

to children to learn about and report at the next meeting.

It is such an axiomatic truth that there must be preparation that I hasten over it, merely suggesting that with material collected as in these pamphlets, preparation is both easy and pleasant, and if any difficulty arises it will surely be from an embarrassment of riches.

Have the programme about things children are interested in. Present the child life of heathen lands and you will never fail to interest your children. Begin with the baby, his naming, how dressed, how cared for, proceeding to the school-boy and girl: describe their school life, how, what and when they study, the games they play, the religion they are taught, always ending the study of child life of any country with a lesson upon what the children of our land are doing for them through our Children's Work.

Programmes are often too ambitious, cover too much ground. Children can grasp but a few ideas at once, and those to be effective must be most simply given in a lively way. It matters much not only what one says, but how one says it.

Perhaps interesting programmes are made without a missionary story, but I can never feel that a programme is quite what it ought to be unless it is ended with a story to the point, one that fixes and crystallizes all that has gone before, and such stories are not at all hard to find.

Children soon tire of sameness. Have the different programmes of a year all on different patterns. There are different ways of presenting programmes, one time by the leader, another time by the children, another time by the assistant teachers. Then there are many varieties of programme, the curio meeting, when children are asked to bring articles from some country. Japan is a good one to select, each child describing the article he brings. Another is a picture meeting, when certain children are given pictures to learn about and to tell about at the next meeting, or are allowed to find their own pictures.—*Mission Studies*.

A STORY OF THE WIND AND A GOSPEL LEAF.

There is a story which you may like to hear, told by a colporteur in Mexico, Senor Cortez, of a man who came one day to the market stall where he was selling Bibles. The man looked into a New Testament and became interested. On pretense of going to bring the price of it, he left his cloak and took the book to his priest, whom he met coming that way. The priest told him that the book was "false," and was about to tear it in pieces when the man said: "But it is not paid for: I left my cloak as security." Then the priest handed him a coin to pay for the book. "But the coin is false—mere lead," said Cortez, refusing to accept it. Then the priest, coming up, said: "But your books are false, too." "Very well," said the colporteur, "let us go to the judge and settle both questions at once."

The priest, however, decided to pay good money and tear up the book before the crowds of people who had gathered round. The wind carried the leaves about, and many were picked up and read. That was on June 14.

In December Cortez offered his books to a woman sitting at her sewing machine by a window in the same city. She said that she wished only one book, which she did not suppose she would have—a religious book, about the "ten virgins." He showed a large New Testament opened at the parable, and she bought it without hesitation. He could not but ask how she came to be looking for it. She replied, taking a single leaf out of her prayer book: "My boy found this in the plaza some time ago, and as it has only part of the story, I have been looking for the whole book." The leaf was of the size of the Testament torn up in the market in June.—*Bible Society Gleamings*.

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