

project the pictures; this may be a sheet stretched on cords, but a permanently fixed screen on rollers at one end of the room is much more convenient, being always ready at a moment's notice. These are the essentials. In addition it is very convenient to have an elevated stand on which to place the lantern at the proper height for the screen; it should have a platform at one side for the operator and should be strongly and heavily made.

The working of a lantern is learned much more quickly by actual practical instruction than by following the most carefully written instructions. The people from whom lanterns are purchased are always ready to teach their use, and are quite capable of doing so. There is no mystery about a lantern, and no one need be deterred from buying one by the fear of not being able to fathom its secret in order to make it work.

No lantern is of use without slides to show in it. These can now be hired so cheaply, of such excellent quality and relating to almost every subject, that it is quite unnecessary for a parish to have a large collection of slides. At the same time much useful teaching by the lantern is often lost through a wish to save constant hiring fees, and it would be a great gain for any parish to have its own set of slides to illustrate Bible teaching in the schools. For use at Mission Services, a few well-selected hymns—and among these the Story of the Cross should find a place—and a carefully chosen series from the Old and New Testaments to illustrate Type and Fulfilment, the Sacraments and the Life of Christ and that of St. Paul, will be found of constant use. The series of slides taken from the *Doré Bible* are perhaps the best to be had at present, but it is to be hoped that photographic slides of many works of the old Masters, notably Fra Angelico, may before long be obtainable in this country. Something remains to be said as to the use of the lantern.

In our parish schools its value has scarcely been tested. For driving home the substance of lessons previously taught in class, it is a most powerful assistant. During the winter months it can be used almost

immediately after the close of afternoon school, and few scholars would object if asked to remain an extra half-hour to submit to a lantern lesson. This of course applies to both religious and secular subjects: of the latter, history and geography are easily illustrated, and in respect of the former the writer can speak from experience as to the permanence of the impression produced by a weekly glance at the Scripture lessons, in the shape of Bible Pictures, put simultaneously before the whole school.

When we approach the question of using the lantern in church we are supposed to be on delicate ground. Why? Is it not a constant helper in Mission rooms, a constant means of attracting people into unconsecrated buildings for a religious service? There is no room here to set out, much less to discuss, all the arguments for and against the use of the lantern in church, but if the chief objection is found in the possible danger of irreverence or of making a church a place of entertainment, the answer is very simple: Let it be tried. Failure or success will depend on the spirit in which it is undertaken—a spirit which is morally certain to spread through the congregation and influence their behaviour.

It will be easily understood that the conductor of a lantern service must be of the right sort—quiet, ready, able to pick out the central point of each picture and to force it home quickly in few words; for the picture is the sermon, and the conductor only a commentator.

A convenient form of service consists in a regular sequence of prayer, picture, address, hymn, and it should open with a careful explanation of the order of service. The hymns should be appropriate and short, and if possible led by a choir. Use few pictures, but let them be good ones; if coloured, the best procurable as works of art, and not the usual gaudy daubs. The service should not exceed an hour in length; in many cases three-quarters of an hour is quite sufficient. If held in church it is a good plan to block up the chancel arch as much as possible with the screen; the lantern is then placed quite out of sight in the choir and