

country schools. It has special adaptations in regions where long distances, deep snows and severe cold close up the Sunday-schools in winter. In every such case, through the Home Department, the life of the school may be continued, the lessons studied, the work carried on, and reports given at the reorganization of the school in the spring. One of our country secretaries said to me, "Several of our little school-house Sunday-schools wintered in our Home Department last year, and we hope the coming season to help many more through the stormy months in this way." The Home Department in this way meets a long-felt difficulty in the matter of continued life for these small schools. The enthusiasm is kept alive, and the schools are enabled to start in the spring-time without the disadvantage of a past six months of actual death.

Then, too, it awakens interest in

NON-CHURCH GOERS,

and by-and-by greatly increases church attendance and efficiency. Though not attending any church, persons who join the Home Department soon begin to look upon that particular church as taking an interest in them as their own. The prejudice that the church does not care for them is soon removed, and thus frequently the way is opened to church attendance, and in the end to conversion and membership.

That it so frequently recovers backsliders has often been noticed as a feature of the work. One of our workers told me of a backslider who had not attended church for years who joined one of the classes. Soon the ice was broken; soon he was induced to attend again the church, and was ultimately reclaimed. He died not long since with a good hope in Christ, and on his death-bed testified to his assurance of salvation. He left this message, "God bless the man who first thought of the Home-class Work," attributing, as he did, his salvation to its agency.

THE SHUT-INS.

It comforts and helps invalids also. It is admirably adapted to be a source of blessing to that large class of patient sufferers of whom we speak of as the "shut-in society." One of our oldest members studied the Home Department lessons as long as she had strength to hold her leaflet in her bed. Because of deafness she could not be read to, but testified that up to the very last she found not only joy in God's Word, but also in the thought that she was studying a portion, week by week, in concert with others, and as a member of the school she had always loved.

MULTIPLUS WORKERS.

There are multitudes of Christians who do not feel able to open their lips to others upon the subject of personal religion, who can, nevertheless, be easily induced to take up

this work. In it they have a plain excuse or reason for making a call. Soon they get acquainted, and, by-and-by, find an interest awakened in each member of their class. Before long they are found drifting into the spirit of more close and personal Christian effort. I verily believe that this Home Department feature of the Sunday-school is going to set in motion a mighty latent energy in the Church for the evangelization of all classes. It is a simple and natural way in which the Church may develop workers and then reach out its hands to draw multitudes to its bosom.

I have heard of a church where the pastor and superintendent meet, once a quarter, with the visitors of the Home Department for the express purpose of gathering helpful knowledge in regard to the families of the parish. These visitors bring them a great deal of valuable information about the people into whose homes they have gone. Of course, this cannot help but prove helpful to both pastor and superintendent in their work. We have found the Department, through its visitors, to be a veritable Pastor's Aid Society, and such cannot help but be the result in any church that will use it. We all understand that these Christian women, going about in an unofficial capacity, will gain access to many homes and hearts where a pastor could not. Oftentimes the very fact that we, as pastors, are thought to be doing our work as pastors of a certain Church, in a professional way, closes the heart-door, if not the home-door, against us. Right here it is that the Home Department visitor may come to our help in a most effectual way.

This whole plan is absolutely without enemies, while it is abundantly commended by hundreds of schools where it is now in successful operation. It is simply a new branch, an expansion of the Sunday-school idea, which needs no commendation, and is rapidly growing in favor. And no wonder, for so simple, so natural, so practical are its methods, it can be introduced by any interested worker without special organization and machinery—a tried, tested and workable plan, simple, inexpensive, effective, and adapted to any community, city, village or country. Try it. If you have not, my fellow-workers, by all means try it.

Use Your Own Bible.

In days when a Bible can be bought for twenty-five cents, or even less, every scholar ought to have his own Bible, and become familiar with handling it. If the Lesson Leaves drive the Bibles out of the schools they will do a great wrong. There is no reason why they should; they are for home study; but the Bible should be in every scholar's hands in the schools.