

Order in the Class.

BY ALICE MAY DOUGLAS.

It is very hard to maintain order in a class of children which is taught in the same room with the entire school. If there be but one extra room, the little ones should have it. If there be none, curtain off a corner of the vestry and teach the primary class there. Two or three of the juvenile classes might be taught at the same time in the church, each having a corner to itself. All of the classes, however, should be in one room at the close, and all but the primary class at the beginning of the school.

Disorder is often the result of physical weariness. Attend to the bodily comfort of the children; see that the room is of proper temperature and decently ventilated. Have the children remove their rubbers always, and their wraps when too warm. It is tiresome for the little scholars to sit so long. Let them stand to sing, also to go through motion exercises. A child cannot keep his feet still when they don't touch the floor; hence see that the settees are supplied with slats which the little feet can reach.

Disorder is seldom the result of ill intentions, but almost always of the buoyancy of spirit of the boy or girl. Therefore seek to turn this "smartness" in the right direction. Susy can't keep quiet one moment, but if you keep her hunting up references, she won't be making trouble for her neighbor. Mary has a "ceaseless tongue," but if you have previously given her a topic to read up concerning the lesson, while she is telling the class what she has read she won't be entertaining them with an account of the last party.

But what about the class of rogues, the little jumping jacks, ten and twelve years of age? I believe this is the most important class in the whole school, more so than the primary class, and it should have the brightest and most godly teacher in the church. Why? Because a little boy has twelve temptations where a little girl has one. He is tempted to smoke, swear, and drink beer. Mother won't let him bring his noisy associates into the home, and thus he drifts about with them from one end of the city to the other. He is brought in contact with godless men and hears their words of profanity and infidelity. He is seldom at home evenings. There are fewer good books for boys than for girls in the Sunday school, and if he once leaves, it will be fifty times as hard to get him back as it will to induce a girl to return.

To keep the restless boy orderly do not always appear to notice his disorder. Never say "Don't" to him, but when he is about to pinch

Tom ask him to pass you his lesson paper for a moment, or drop your handkerchief that he may pick it up for you. For I never saw a boy, not even from the slums, but tried to the best of his ability to be gentlemanly in such matters.

When Frank is about to whisper a joke to Fred quickly ask Frank a question that you know he can answer. He will be proud to give you the desired information, and will forget all about the joke.

Or at the first detection of disorder, if you are in a room by yourself stop in the midst of the lesson and sing a verse or two until order is restored, or ask the offender to point out some place on the map or to draw on the blackboard for you. But always treat a boy like a man. He won't stand petting.

Tell the children that you expect the same order in Sabbath school as in week-day school. Keep a record of their deportment. Offer prizes of cards, booklets, etc., to those who cause no disturbance. Talk privately with offenders. Threaten to send them home or to report them to parents if the offense be ever repeated. Be careful about making such threats, but when made always carry them out. The stricter you are with children the more they will respect you. In a word, be firm, but never scold.

 Cooperation of the Class in Order-keeping.

[These suggestions by Miss Julia H. Johnston are so very applicable for an undivided class that we reproduce them from *The Superintendent and Teacher*.]

HELPERS.

LITTLE helpers, trained from the ranks of the class, have been found excellent aids in many ways. The older girls, not ready or willing to be graduated, may be used as small assistants. If there are several of them, they may take turns in being "helpers." Have two sit at the front in chairs like the rest, and assume the regular duties. They may count the boys and girls, keep track of those promised beforehand the great honor of "taking up the collection," for which in many classes there is clamorous request weeks in advance; they may also count the money, and place upon the board the statistics for the day. They may lead in reciting the Golden Text, or give it first, to strengthen little memories, as the younger ones repeat it in turn. There are places to point out upon the map; there is the picture-roll to turn betimes, and various other services which these helpers may render.