

buttons, badges, banners, etc., for the simple reason that we are so far from perfect and are subject to such weaknesses and deficiencies that most of us have not reached the stage where we can succeed without their help, so let us use them by all means, but let us not neglect the development of those still worthier incentives, the incentives of a fine School spirit and the incentive of a lesson well taught.

I have not referred to the second of these because that is the teacher's particular work, and I am discussing with you just our part in the securing of good attendance.

Yours cordially,

A FELLOW SUPERINTENDENT



### Ways of Promoting Bible Study

*By Rev. W. A. Dobson, B.D.*

In a church known to me, there is a "five foot shelf of books," placed in the Sunday School room, with volumes specially written to help mothers and homemakers in the performance of their Christian duty. These books constitute a sort of traveling library, under the supervision of the superintendent of the Home Department. To aid in the study of the lessons, there are: Tarbell's Guide and Peloubet's Notes; a one-volume dictionary of the Bible; works on home training; Bible story books, and a few expository books, such as *The Beatitudes*, by Fisher; *The Song and the Soil*, by Jordan; and *The Psalm of Psalms*, by Stalker.

Further, by the cooperation of the Superintendents of the Cradle Roll, and the Home Department, up-to-the-minute lists of mothers and homes where helpful literature is appreciated, are posted. To these, from many other homes, inspiring reading matter is passed on after it has been read, and this is doing much to sweeten and strengthen lives.

It is not a difficult matter for each Sunday School to keep a Home Department box, into

which scholars, teachers, and others can drop a magazine, a helpful story cut out of a magazine, or paper, an envelope of clippings, etc. The Home Department makes it possible to enroll the whole church in the study of the Bible.

Not far from me is an organized Bible Class which occasionally acts as host to a mothers' and babies' picnic on the church lawn. At the picnic, Superintendents of the Cradle Roll, Home Department, and Teacher Training Department solicit recruits for studies in these directions.

I once had a Bible Class which met the pastor occasionally, outside of the study hour, when each one received a name and address of some person who was to be the especial subject of his or her interest and prayers.

The names so listed were those who were infrequent church attendants, more regular attendants who had never professed faith in Christ, and some who had no regular church home.

Each class member had but one name apiece, so that the personal work required was not great. Friendly calls were made, pleasant relations were established, invitations were extended to attend church and Bible Class, with the result that some in the congregation were added to the number of Bible students.

Last winter, on account of the fuel scarcity, the various churches in our town, with a couple of exceptions, arranged for union services in the Town Hall. Churches were closed, and in some cases the prayer meetings were broken up into small cottage meetings. The pastor could not be present to conduct all of them, so lay helpers were demanded.

Some who had taken the Teacher Training Course became group leaders, and these small meetings, with ardent Christian workers in charge, were blessed of God, and were productive of much spiritual quickening.

Carleton Place, Ont.

## THE DEPARTMENTS

### The Use of the Play Instinct in Teaching

*By Miss Ina M. Johnston*

A teacher in the Beginners' Department of one of our Sunday Schools told to her class one Sunday the story of the lost sheep. One active little chap had with him his younger brother, and both seemed to be very much interested in her story and the pictures with

which she illustrated it,—so much so, that the following week the two children, one as the shepherd and the other as the little lost lamb, acted the story over and over again at home. There is no doubt that these children would remember that story much better because they played it, for it is a known fact that we remember what we do much better than what