

THE CHURCH'S HOPE

The place of the Child in the Church of to-day determines the place of the Church to-morrow. What about the **attendance of Children at Church** to-day?

The "Commission on Religious Education" of our Church reported less than 20 per cent. of the Sunday School population regularly at one Service of the Church. Yet in one year the "Children at Church Movement" spread to 283 congregations, with an average attendance of 51 per cent. of all under 16, and last year 737 churches reported definite plans for encouraging children's attendance at Church. This is well, but over 800 churches report no special effort to bring about a better state of affairs. Probably 75 per cent. of our children do not attend the regular services and are not being brought into full communion with the Church. How can we expect them in the Church to-morrow?

The Pastor of the Church is the Pastor of the children. Who should lead in the Religious Training of the youth of the Church if not the men who have been called and trained for that work? The Master's instructions were not only "Feed my sheep," but also "Feed my lambs," and the record puts "Feed my lambs" first.

Some Conditions of Success

1. **A simple method like the "Children at Church Movement,"** as provided by Presbyterian Publications.
2. **A definite share in the service** (e.g., appropriate Hymn or Psalm as provided in the Curriculum, responsive Bible Reading, Brief Prayer, Sermon Story, etc.)
3. **Some expression and recognition** (e.g., giving back the sermon in occasional essay and some recognition as provided in the Curriculum).
4. **Definite training for Church Membership** through special Communicants' Classes in regular Sunday School groups, or as is provided in the Curriculum through the C.S.E.T. and C.G.I.T. Programmes.