

The Business Committee will arrange the various parts of the work so as to be the most effective, assigning the time for each. Business items should be relieved by illustrations of model opening and closing exercises for a school; model lessons for the several grades of classes; the consideration of the appliances to be used as aids, such as black-boards, mode of arranging classes, maps, pictures, objects and object lessons; model teachers' meetings, and practical discussions. The evening session will usually embrace a number of addresses on special topics, both by members of the Association, and by strangers who may be in attendance.

DISCUSSIONS.

A good way of conducting a discussion is to have some person appointed beforehand to open the discussion, allowing him ten minutes (or more if the nature of the subject requires it). It may be well to appoint a stranger to this duty if one is present who is known to have large experience in that particular subject. Volunteer speeches of three or five minutes may then follow, being always practical and strictly relevant. No one should speak from mere impulse, but if any one has carefully considered the matter and has a useful and practical thought on the subject which he can earnestly express, let him by all means speak. Discussions should always tend to the advancement of the work of Sabbath-School teaching.

SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION.

A few of these may be noticed. One of the most important is, *the preparation of the teacher for his work*. This will have respect to him personally in the spiritual preparation of the heart and the intellectual culture of mind required. It will also have respect to the special preparing of the lessons which he is to teach. This will include the way of studying the Bible itself; the use of helps, as concordances, commentaries, books of oriental travel, manners and customs, bible geography, natural history, &c.; the best modes of collecting and storing facts for future use; the use of illustrations; the study of child nature; the art of teaching; the art of arresting and securing attention; the art of bringing all teaching to bear on the moral nature of the child; the ability to present to the child a clear, attractive and beautiful ideal of Christian character and life; the best means of forming the image of Christ on that plastic, impressible and everlasting substance, the child's soul; and the most effective way of making all the teacher's work bear on the child's conversion and salvation. Closely connected with the teacher's preparation, is the scholar's preparation. A proper subject of discussion will then be, the means of securing the previous preparation of the lesson by the children.

Another subject suitable for discussion will be, *helps to teaching*, apart from the teacher's mental preparation. The use of the black-board has been found a valuable aid in all other kinds of teaching, and the numerous ways in which it may be made a valuable help in the Sabbath-School should be discussed and illustrated. The value and use of maps, pictures and object lessons as powerful auxiliaries in making the truth comprehensible, should also be discussed, and information given as to how they may be obtained.

A *Library* is a very important adjunct to a school, and the enormous development, within the past few years, of this department of the general work, shews how deeply its importance is felt. As the value of a library will depend on the quality of the books composing it, the best mode of making a selection from the books offered to the public, will be a useful subject of discussion. The conductors of Sabbath-Schools are often sorely puzzled in the use of a library after it has been procured: The books rapidly get soiled and torn; the binding gives way, and they fall to pieces; and many of them speedily disappear altogether.