

The Home of Summer Schools.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE Summer School idea, which has been spreading with such rapidity during recent years, had its origin in the brain of Bishop Vincent, and its first development at Chautauqua, N. Y. The Bishop believed that summer recreation and intellectual and spiritual profit could be combined so that, at the close of the summer, people might find themselves a little wiser as well as physically stronger. The experiment was undertaken about twenty-five years ago, with special reference to Sunday School work, in a beautiful grove on

sixty miles from Buffalo. A Normal course was established, and teachers came from various parts of the country for inspiration and instruction in the latest and best methods of Sunday School teaching. It was a success from the very first. Other subjects have gradually been added, until there are now 2,500 students enrolled each summer, who take up a great variety of studies. There are about sixty professors and teachers from the various universities and colleges in the United States and Canada, our country being represented this year by Principal J. L. Maggs, of Montreal. A fine college building, with an excellent library, provides splendid facilities for carrying on effective work. In addition to these educational features, Chautauqua conducts a Reading Course, which reaches a large number of people who have not had the opportunity of a college education. Those who take this course for four years receive a diploma, and seals are granted to all who continue to read the books beyond the four years. Each year quite a number of these readers are at Chautauqua, and most interesting graduation and re-union exercises take place.

Chautauqua, now, is a city of 10,000 people, who come from all parts of the United States. I was going to add, "and from Canada," but that can scarcely be said truthfully, for Canadians do not seem to have yet discovered this delightful resort, although it is within a few hours' travel from Toronto. After looking over the register of the Methodist headquarters very carefully only one name from Canada could be discovered. This seems very strange, when the nearness of the place is considered. For the small sum of \$15 a person can go from Toronto or Hamilton and spend five days on the Chautauqua grounds, and if anybody knows how an equal amount of pleasure and profit, in the way of a holiday, can be obtained, the writer would like to hear about it. It is exactly the kind of vacation that people living in towns, villages and country places need. At home they seldom or never have the opportunity of hearing the most eminent speakers and singers, but in a few days at Chautauqua they listen to sermons, lectures and concerts that will be an abiding inspiration during the rest of their lives.

For those who do not care to take up the regular school work a series of pleasing and profitable entertainments is provided, and if the visitor does not care for these he may amuse himself with boating, tennis, croquet, etc. Everybody is at liberty to follow his own sweet will as to how the time is to be employed. On the first day of my arrival I attended

nine different meetings, but later on was not quite so diligent.

The principal meeting place is the great Amphitheatre, which has seating accommodation for 5,200 people. It is built in a natural ravine, and the seats slope from every side to the centre. When it is filled with people it is one of the most impressive audiences I ever saw.

During the week of my stay, every morning at ten o'clock a devotional hour was conducted by the celebrated evangelist, Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman. This was marvellous and fitness to the souls of thousands who attended from day to day. From eleven to twelve there was a discussion of some great subject

which is engrossing public attention. This week a number of addresses were delivered on lynching and mobs, and these were thoroughly discussed by the people between services. Some wealth was developed in talking on the subject of lynching, as there is a large attendance from the South, but it is understood that there shall be the utmost freedom of speech in dealing with every topic relating to the welfare of the country.

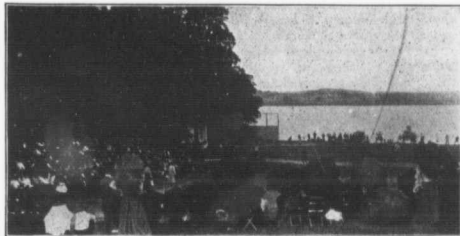
In the afternoon at 2.30 there is usually a lecture on some interesting topic. Dr. J. M. Buckley is a great favorite, and in addition to giving several lectures he conducted a "Question Drawer," which is an annual feature of the Chautauqua programme. He is a wonderfully well-informed and versatile man, who is always interesting, no matter what his subject may be.

General J. B. Gordon gave a lecture on "The Last Days of the Confederacy," which was full of striking incidents and eloquent periods. The old war-scarred veterans pleaded for the eternal reign of peace and goodwill between the North and the South in a persuasive way that could not fail to strike chords of response in the hearts of his hearers.

In the evening, concerts and miscellaneous entertainments are held, which, of course, draw large crowds. The Oratorio of "Elijah" was given during August, with several first-class soloists from New York.

One of the most interesting features of life at Chautauqua is the arrangement made for the young people. In addition to the kindergarten and "vacation class" for young children, there are the boys' club, the girls' club, the gymnasiums for young men and young women. The annual exhibition of the work done by the classes for physical instruction is one of the events that the people talk about and enjoy greatly.

During the season nearly five hundred boys are enrolled as members of the "boys' club," but, of course, this number is never in attendance at any one time. The boys are placed under the direction of competent instructors who are usually young men from some of the colleges. The boys exercise in the gymnasium, row, swim, play baseball, and do other things that are dear to the boy's heart. Meetings for instruction in various interesting subjects are held during each day, and addresses given by men who have not forgotten that they were boys themselves. Across the lake there is a camp, and from time to time the lads are allowed to go over there and sleep in tents for a night. It seems to me that this is



ATHLETIC GROUNDS AT CHAUTAUQUA.



GIRLS' CLUB AT CHAUTAUQUA.