

The Teachers Monthly

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Two Leaders in Religious Education

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Two outstanding leaders in the work of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies are ministers in London, Ont., the General Assembly city for this year, Rev. W. J. Knox, M.A., of the First Presbyterian Church, who is the Convener of the S. S. and Y. P. S. Board, and will present his first Report in that capacity to the coming Assembly, while in King Street Church is Rev. W. R. McIntosh, B.D., a former Joint-Convener of this same board. ■

A recent visit to the Sunday Schools of these two churches was full of interest. It afforded an opportunity of watching in actual operation some new methods, which have gone beyond the experimental stage and reached the goal of assured success.

On entering Mr. Knox's church for the morning service, one could not but be struck with the large attendance of children, including an unusual number of quite little folk. In pew after pew were seen the parents with all their children who could possibly be brought to church. The presence, in such numbers, of the smaller children was explained as the service proceeded. After the opening prayer



REV. W. R. MCINTOSH,
B.D.



REV. W. J. KNOX, M.A.

and psalm and scripture lesson, the minister told the children the Old Testament story of the trees which would choose for themselves a king, the application of the story to the lives of the little ones being skilfully made. A children's hymn followed, and as the last verse was being sung, the little ones withdrew, with their teachers, from the church to the school room. The visitor went with the children, and was amply repaid for doing so.

The little scholars were seated round the teacher on comfortable little chairs, low enough to let their feet rest on the floor. It was the regular Sunday session of the Primary Department for the day these scholars not being expected to return to the Sunday School in the afternoon. The opening exercises included a "Circle Talk," into which were cleverly woven suggestions to the scholars as to how they might help to increase the attendance of the class and also how they might show themselves true patriots by saving food,—not taking on their plates more than they needed, eating all their crusts, etc. After this, the classes took their places for the teaching of the day's lesson.

The remaining classes of the School met in the afternoon. All took part together in the opening exercises in the school room, which is built on the well known Akron plan, with separate class rooms round the walls on the ground floor and in the gallery, opening into the main room by means of rolling wooden screens. The singing of the hymns was led by an orchestra of several string instruments, with a piano. A notable feature of these exercises, from the moment the superintendent quietly said : "Order, please," was the perfect decorum of all the scholars. They had evidently been taught to realize that they were in that place for worship and study and that reverence and earnestness were expected of them.