

Making the Library Helpful

I am like Dickens' Dream-Child, who, you know, "wondered a great deal and thought of a number of things." One of the things I "wonder" about is whether any others have found the help that I have in cultivating an intimate knowledge of the books of the Sunday School library.

Not the new, fresh-looking folios, with gilt tops and unworn bindings; not the dry-looking Travels and Memorials—at least, not these only. But the limpsy-backed, finger-marked story-books, the A. L. O. E. books and the Miss Alcott books, the boys' books and the girls' books—have you found the good of knowing them all by heart?

It is of no use to denounce them as trash, and recommend "solid" works; my problem was to make illuminating lesson-lights out of them, and such they may prove very easily.

I first tried the plan with a class of ten boys, fourteen-year-olds mostly. The week before Temperance Sunday I hunted out all the books on temperance, and had a pile ready to give out—Julia MacNair Wright's, of course, and "The Little Captain," and a lot more. I wish you could have heard the tongues buzz next Sunday! A lesson on Missions took in Paton, and Mackay of Uganda, and Dr. Hamlin's fascinating biography, and even some Travels; and we got out the class globe, and one of the ten (a Reform-school boy, by the way), said he "wished we could have Mish'nary Sunday every week." I studied book catalogues and once in a while we bought a book—eight or ten cents apiece would do it—and then, after reading it, we turned it over to the general library.

The same plan was pursued with good effect on the more usual, every-day subjects treated in the lessons. Trust, prayer, forgiveness of sins, watchfulness against temptation, the daily life with Jesus, all find endless illustration in the books to be found in the smallest Sunday School library.—*Exchange.*

ORDER OF SERVICE: Fourth Quarter

Opening Exercises

I. SILENCE.

II. RESPONSIVE SENTENCES.

SUPERINTENDENT. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock.

SCHOOL. Thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

SUPERINTENDENT. Thy way is in the sea, and Thy paths in the great waters, and Thy footsteps are not known.

SCHOOL. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

III. SINGING.

IV. PRAYER; closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert.

V. READING OF LESSON, in concert or alternate verses.

VI. Singing.

The Lesson

I. STUDY IN CLASSES. (Let this be entirely undisturbed by Secretary's or Librarian's distributions, or otherwise.)

II. SINGING.

III. REVIEW FROM SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK; which may include Recitation in concert of Catechism, Lesson Title, Golden Text, Memory Verses and Heads of Lesson Plan.

Closing

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS; SECRETARY'S AND LIBRARIAN'S DISTRIBUTIONS.

II. SINGING.

III. RESPONSIVE SENTENCES.

SUPERINTENDENT. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

SCHOOL. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

IV. CLOSING HYMN OR DOXOLOGY.

V. BENEDICTION OR CLOSING PRAYER.