

A call at the home is by far the best thing, but if for good reasons this is out of the question, don't be afraid to use the mails. A little child greatly appreciates and treasures for months a letter or card that has actually come to him duly addressed and stamped.

A simple little method which is used in one primary department is proving to be very effective. When the superintendent finds it impossible to call, she sends an ordinary postal card to the child. In one corner she draws a little vacant chair and writes a personal message to the effect that there was a little empty chair in her class on Sunday and that she greatly missed the little boy who usually sits in it. If she knows why he was absent she refers to it, saying that she hopes he will be able to return soon. If the cause of absence is unknown she requests the child to ask mamma or somebody to send her word if he is sick. Each card bears a personal message written by the teacher's own hand. No two are alike. This little method has never failed of its purpose. A note has always come from the parent or the child explaining the cause of absence or on the following Sunday the child has returned, and almost invariably the teacher has heard, "I got the postal and I've come," or "I liked the card you sent, and I'm going to keep it."

Each child should be made to feel that he is an important member of the school and that when he is absent he is missed by all. Such care over each little one means work but the teacher is always the gainer. The confidence, love, and friendship of a little child are in themselves sufficient reward for any sacrifice.—Lucy G. Stock, in Baptist Superintendent.

The Absent Teacher

It certainly would be a good thing if statistics gave the average attendance of teachers as well as of the entire school. There is not a single public school in our land that would tolerate such irregularities in attendance as some Sunday-school teachers permit themselves to fall into. The engagement to meet and teach the class is not less binding than that which sends one to the counting-room, the typewriter, the professor's chair, the loom, and any other special secular work. The one who succeeds in business knows the importance of keeping business engagements with scrupulous care. We should as conscientiously work when we are about that business of saving souls which our Father has given us to do with diligence and care, as we should in any earthly calling. The teacher that is absent without a good excuse not only shows lack of interest, but downright disrespect for the class, for the school, for the church, and for God and his word. If such a teacher, after proper instruction from officials, shows no improvement then Doctor Osler's theory should be practised, and that teacher officially choirformed, regardless of age.—Dor Bille Teacher.

Looking Ahead

The effective superintendent is one who looks ahead, plans his work, and then proceeds systematically to work his plans. Nothing more certainly disorganizes a Sunday-school and discredits a superintendent than loose and haphazard methods. The superintendent should come to his work on Sunday morning with a thoroughly prepared program. Hymns and lessons should be selected in advance, and any special exercises to be introduced should be carefully provided for. Preparation for important occasions like rally day, children's day, and decision day should begin weeks ahead, so that when they arrive everything may

be in readiness. All this will require time and attention, but no one should consent to undertake the work of conducting a Sunday-school who has not enough interest in it and enough appreciation of its importance to make him willing to give it time and attention. It is to be feared that many of our superintendents have but a vague apprehension of their opportunities and responsibilities. Let them once come to realize that the work in which they are engaged is great enough to be worthy of the very best they are able to put into it, and they will count no pains nor too great to prepare themselves for it too required.

A Country Normal Bible Class

On the Malton Circuit, at the central appointment, Bethany, on Thursday evenings, there has been conducted during the last quarter, a Normal Bible Class. It was arranged primarily for the Sunday-school teachers, but has become so popular that scores of people, young and old, from the different appointments attend it. When the nights have been disagreeable and the roads muddy sometimes the audiences would number about fifty, but on other occasions there were from eighty to ninety present, and as most of the people had to drive the church sheds looked as if a tea-meeting were in progress. This interest in Bible study is promising of good fruit.

The International Sunday-school lesson for the following Sunday was taken up and dealt with from the standpoint of a modern or universally applicable question. The questions, for example, were: How shall we deal with the Evilous? What is Prayer? What are the Consequences of Parental Partiality? To what extent can Wine

overthrow? and the Easter lesson, Why may we look for the Resurrection of the Dead?

The lesson of the evening is introduced by an essay from one of the Sunday-school workers, which is followed by discussion and then an exposition by the pastor, Rev. E. Ryerson Young, B.A. The choirs of the different churches have also assisted in creating interest in the gatherings, for they have come in turns and led the singing.

It will be impossible to carry on these meetings during the farmers' busy season, but they show what can be done during the winter.

Sunday-school Wreckers

"I call them Sunday-school wreckers," said an earnest Sunday-school worker. "What do you mean?" said his surprised listener. "I mean teachers who come irregularly to Sunday-school. They wreck their classes," was the answer. It was a strong way of putting it, but is it not true? Scholars do not like substitutes, they are quick to copy the bad example set by their teacher, they soon begin to come irregularly themselves, and after a time are lost to the school. The class is wrecked. Now one may not be a very capable teacher, but regular attendance is possible. Certainly every teacher can do that much. Whatever you are, don't be a Sunday-school wrecker.

"A crumb will feed a little bird,
A thought prevent an angry word,
A seed bring forth full many a flower,
A drop of rain foretell a shower.
A little cloud the sun will hide,
A dwarf may prove a giant's guide,
A narrow plank a safe bridge form,
A smile some cheerless spirit warm."

Veteran Sunday School Workers

VII.—Mr. Thomas Renwick, Romney.

HERE we have a veteran of the veterans, with a record probably unequalled anywhere. At the age of seventeen, Mr. Thomas Coke Renwick organized one of the first Sunday-schools in the County of Kent, known as the Romney Ridge Sunday-school, and became the first Superintendent. This was in 1842, and he has occupied the position for 65 years of continuous service in the one school. He is now in his 83rd year, but possesses wonderful vigor both of body and mind, and may still be found at the Superintendent's desk every Sunday.

Mr. Renwick possesses in a marked degree the respect of the community where he lives, and is regarded by all who know him as a man of great faithfulness, deep piety, and unquenchable zeal. In his youth he gained a knowledge of music, attending the old-fashioned singing school. His ability in this direction has been of the greatest service to the church, as he has led the choir at Romney for the past sixty years, and is still in active service.

For over forty years he has been a local preacher, and even yet occasionally takes a service. In every good word and work he is to the fore. His pastor is of the opinion that, in many respects, Mr. Renwick is the most remarkable layman in Canadian Methodism.

This paper wishes the old gentleman a few more years of pleasant toil, and a happy eventide after his long and useful life.

If there is any other Sunday school Superintendent in Canada who has rendered anything like the same number of years of service the Editor of this paper would be glad to hear of him,

