

study the lesson expect a class to pay attention while they are reading an explanation given in the Westminster Teacher or some other lesson help?

Some teachers, on the other hand, study their lesson, but they neglect to study their scholars. They enter upon a learned discussion which would do very well for a class of divinity students, but is no more adapted to the capacities of their scholars than a slice of beefsteak is fitted to satisfy the cravings of an infant's appetite. After soaring over plains of knowledge and mountains of thought in search of information the faithful teacher selects the sweetest bits of knowledge and brings them to the hungering souls, who like little birds at the approach of the parent bird, stretch up and open their mouths for the chosen morsel.

The want of illustration is another source of inattention. Jesus the great teacher, set us an example in this respect, and we should follow his steps. Never mind if philosophical minds laugh at your stories and call them mere chaff. Imitate the example of the Master who drew his illustrations from the familiar scenes of life, and you will find them a great help in securing the attention of your pupils.

The cause of much inattention is the absence of all competition in some of our classes. A healthy rivalry is a good thing, and should be encouraged by the giving of rewards. How stagnant every branch of trade would become if competition ceased. We must not shrink then from using those forces which God has placed within our reach, and by using them wisely they will be like the stream which, directed into the water wheel, drives with such rapidity and exactness the vast machinery of the adjoining factory.

The second point of weakness we observe in our Sabbath School work is *irregularity of attendance*. Few schools there are but have some scholars who are very irregular attendants. Some teachers go home every Sabbath feeling disappointed because the lesson was so well adapted for such a scholar, and besides they had taken such pains in preparing it to suit that pupil's case.

Sometimes there are good reasons for irregularity of attendance. Sickness in the family, distance from the school, bad roads and unfavorable weather hinder some who would feign be present. I know of some who are detained by having to take their turn in keeping house while other members of the family come to church. The teacher should visit the homes of scholars who attend irregu-