itself. The immediate occasion of my undertaking this manual, wholly apart from the above, was the request from some of my colleagues on the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations that I formulate some suggestions for Association devotional meetings. The task soon grew beyond such limits, because these meetings are merely instances of a type of religious service not treated in more elaborate manuals on public worship. From the first I have had constant encouragement and kind criticism. In consequence the product is hardly that of a single mind, for the manuscript has often been recast to meet the criticisms and incorporate the ideas of men of many communions and different schools of thought. The number of those to whom I am thus indebted is too great to permit of individual mention, and I must take this method of gratefully acknowledging their share in the work.

Two things should be borne in mind by the reader. The leader of the meetings, concerning which this manual is written, is presumed to be a layman, and the meetings themselves are of a very restricted type. The small devotional meeting is the best place for experiments in methods of worship, for there people who are intimately associated with each other respond readily to a leader's taking them along unfamiliar paths. This manual strives to point the way to greater freedom, sincerity, color, and warmth in such services, and those using it will find they can carry many of its principles into more formal public worship.

PAUL MICOU

August 15, 1917.

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