

Young People's Societies.

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S "PLAN OF STUDY."

CONDUCTED BY THE REV. R. D. FRASER, CONVENER.

The Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study for 1898 bear the general title, "Some Books, Fields, and Men," and are so arranged as to be adapted to the various sorts of Young People's Societies. They are set down for the second weekly meeting of each month, and the Topic is treated in the Record of the month preceding, in order that Societies may have the materials for the meeting on hand well in advance.

Attention is drawn to the fact that a specially prepared Topic Card for Presbyterian Y.P.S.O.E.'S is published by the "Record" at 60 cents per 100. Less than fifty, one cent each. It is issued by arrangement with the Assembly's Committee and embraces the "Uniform" Topics, the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study, and the Questions on the Shorter Catechism for each meeting throughout the year. A Booklet containing the same matter and, in addition, Daily Readings for the whole year, is also ready, at \$1.00 per 100. Less than fifty, one and a half cents each. Orders for the Topic Cards or Booklets should be sent to Rev. E. Scott, Y. M. C. A. Building, Montreal.

Topic for Week beginning January 9th.
THE NEW BOOK OF PRAISE, WHAT IT CONTAINS, AND HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT. Psalm 148.

LITERATURE.

The Prefaces, Table of Contents, and Indexes of the Book of Praise, have been prepared with great care and are very valuable.

The selections from the Psalter, which form the first part of the Book, are preceded by an alphabetical list of tunes with name and date of author, a metrical index of tunes, and an alphabetical list of the first lines.

The Table of Contents of the Hymnal is, in itself, a pretty full outline of Christian Doctrine, and the Indexes at the close of the Book, in addition to a list of tunes, and a metrical index similar to those prefixed to the selections from the Psalter, embrace, also, a detailed index of subjects, and an index of scripture texts illustrated

or referred to in the Hymnal. The alphabetical index of first lines includes also the author's name and date.

Careful study of the varied material mentioned above will afford valuable insight into what the Book contains and how to use it.

Morrison's Hymns of the Church, \$1.25, and Studies of Church Music, by J. Spencer Curwen, will be found useful; also, where available, Duffield's Larger Book on English Hymns.

Points For The Programme.

1. Papers on the general Topic of Praise, which may embrace such points as,—

The Scripture teaching in reference to Praise;

Praise in Public Worship in the Old Testament;

Praise in Public Worship in the New Testament;

Praise in Public Worship in the Early Church;

Praise in Public Worship in the Pre-Reformation Church.

Praise in Public Worship in the Church since the Reformation;

2. The History of the Book of Praise. The Prefaces will be found helpful. Some attention might also be given to the Books in use in the different branches of the Church before the Union of 1875, as well as to the characteristics of the Hymnal which has now been displaced.

3. The Contents of the Book might be outlined on the blackboard, and a familiar explanation of the outline given.

4. A Paper on the Indexes; or a brief paper showing how to use them to profit; or a short paper on each Index.

5. A Brief Drill on how to find Hymns on any particular given Topic would be entertaining and of practical advantage.

6. The Special Use of the Book by the Choir.

How may the Congregation best become familiar with the New Hymns and Tunes.

How may the Sabbath School and the Young People's Societies make the most profitable use of the Book and so help the Congregation in the service of praise.

The article by Rev. A. McMillan, which follows, is worthy of very special study, especially in the way of giving practical effect to the suggestions herein contained.