The Deachers' Monthly.

Vol. II. FEBRUARY, 1896.

The price of the CLASS REGISTER is 4½ cents, not 4½ cents as erroneously given on the fourth page of the cover of the Monthly and Quarterlies, and on the ORDER BLANKS.

HOME CLASSES,

OR THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Its purpose is to encourage Bible study in connection with the Sunday school among all those who for any reason cannot attend the regular sessions of the school. It is connected organically with the Sunday school as a department, which, like other departments, must suborganically with the Sunday school as a department, which, has other departments, must submit its quarterly and annual reports, and is subject to all the rules and regulations of the school applicable to it. The members of these classes are enrolled as members of the school, and are welcome to classes of like grade. They are entitled to the use of the library and to participate in all the Sunday school socials, picnics, entertainments and lectures. All those who join a home class are entitled to the visitation and supervision of the class visitor, as well as that of the pastor and officers and members of the church with which the school is connected.

The duties of membership are very simple. Members are required to study the Sunday school lesson at least a half-hour each week, keep a record of such study, and, if able, to make a weekly contribution to the benevolent work of the Sunday school and report the same quarterly to the visitor. To systematize the work and increase the element of personal influence, the department is divided into classes. A class may be formed of one or more persons reporting to the school through one visitor. The members of the class may be studying in different grades, and may never meet together for lesson study, but, because they are under the care of one permanent visitor, they form a class. The number in each class is determined by the ability of the visitor to give all the time required for faithful visitation and oversight. Few classes number more than eight or ten members.

It is quite advisable to promote a class feeling, and this can be done by bringing the members together for social purposes and getting them to undertake some work together, such as the reading of some author or supporting some frontier missionary, or doing local missionary work.

The enrollment of members should be followed by regular visitation and supervision, to provide them with lesson helps and report blanks. These visits should be made immediately after the last Sunday in each quarter. The reports, when received, should be carefully scanned by the visitor, with reference to seeing whether the work has been faithfully performed, and

whether the church attendance has been regular.

A gathering of the members for united study, prayer and social intercourse is always helpful. Its aims are to promote Bible study and increase the Christian activity as well as the attendance of students upon the main school and the regular services of the church. It has been in successful operation for many years, and at present is being quite generally adopted by the Sunday schools of the United States, Canada and England. This method of work has been more extensively adopted in the State of New York than in any other section of the country. late report from 810 departments in that State show a membership of 28,400 and an average addition to the membership of each Sunday school of 10 per cent. With similar enrollments throughout the whole State, there would be an addition to the Sunday school enrollment of the State of New York of at least 250,000 members. Many other States are following closely, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and other States having large numbers of organized departments with very large enrollment. Tioga County, in the State of New York, has 27 departments, with 976 members. Broome County has 25 departments, with 1000 members. Eight of these departments are in Binghampton. The oldest department, in the Tabernacle Church, has 212 members. It reports forty conversions and 130 additions to the main school, including a period of two and one-half years. In the Congregational Church of Birmingham, N. Y., a lady nearly 80 years old is one of the most active visitors in the department, and has a class of thirteen families, which she visits at least once a quarter.-W. A. DUNCAN, in the International Evangel.

We know of Home Classes very successfully conducted without the use of cards. Members answer in writing the questions in our Senior Quarterly, and hand in their Quarterlies to the class leader to be examined and valued. Much of the cumbersome details of the usual system

is thus avoided.