

2. *Christmas Sunday.* For the Sunday School session, we are planning this year to have lantern slides of Van Dyke's *The Other Wise Man*, the story of which will be told by the pastor. Some of the older children will tell stories of how Christmas is spent in other lands, and the superintendent will tell of the land without any Christmas, so that the children will see what Christmas really brings to us.

The greatest and most largely attended service in the year in our church is Christmas Sunday evening. This is because of our carol service. The choir and pulpit space is crowded with children—the girls all in white. For half an hour, with only the choir lights turned on, the choir and the children sing over all the old-time carols. Then all the church lights are turned on, all unite in the Christmas hymns, and the minister preaches a Christmas sermon.

3. Perhaps no part of the Christmas plans is of greater importance than the *meeting of each class during the holiday week* at its teacher's home. Here again the Christmas carols are sung, Christmas stories told, games played, plans formed for the class work of the coming year, New Year's resolutions discussed. This holiday week is the teacher's best opportunity of enlisting the cooperation of her class, of seeking out new members, of becoming more intimate with all of them.

Many Sunday School workers are convinced that the whole objective side of Sunday School work is too little emphasized. Many believe that the point of weakness does not lie in the graded or in the uniform lessons; it lies in the fact that in too many Sunday Schools child-life is inoculated inevitably and unconsciously with the idea that religion is the inculcation of certain truths and the acceptance of certain ethical standards. Too often the Sunday School does not lead the children forth into religious living. Christmas is the best time of all for emphasizing the necessity of the Word's becoming life, of the indwelling Christ's becoming incarnate in the everyday world of the scholar's habits and motives. The Christmas theme is the strongest dynamic back of all the expressional activities of the Sunday School.

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A Class Debate

A class debate might prove a welcome change. By this is not meant the time-honored custom of having two on a side, a resolution and three judges. The sort of debate intended in this article is one in which the teacher takes one side against the whole class.

On a given Sunday the teacher may point out three or four questions which arise out of

next Sunday's lesson. He will state the questions clearly for the scholars, and tell them that he is going to uphold one side and expects them to be ready to maintain the other.

Suppose he mentions three such problems. They will be put in such a way that will provoke debate. They will purposely be worded so that there is a real question, so that there is something to be said on both sides. The teacher will sometimes choose for himself what seems to be the weaker case in order to give the scholars an opportunity to stand up for the very principle he would otherwise teach them in another way.

Three questions to handle! The teacher will speak about his end of the first for five minutes, giving all the arguments he can for maintaining his position. The class will have five minutes in which to bring out counter arguments. The teacher sums up, in a minute or two, the results upon which all are agreed and which are most worthy of emphasis.

Such a debate would take at least half an hour. If this seems too long a time, two may be chosen. Indeed one question a Sunday, the discussion occupying ten minutes of the time, the rest to be devoted to the more ordinary form of teaching, would prove stimulating to the whole class. It would help to get out of a rut.



Teaching Temperance Facts

By Rev. D. C. MacGregor, B.A.

In the teaching of temperance the aim should be to place the scientific facts in regard to the use of alcoholic liquors before the minds of the boys and girls in the right moral and religious atmosphere.

Here the average teacher needs assistance. Fortunately such assistance is easily available. Our own Board of Social Service and Evangelism will supply, at a very trifling cost, copies of a series of leaflets prepared by the writer of this article. The subjects treated in the leaflet, include: one on Alcohol and Heredity, which shows, from the testimony of scientific men, that the children of abstainers are, as a rule, much stronger and healthier than those of drinking parents; another on Alcohol and Accidents, in which facts are given to prove that the use of alcohol by workmen and others greatly increases the risk of accident; and a third on Alcohol and Labor, in which figures are given to prove that those whose labor is employed in the manufacture, receive a smaller share of the product of their toil than workers in iron and steel, bakers of bread, boot and shoe makers and those who work at making clothes.

Besides getting these materials provided