

AN INTERESTING INSTANCE.

The following instance, illustrative of Home Department work, is reported by Mrs. E. M. Ferguson, of New Jersey :

"A young man and his wife, who were formerly active in church work, had drifted away so far that the Bible was an unopened book, until one day the wife was approached by a Home Department visitor and asked to become a member. Her conscience was aroused, and as a result she and her husband began to study the Bible together, and both gladly became members of the Home Department."

Mrs. Ferguson also reports that at a recent Sunday-school picnic, the Home Department members were supplied with ice cream tickets free. The superintendent also saw that they were supplied with fans on which was printed the programme of the school for the summer. These were practical methods of identifying the Home Department more closely with the school.

A SOURCE OF BLESSING.

What a source of blessing a well-organized Home Department can be to a community, as well as to the main school! People just settling in the locality are at once visited in the interest of the school, entire families invited to the church and school, a hearty welcome extended in the name of the Master, a church and a Sunday-school home offered at once.

But the primary object of the Home Department is to interest every one in the study of God's Word, and especially those who for any reason are denied the privilege of attending the regular Sunday-school service. Are all the people in any neighbourhood members of the Sunday-school? Are all the people systematically studying God's Word? If the answer to either question is in the negative, there is positive evidence of the necessity of the Home Department.

The benefits derived are many. To the individual, the family, the neighbourhood, the Sunday-school, and the church come many unlooked-for blessings. The Sunday-school teacher who has scholars whose parents are members of the Home Department will readily testify to the marked improvement in the scholars' knowledge of the lesson. The superintendent owes much to the efficient and patient labour of the visitor of the Home Department. The pastor is indebted to the visitor for keeping him informed of new-comers and of cases needing his attention.—Inter. Evangel.

Sunday-school Statistics of All Nations.

The following table of statistics was presented to the International Sunday-school Convention, held in Atlanta, Ga., in April, 1899 :

	Sunday Schools	Teachers	Scholars	Total Member- ship
<i>Europe.</i>				
England and Wales	43,632	613,036	6,843,072	7,456,108
Scotland	6,338	63,939	713,360	762,299
Ireland	3,620	27,980	319,316	347,296
Austria, including Bohemia	208	533	7,340	7,873
Belgium	83	403	4,616	5,019
Bulgaria	35	140	1,576	1,716
Denmark	819	4,275	71,371	75,646
Finland	7,611	12,928	165,140	178,068
France	1,475	3,876	61,200	65,076
Germany	7,131	39,872	814,175	854,047
Greece	4	7	180	187
Holland	1,900	4,902	168,110	173,072
Italy	336	1,482	15,787	17,269
Norway	749	3,311	65,311	68,622
Portugal	18	70	1,419	1,489
Russia	83	785	15,679	16,464
Spain	48	220	4,275	4,495
Sweden	5,360	18,144	252,247	270,301
Switzerland	1,762	7,490	122,567	130,057
Turkey in Europe	30	170	1,420	1,590
<i>Asia</i>				
India, including Ceylon	5,678	13,937	247,472	261,409
Persia	107	440	4,876	5,316
Siam	16	64	800	873
China	105	1,053	5,264	6,317
Japan	150	390	7,019	7,409
Turkey in Asia	516	4,250	25,833	30,083
<i>Africa</i>	4,246	8,455	161,394	169,849
<i>North America.</i>				
United States	137,293	1,399,711	11,327,853	12,727,569
Canada	10,174	79,500	637,442	736,942
Newfoundland and Labrador	353	2,374	22,766	25,140
West Indies	2,306	10,769	111,355	122,104
Central America and Mexico	550	1,300	15,000	16,000
<i>South America</i>	350	3,000	150,000	153,000
<i>Oceania.</i>				
Australasia	7,458	54,670	595,031	610,701
Fiji Island	1,474	2,700	42,909	45,069
Hawaiian Island	230	1,413	15,840	17,253
Other Islands	210	800	10,000	10,800
World	252,510	2,388,449	23,049,009	25,437,458

Those parents who neglect the home training of their children in divine things have no claim upon the promises, and cannot complain if they early depart from the Sunday-school and forsake both it and the church. If their children are saved to the church, it is a miracle of grace, and if they wander away, it is not hard to fix the responsibility.