

Primary Teachers' Department

Primary Notes

Children's Day. This beautiful day of our church year seems to belong to the children in a peculiar sense. Nature is at her best. The little ones, the flowers, and the birds all rejoice together, and the staid grown people, looking back to their childhood days, become happy again in the face of so much happiness.

The Teacher's Part. The teacher has an important part in making the day all it should be. She makes the atmosphere. To be sure, the flowers and the birds and the many glad faces all contribute, but if "Teacher" is not in loving sympathy a little shadow falls upon the child's heart. Teachers seldom realize how large a place they fill in the child's world.

The Children's Part. A large part is generally assigned to the Primary Class in making up the programme. This is as it should be so far as concert singing and class exercises are concerned. Let their birdlike voices be heard in sweet song, and let the parents and friends hear how their little ones are being trained in the knowledge of the church and of the Word, but do not permit sensitive little people to appear before an audience singly, either in song or recitation.

A Case in Point. Stanley, a beautiful little boy between four and five years of age, was chosen to recite a simple bit of verse on Children's Day in the "big church." He was a sensitive, affectionate little soul, and he loved his teacher dearly. Of course he was glad to please her, and his rehearsals, in her presence and even before the class, did not afflict him. But when he faced the great audience his lip began to quiver and he turned appealingly toward teacher, who came at once and stood by his side throughout the ordeal. The little man in trembling tone began, and as pain and fright took possession of him more and more he sobbed the concluding lines out and took refuge in teacher's arms at last.

Nor all children are so sensitive, it is true, but the thoughtful teacher will try to preserve the delicacy of the young spirit, and save it from anything which might prove a shock. Let it be known that you do not approve of young children appearing in public, and the superintendent will not expect you—nor will the mothers—to lead the tender lambs to this kind of a slaughter. The teacher needs to be fortified in her own mind by a conviction of the right and the wrong, and hold her ground firmly

against the large class who plead for such exhibitions because "the babies are so cute"!

The Collection. It is due to the children that they be instructed as to the meaning of the day and the use to which their offerings are put. It is by no means beyond their comprehension that all over our land are children and young people who cannot have a good education unless help is given them, and help them to understand how their little gifts all joined make a great fund from which thousands of boys and girls get help in preparing them for life. If teachers generally would instruct their classes as to the value of the work done by the Board of Education of our church, the income would be largely increased, and consequently far more good would be done.

Children's Day

To-day the censers of roses swing,
More sweet than the censers of gold;
The birds at the altar sweetly sing
As they sang in the temple of old.
We joyfully sing 'mid the birds and flowers
To the praise of God, and say
The beautiful time of the summer hours
Is the Children's Sabbath Day!

Interesting Children in Missions

I HAVE seen some homemade games used to interest the children of an Episcopal Sunday school in the missions of their church. The game was similar to that of authors, and each card was typewritten. Upon it was the name of some bishop in charge of missionary territory.

I have seen a simple device for showing how little is expended for missions. Upon a stick was a roll of black ribbon, showing the amount spent for liquors, next a roll of brown ribbon a little smaller, showing the amounts spent for tobacco. Then smaller rolls of various colors showing the amounts spent for other articles, the last and smallest showing the amount for missions.

One children's missionary auxiliary made a scrapbook of prayers to be offered in their private and public devotions.

Another little society made a scrapbook in which they pasted clippings, cards, etc., illustrating the missionary work.

Some children once formed a missionary chain. Upon slips of cardboard they would write the name of every missionary they had heard speak, every missionary meeting attended, and so on. These were strung together in the manner of the Golden Text claims.

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