

## PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

### Some Questions about Primary Work Answered.

BY MRS. W. F. CRAFTS.

HOW MAY WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS AS PRIMARY TEACHERS? 1. By the amount of time and thought it claims in our lives.

2. By the degree of enthusiasm we are able to create for the work in those who are associated with us.

3. By the sympathetic unity we are able to bring about between ourselves and our scholars, when questions about "how to keep order" will never arise.

4. By the degree in which we have secured the cooperative interest of the mothers of the children.

5. By having convinced others that child Christians are the natural product of earnest teaching.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE PRIMARY COLLECTIONS? They should be put into the Sunday school treasury, for the primary department is not a separate organization. The children should be told about the different kinds of Christian work their offerings will be used to sustain. It is only thus that intelligent and interested givers can be grown.

HOW SECURE ASSISTANT TEACHERS? Invite those you think you would like to have associated with you to help you for two or three Sabbaths, without any hint that they might become permanent assistants. In many instances they will become so interested they will ask to be made regular helpers. The short test will prove to you and to themselves whether or not they would be suited to the position. Mothers of little children can often thus be enlisted, and, all things considered, they will make the best teachers, because of their constant study of adapting themselves to children.

Undoubtedly the best organized primary class has an assistant teacher for every ten or twelve scholars. Beyond this number there can be very little personal contact of teacher with scholar; and surely, if there is any time personal contact is desirable, it is when religious truth is being taught.

HOW CAN ASSISTANT TEACHERS BE BEST DEVELOPED? By seeing a well-taught lesson every Sabbath, and then being set to work to review the lesson as taught with such changes as they find necessary to exactly adapt the lesson to the little group they teach. This plan can be carried out by having the lesson taught by the primary superintendent and reviewed by the assistant teachers.

Assistant teachers should be urged to attend the Primary Union, where they will come in contact with those who are giving consecrated talents to the study of the religious teaching of little children.

HOW A PRIMARY UNION MAY GROW IN USEFULNESS. 1. By arranging to have every primary teacher in the city visited who is not a member of the union and most cordially invited to join. Notices or even letters will not do.

2. By cultivating closer acquaintance with all who attend the meetings; no one should ever be allowed to come in and depart a stranger.

3. By increasing the number of committees as persons of special talents are discovered. The more individuals at work for the good of the whole the better.

4. By having a well-selected library on best methods of teaching; also on child study, as: *Froebel's Educational Laws for All Teachers*, by James L. Hughes; *Children's Rights*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin; *Practical Primary Plans*, by Mr. Israel P. Block; *Report of Mothers' Congress; Probable Sons*.

5. By having an Annual Primary Institute covering at least two sessions, with the best possible program. Let teachers from other unions be invited to assist. If possible, secure the presence of an acknowledged "primary leader."

6. By having Mother's Meetings, at least three or four in a season, at which primary Sunday school work can be explained, and mothers can be told ways in which their cooperation would best help the work of the class. Some phase of child study should be presented. It is best to hold Mothers' Meetings in the evening, for then fathers are likely to be at home on guard, and the children are asleep, not needing mother so much as when awake.

7. By helping to organize other Primary Unions, thus helping in the county and State work. No union should live only to itself.

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