

The Sunday School

Weather and the Sunday School.

A rainy day is the best test of a Sunday School, and its best opportunity.

For the scholars it is a sieve, separating the zealous workers from the careless ones.

For the general school it is an index, since if Christ is not "in the midst" of the few on rainy days, surely the many on sunny days are not wont to gather "in his name."

For the teacher it is a revealing question: "Do you teach for the excitement and praise of crowded benches, or is a single soul, with its issues of life and death, inspiration enough?"

It is the superintendent's chance, because then he leaves his staff, the pick, the enthusiastic nucleus, of his school. It is a good day for "setting balls to rolling."

A rainy day brings out the mettle of a Sunday School. The faithful are impelled to greater boldness, the careless to stricter attention. Responsibilities are thrown upon unwonted shoulders. Many a Sunday School worker has been developed by rainy days.

If you investigate tactfully the absences on rainy days, you will often come upon a truer knowledge of the home life, and needs of your scholars, than any sunshiny observations could give.—*Amos R. Wells, in Sunday School Success.*

Home Department Fruitage.

There is a faithful visitor in a city in the Ohio River Valley. Among the families she induced to join the Home Department was one consisting of a husband, wife and her mother. They were all habitual drinkers, and seemed to be almost beyond hope. The visitor met them every Sunday afternoon to help them in the study of the lesson. She also induced them to clean up and dress more neatly. Two young men became interested in the study of the lessons with them, often manifesting surprise at the new things they found in the Bible. The visitor started a cottage prayer-meeting at their house, and their interest increased until finally they became professing Christians. In five months the three were taken into the Presbytery church. The man has secured work at a dollar and a half per day, from which he contributes twenty-five cents a week to the support of the church. *Constitution Teacher.*

The Ought To Be's and the Must Be's of the School Session.

A HEAD WITH THREE EYES.

It ought to be interesting.
It ought to be devotional.
It ought to be instructive.
To give interest there must be variety.
To secure devotion there must be order.
To give instruction there must be forethought and forestudy.
To afford variety many plans must be employed.

To secure devotion in others the leader must be devotional himself.

To give instruction continuously there must be deep-rooted principles recognized and applied.

Simply because a plan is old it ought not to be discarded.

The fact that a plan is new is not the best reason why it ought to be adopted.

The best of the old ought to be retained; the best of the new ought to be incorporated.

—J. R. Pepper.

An Entertaining Sunday School.

The Sunday School of the Dundas Centre Church, London, has issued a very handsome number of *Our School*, a little paper devoted to the interests of the local Sunday School. It contains pictures of the present pastor, and also of all the old pastors, together with greetings from each. It also has good photos of the former superintendents, and of a number of teachers who have taught in the school for over fifteen years, besides all the present officers. Altogether it is the most complete publication of the kind that we have seen.

The Superintendent, Mr. D. A. McDermid, is one of the most energetic Sunday School workers we know of.

We are pleased to note that a Normal class has been organized in connection with the school which promises to be of much benefit to the teachers. The pastor, Rev.



MR. D. A. McDERMID,
Superintendent Dundas Centre
Sunday School.

Dr. Saunders has consented to direct the Bible study, and has suggested the following list of subjects: "The World of the Bible," "The Land of the Bible from a Geographical and Historical Standpoint," "History of the Bible," "How, When, Where and by Whom the Various Books Were Written," "The Canon of Scripture," "The English Version of the Scriptures," "The Inspiration and Authenticity," "The Institutions of the Bible," "The Lessons on teaching to be," "The Teacher's Qualifications," "The Teacher's Preparation," "Principles of Instruction," the last mentioned topic to be divided under four heads, as follows: "Approach to the Scholars," "Attention," "Illustration," "Interrogation." The series to conclude with a lesson on review. We would like to see something of this kind undertaken in all our schools.

Sunday School Suggestions.

There is a story of a little girl who said, "Mother, does God ever scold in heaven?" The mother felt a twinge of shame, for conscience told her that there was far too much scolding in the earthly home. She answered, "I do not think God ever scolds;" and the little girl said, "I am so glad, for I do not think I could love him very much if he scolded." The scolding superintendent, or teacher, or parent is not a true representative of God.

A dose of castor oil will not be more nauseating to the average Sunday School class than an affected pious tone on the part of the teacher. A teacher ought to be pious, of course, but if he is not pious when he comes to the class, he ought not to assume the role for the occasion. It is sure to be a disgusting failure.—*Bible Reader.*

TEACHER, did it ever occur to you that for seven days out of every week, not simply a teacher for thirty minutes on Sunday. Why, some teachers scarcely recognize their scholars on the street during the week; they do not think about them, they are not related

to them. You and I are teachers of these boys and girls for seven days every week; they are watching us all the time. If we go where we ought not to go, then how quickly they will lose their confidence in us, and turn away from us, and say they do not want anything to do with us.

A MAN whose power for good in the world has been widely felt, said: "I was a wild, reckless fellow, and my family wanted me put into a popular Sunday School class so that I might be 'held.' Providentially I fell into a little class taught by a quiet saint, whose opportunities had been exceedingly limited and whose instruction was of the simplest sort. What she said impressed me very little, but what she lived made me what I am. I cannot remember a single lesson exposition, but her reverent handling of the Bible and her way of speaking the name of Jesus, the unvarying of her countenance, and the beauty of her consistent life, made me love that which she loved and reverence that which she revered."

A GIRL of thirteen in the Sunday School at Winchester, Ont., was given a copy of the new catechism of our church, and at the end of two weeks she had committed the entire book to memory, and was able to repeat the answer to every question without a mistake. This is perhaps going through the book too rapidly to secure the best results, but it is an illustration of how easily and rapidly it can be memorized by our boys and girls. By all means let the catechism be introduced into every school.

We have just received a suggestive letter from Rev. W. W. Andrews, Ph.D., Superintendent of our church, in Sackville, N.B. He is an enthusiastic advocate of "The Home Department," which he thinks should be emphasized everywhere. He says: "We have just organized one here, and it has had already a unifying effect on our congregation. 'A whole church studying the same Scripture each Sabbath' would be a good motto to pass along to every town and village from East to West."

Yes, let us have more interest manifested in this part of our work. It is adapted to all possible conditions, and can be successfully carried on in remote and scattered settlements as in towns and cities. Indeed it is specially suited to the needs of country places where services are few and where many members of the congregation live at a distance from the church. By all means push the Home Department. If you want information about it write to this office.

OWING to the number of departments claiming attention in this paper, we shall be unable to publish expositions of the Sunday School lessons. There are, however, so many excellent and cheap lesson helps that our teachers are almost well supplied. We desire to have, each month, a page of suggestive hints on Sunday School work, and ask the co-operation of superintendents and teachers. What is your school doing?

The attention of Sunday School teachers and officers is directed to a little book recently published by one of our ministers, Rev. W. B. Tucker, M.A., Ph.D., on "Sunday School Outlines: A Series of Normal Studies."

It contains suggestive and helpful chapters on the Sunday School—its work, authority, relation to Church organization; the Sunday School Teacher, the Teachers' Meeting, the Teacher Before his Class, Normal Work, etc. The Normal Studies and Bible Readings are exceedingly suggestive, and the chapter on "The Home Department" contains much valuable information.

Altogether it is a book that does Mr. Tucker great credit. It should be in the hands of every Sunday School teacher. As the price is only 35 cents, it is within the reach of all. Send for it to one of our Book Rooms.