

tivating the love of the beautiful, and thus adding the refining touch to character and life. Its direct appeals for the Christian life—may not these often prove the avenue by which the teacher may get close to the scholar in individual personal dealing?

The illustrated paper as an instructor in missions deserves a whole article instead of a paragraph. Fire requires fuel. Interest in missions is enkindled and sustained most effectually by letting one hear with his own ears and see with his own eyes, what the needs of the heathen are, and what the missionaries are doing to meet those needs. The material must be in attractive form.

Otherwise it falls dead. But, with an original missionary article each week as in *EAST AND WEST*, direct from a worker on the field, and usually illustrated, it is next to impossible but that the scholars shall, in time, be profoundly interested in the greatest of all tasks.

The teacher is wise who now and then reads his paper in advance, and gives the necessary hint or asks the necessary question, that will set the scholars to read their papers thoroughly. It is clear gain to the scholars, the teacher, and the School. No need, when the papers are so utilized, to ask, "Are papers worth while?"

The Home Department

The Report of Mr. Marion Lawrance, General Secretary of the International Sunday School Association, to the recent Convention at Louisville, Kentucky, shows that there are 15,650 Home Departments in the various States and Provinces covered by the Association's work, with a membership of 551,538. Canada has 1,144 Home Departments, with an enrolment of 26,952. During the Triennium since the Toronto Convention, there has been a gain of 50 per cent. in the number of Departments and of about 40 per cent. in enrolment.

What the Members Get From It

By Rev. J. W. McIntosh, M.A.

The avowed object of the Home Department is to place the opportunity and advantages of systematic Bible study within the reach of all. Its members are enrolled to search the scriptures; and in doing this there is great reward. The Bible solves our problems, corrects our evil tendencies, supports us in sickness or sorrow, discloses the way of duty and inspires confidence, hope and zeal. Its revelation of God's love meets and conquers the hundred perplexing problems, small and great, that each day brings.

"Life's ills without, sin's strife within

The heart would overflow,

But for that love which died for sin

That love which wept with woe."

The blessings that accompany Bible study do not, however, exhaust the significance of the Home Department. Its members are brought into connection with the great Sunday School movement, and can scarcely fail to catch something of its inspiration and enthusiasm. A sense of the greatness and importance of the work that is being done by the noble army of Sunday School teachers is one of the unexpected benefits of the Home Department, and increases as the connection is maintained and developed.

This results, in turn, in widened sympathies and a genuine desire to assist in the work. Parents are led to esteem more highly the teacher of their children and to make the teacher's work easier and more fruitful, by an attitude of sympathy and by increased attention to the preparation of the lessons in the home. This is profitable for the Sunday School, but not less so for the parent. Every extension of the sympathies and every manifestation of them is a milestone in the progress of the soul.

The sympathy that the Home Department thus excites is materially increased by the quarterly visit of the faithful "worker". Of all the forces that play upon life, none is so effective as "the human touch, warm, vital, close". Our fathers perceived this truth, and the regular visit of the member of Session was used to supplement the visits of the pastor. The elder's visit is now an