

## PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

### Primary Hints and Helps.

THE PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT of the SUNDAY SCHOOL JOURNAL is intended first and all the time to be a help and stimulus to the teachers of little ones.

That it may be so, teachers who have found some good method for their own use are cordially invited to pass it on to a great multitude of eager workers through the medium of this department.

"Not what we give, but what we share," sings the poet, and we ask you, dear fellow-teachers, to share your goods with others through this department. Send along to the editor [marked "Primary"] your queries, your record of successes, your failures even. Some will be helped and strengthened through your willingness to share!

A practical teacher gives below suggestive hints on different topics. Many will be found to sympathize with her desire for a lock and key:

#### BIRTHDAYS.

The birthdays of the children should be taken into account not only by means of the customary birthday card, letter, or gift, but likewise by a talk on birthdays by the teacher before the whole class.

It would be well to speak of the manner of Eastern kings of giving a feast upon their birthdays and of granting pardon to criminals. The lesson to be drawn is that if the child feels evil thoughts toward anyone, this day—the anniversary of his birth—would be a good time for dispelling them, for forgiving all who may have wronged him.

It is well to write upon the board the name of the child whose birthday it is. A pretty calendar might be kept in the room and a red mark made at every date which is the birthday of any member of the class.

Let the child whose birthday it is not only place in the collection box as many pennies as he is years old, but likewise an extra coin—a thanksgiving offering.

Let him also learn an extra Bible verse to recite.

Let him help to pass the papers or the cards. Responsibility is a great teacher!

#### CHILDREN'S SONGS.

Who can measure the influence of the songs the children learn in the house of God? Take

that one little song, "Jesus Loves Me," for example. So simple, yet so sweet, sung in so many foreign languages, even the Chinese. Ah, what wonderful service it has done for the Saviour, and there are other songs which have perhaps accomplished as much.

It is well to vary the singing each time: the girls could sing the first verse, the boys the second, and so on. Another day one child could sing a solo, the others coming in on the chorus; yet again three or four children could be chosen to sing a melody. There could be a boy's chorus and a girl's chorus as regular features of the class.

To obviate the uneasiness of the children before the time for the opening of the session allow them to sing some familiar song.

When the opening song is to be sung the children should understand that they are to rise to their feet the moment the organ is struck.

Be especially careful that the children do not fall into a sing-song manner.

#### UNDER LOCK AND KEY.

I sometimes think that it would be a good plan for every primary room in the country to be furnished with a lock and one key—just one—to be in the possession of the teacher, who could lock herself and class up by themselves!

All know how the minds of an audience of adults will be diverted from a clergyman's address whenever one enters church a few moments late. It has been said that during a revival religious service, when the interest is intense, parties by continual whispering can so disturb the serious minded near them, turning their attention from the discourse, as to cause more deplorable results than occur during the collision of two locomotives. Whether or not this statement is exaggerated I do not pretend to say, but we all know that spiritual life is of far more importance than physical.

If disturbances are so annoying to adults, how much more so are they to children who are "all eyes and ears."

It is pleasant for children to greet the officers of the school in their room, but it is much pleasanter for the teacher to know when such calls are to be made.

HOW CAN INTERRUPTIONS BE AVOIDED? Have a clear understanding with the officers of the