

from the Book of Acts. Some of the questions they answered with quick intelligence, although they know almost nothing about the Bible as yet."—The Missionary Review of the World



Must Study

Another habit which a teacher must not neglect is study. Just as soon as a person begins to neglect study, his development ceases and his efficiency fails to keep pace, and when a teacher fails to keep up his study, he gravitates rapidly towards "fossildom." He must, of course, study the lesson to be taught; he must have all the information obtainable; but that is not all. All authorities agree that he must study the individuals being taught. That teacher who knows the characteristics, environment, and habits of those under his instruction will be far better able to deal with the problems of life, as his hearers know them, than if he limited his study and research to the Word alone.—Rev. Paul R. Koontz, B.D., in The Otterbein Teacher



Sunday School Work in Japan

An increase of 610 Sunday Schools in two months is not a bad record. This has been accomplished by the Buddhists of Japan, according to a report by Rev. K. Mito, a Japanese specialist Sunday School worker. This movement to hold the children of Japan for Buddha was inaugurated at the time of the emperor's coronation in the fall of 1915, and in April of this year, six months after the coronation, there were 800 Buddhist Sunday Schools in Japan with a registration of 120,000 children. The increased interest in Sunday School work in Japan, caused by the coming World's Sunday School Convention in Tokyo, has been a large factor in arousing the Buddhists to action.

The Buddhist sect best known for its imitation of Christianity is the Nishi Hongwanji, which has a Sunday School Board that acts for all Japan. This Board gives a banner to the best Buddhist Sunday School, and confers medals for special merit. The child having the best record in each Buddhist Sunday School is given the privilege of visiting the far-famed buildings and treasures of the West Hongwanji temples.

In every detail the Buddhist Sunday School imitates the Christian School,—the same officers and committees; the same classification of departments. They have even gone so far as to organize mothers' meetings, young men's associations, and special meetings for children corresponding to our Children's Day, Rally Day, etc. In literature for children,

it is difficult to tell which is Christian and which is Buddhist, so closely do the text cards, Life of Buddha series, attendance cards, etc., conform to those used in Christian Sunday Schools.

But the climax of imitation is reached in the music. Christian hymns,—words, tunes and all—have been appropriated. Such songs as: "Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing;" "Jesus Loves Me, this I Know;" "Bringing in the Sheaves;" "God is Love;" are being used by the Buddhists, practically the only change being the substitution of the name of Buddha for that of Jesus. Many fundamental truths of the Christian religion have been brought into their stories and songs. Buddha is referred to again and again as Heavenly Father, and to him are ascribed many of the attributes of the living God.

It is an interesting fact that the Hongwanji sect, which has been largely responsible for this great Buddhist Sunday School advance, is the sect which is most nearly like Christianity, in that its members believe in the coming of a redeemer who will have power to take away their sins.

Buddhism, however, is not the only religious sect in Japan which shows a remarkable growth in the Sunday School work. During the past two years there has been an increase of 898 Christian Sunday Schools in Japan, with an added enrolment of 41,752 scholars.

Baron Sakatani, former mayor of Tokyo, a banker, and one of Japan's most prominent business men, one of the committee which is promoting the Tokyo Convention, who has been traveling in Europe and America, visited, on October 1st last, Mr. Wanamaker's Sunday School in Philadelphia, where the mayor of the city presented Baron Sakatani with the American flag and the flag of the city of Philadelphia. In return the Baron presented the flag of Japan.

In the course of his address before the School, the Baron said he believed that the great war now raging in Europe was caused by civilization putting too much weight upon the material side and forgetting the spiritual. "Japan has been making this mistake for the past sixty years," said the Baron, "but now leading Japanese are feeling the necessity of emphasizing the spiritual side."

He expressed his opinion that the Sunday School was the best means of filling up this gap, and leading the people to see the importance of moral training. "The thing which impresses me most about the Sunday School work in America," said the Baron, "is that so many successful business men are giving so much of their time and energy to the building up of the Sunday School, and so many workers are giving free service."