

remely difficult to estimate. These facts are clear, however,—that the teacher and the learner are equally factors in the process, and that unless the teacher secures the active co-operation of the learner's mind, there is little or no learning. Inasmuch as this often has to be done in the face of apathy or positive disinclination, the Sunday School teacher's

task looms up as more than ordinarily difficult. The encouraging thing is that, Sunday after Sunday, it is achieved in spite of all difficulties and many, many thousands are really learning lessons every Sunday about the Word of God, the written Word and the Word that became flesh and dwelt among men.

Toronto

*The Little Sunday School

A BOOK FOR THE MONTH

By REV. J. M. DUNCAN, D.D.

Most of our Sunday Schools are little Sunday Schools. A typical School is one of, say, 50 members. The "Book for the Month" is intended to help the workers in such a School, and is admirably adapted to its purpose.

A School is not really a School until it is organized. It is with the question of organization, therefore, that the opening chapter of Dr. Fergusson's book naturally deals. The ordinary School of fifty requires, it is pointed out, two officers,—a superintendent and secretary-treasurer, who may also be the librarian—and five teachers. The 43 scholars will be divided into classes, namely: 1. A Primary class taking in all scholars up to and including 8 years of age. 2. A Junior class made up of boys and girls from 9 to 12. 3. An Intermediate class of scholars from 13 to 16. 4. A Senior or Young People's class for young men and women from 16 to 23 or 24. 5. An Adult class for the men and women of the School. It may be pointed out that, since Dr. Fergusson's book was written, a new grouping has been growing in favor, which would make the Junior period cover the ages from 9 to 11 inclusive, and the Intermediate period from 12 to 14, also inclusive. It is not absolutely necessary, however, that a School should have as many as 50 members. Instances are known where a Sunday School of 11 members has been run successfully for several years. Such a School might have two classes,—a younger and an older—with two teachers, one of whom might act as superintendent.

In some places there is not even a "little" Sunday School, and the problem is how to start one. Our book has much of interest and value to say on this point. It is insisted, with great earnestness, that, no matter how small a School is, it should be conducted on sound educational principles. Dr. Fergusson makes clear that there is no reason why a small School in a remote country place, should not have a classification of its scholars and

an adaptation of its teaching materials as scientifically up to date, in all real essentials, as the largest city School.

The School once started, every effort should be made to increase the attendance. It ought, of course, to be the ambition of every Sunday School worker to have every one in the community who ought to be in his School actually there,—there regularly and there on time. The discussion of the principles which all efforts to secure an increased attendance should follow, and the plans to be adopted, is full of information and suggestion.

Included in the running of a School are the making of programmes for the weekly session, for the Quarter and for the year. Each of these important matters has a chapter in the book to itself.

A closing chapter is headed, "Getting Results." No Sunday School worker should be satisfied unless his School is actually doing something of definite spiritual value in the lives of its individual members and in the life of its community. Our book would be worth while if it contained only this chapter, so full is it of stimulus and encouragement to those who long to make their work in the Sunday School count for something real and permanent.

The Sunday School Picnic

By John M. Keith

The superintendent and teachers each summer are brought face to face with the Sunday School picnic. Call it what you like, "Annual church picnic" or "Annual Sunday School picnic," it has to be initiated in the Sunday School, for it is primarily for the boys and girls. Of course the success depends largely on the cooperation of the grown-ups of the congregation. The older members should be out in full force and laugh and run and play ball with the boys and girls.

Some of the teachers have a strenuous time making the plans for this great event in the yearly programme of the boys and girls. Sometimes the work seems too arduous just

*How to Run a Little Sunday School, by E. Morris Fergusson, 128 pages, 60c. postpaid. Write to PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Streets, Toronto.