

Primary Teachers' Department

Primary Notes

THE quarter opening with July is in many schools a broken one. Teachers are often absent as well as pupils, lessons are more or less interrupted, the little ones feel the summer languor, and there are days and hours when the teacher wonders if it is really worth while to go through the form of keeping up the primary class during the Sabbaths of the heated season!

In nearly all Sunday schools there are children to whom the Sabbath is the brightest of all the days. Said a mother, when asked if her little four-year-old enjoyed the primary class, "O yes; she wonders why there isn't Sunday school every day." To some it is the one place where love is shown them; to some it is a place of refuge from loud, angry voices, and perhaps from quick, impatient blows. "I love to come here," said a child of the tenements; "it's all so still and nice here!"

CHRISTIAN patriotism should be taught in the primary class. The celebration of the Fourth is one of the seasons when there may well be a little special teaching along this line. Have the children sing "My country, 'tis of thee," making the meaning of *freedom* very plain. Tell why men have always been willing to die for their country, and help the children to see that our own land is peculiarly blessed in having the freedom to worship God. It is desirable to have the flag displayed in the class room, and if possible to have a flag drill, on the Sabbath nearest the Fourth.

"How can I learn to talk simply to children?" asks a primary teacher who has not been long in the work.

Listen to children talking to one another, and try to get the child's point of view. Read really good children's books—books written for children. They are numerous in these days. Read good books about children, such as *Children's Rights*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin, and *Study of Child Nature*, by Elisabeth Harrison. But, above all, learn to talk with children outside the class room. Tell them stories, and mark what holds them and what does not. An earnest effort will surely bring success.

SOME things a primary teacher needs and ought to have are a separate room, a blackboard, a musical instrument, a clock, little low seats, a class Bible—the larger the better—shades for the windows, and pictures, appropriate and suggestive, on the walls. Many other things are desirable, but these are really necessary to good work. And they are not hard to secure even in

the poorest school, if the teacher is tactful and patient and truly loves her work.

Important

"GET the mother, and you have the whole family."—*D. L. Moody.*

"Make a league of prayer with the parents to pray daily for God's blessing on the class."—*Mrs. W. F. Crafts.*

The Summer School

ARE you going to the Summer School nearest you this year? Are you longing to be a better teacher—to know how you can best teach the little ones intrusted to your care? Hear what Mrs. Barnes says in an imaginary talk with primary teachers on needs and possibilities:

"A primary union is suggested as the only proper remedy, and its benefits are enlarged upon. Our teacher admits that she lives within a few miles of one; but, 'I cannot afford fifty cents every week to reach it.' Then is suggested a list of helpful books; but our teacher replies, 'My means are limited, I cannot buy them.' Another ventures the suggestion that these books might be placed in the school library, as they would be helpful to all. Then one enthusiastic one says, 'Why, you must go to the Summer School at Asbury Park this summer; I went last year, and I have been bubbling over with enthusiasm ever since.' 'But the cost,' our teacher starts to say, but is interrupted with, 'O, I was not through: my school sent me last year, paid all my expenses; and your school should do the same for you.' 'And did it help you?' the first inquires. 'Help me?' our energetic one exclaims; 'Help us?' is heard from different parts of the room, 'why, it is next best to a primary union all the year; you *must* go.' There are several of these primary schools now, held in different parts of the country.

Child's Consecration Hymn

"JUST as I am," Thine own to be,
Friend of the young, who loveth me;
To consecrate myself to thee,
O Saviour, dear, I come, I come.

In the glad morning of my day,
My life to give, my vows to pay,
With no reserve and no delay,
With all my heart, I come, I come.

I would live ever in the fight,
I would work ever for the right,
I would serve thee with all my might,
Therefore to thee I come, I come.