

WALTER C. MURRAY



FREDERICK TRACY

Walter C. Murray M.A. LL.D., is Professor of Philosophy in Dalhousie University, Halifax. Frederick Tracy, B.A., Ph.D., is Lecturer in Philosophy in the University of Toronto. Each is an authority in mental science, and in pedagogical methods; each also is a practical Sabbath School worker. Professor Murray's valuable series of articles on Teacher Training were concluded in our last; that of Dr. Tracy begins in this issue, and will continue throughout the year.

some respects, there are some general principles of method which hold good always and everywhere. But because no two children are alike in all respects, there is no general principle of method that may not require special interpretation to fit a given individual case. The special application of the general principle to the case of the child A may be quite different from that required for the case of the child B. For this reason, method can never take the place of good judgment, common sense, sympathy and native tact. Some teachers succeed without any conscious method, because they possess this tact and sympathy, and in so doing they really have a method without knowing it.

It follows still further from these considerations that the teacher must, in adopting a method, take himself into account as well as his pupils. The method must be suitable to the teacher as well as to the child. Personality is of more value than many methods; and the teacher's own personality, as well as the child's, should always tower high above all methods. Truth and personality, as Phillips Brooks said, are the two essentials in teaching, as in preaching; and if your method is used in such a way as to stultify or dwarf your own person-

ality, you had better change it, for it is only a straight-jacket in which you cannot move freely. Method has in that case become your master, whereas it should always be your servant.

It is extremely unlikely that you can successfully use another man's method, unaltered, even though it may be the best method for him. Every teacher must make his own method or make a method his own. Saul can fight magnificently with sword and buckler, and Jonathan with bow and arrows; but David will most successfully meet the enemy with the sling and the smooth stones out of the brook.

University of Toronto

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It should be taken for granted that the
Teacher is familiar with the Scholar's Lesson
Help. Indeed, he should not count his
lesson p reparation well begun, until he has
mastered what it contains: for the more

prastered what it contains; for the more of common ground he has with his scholars, the more comfortable and profitable is the teaching process likely to be. It will be a good investment for the school to provide each teacher with the QUARTERLY or LEAFLETS used by his or her class.