

schools. To these the quarterly visitor brings hope and help and encouragement, and lifts their lives from their low levels to a higher plane of thought and feeling and action.

When the Sunday-school is forced by the inclemency of the weather to suspend, the Home Department may practically keep it going without dropping a lesson, so that in resuming not a Sunday has been really lost.

No element is more vital than

THE QUARTERLY VISITOR.

The visitor is generally a young lady of leisure and culture and winsome ways, who first secures the promise of the Home Department scholar to spend, at least, half an hour in the study of the Scriptures every week, and then makes periodical visits to receive reports, help with difficulties, and distribute the lesson literature. The genial influence of such visits to the homes of the poor and neglected, or of those who are shut out from social intercourse by sickness or isolation, is in itself an unspeakable benefit. It is an exhibition of Christian altruism that overcomes prejudice and wins confidences. It is a proof that the churches are not mere social clubs of the well-to-do, but that they seek to visit the neglected, and to benefit the needy.

RESULTS.

The intellectual stimulus of such study upon even sluggish minds is very great. They feel the inspiration of keeping step with the great army, which is every week studying the same chapter of the Bible. They acquire a new interest in the greatest classic of all the ages, and many are led to reformed lives.

One of the most striking results of the Home Department is the way in which it helps the pastor in his work, and thus benefits the whole church. The visitors can find out those who have membership letters from other churches, but have neglected to present them; those who are concerned about their salvation, but are too timid to make it known; those who are in trouble through sickness, or sorrow, or sin; those who can be developed into Christian workers in the Sunday-school, or League, or Endeavour Society.

A great deal more use can be made of the Sunday-school library than is generally made. It can become the effective means for circulating good reading in some families where only trashy

literature is known. The shut-ins especially will appreciate good books. In some places a "messenger service" has been formed from the school, of boys or girls who take pleasure in delivering and returning the books. The library may thus go forth on a mission of comfort, instruction, and evangelization. These libraries already far outnumber all the other libraries in the country, and they may be greatly developed in size and scope, and elevated in tone.

The domestic effect of the Home Department is most salutary. Parents take a new interest in the Bible studies of their children, and feel a new sympathy for the Sunday-school. Fresh themes of thought take the place of mental vacuity. New topics of conversation are suggested instead of trivial gossip. A love of books and of the Book of books is greatly fostered.

What an impulse a general effort for Bible teaching would give to every department of church life and church work! How it would fill our schools, enlarge our congregations, increase the intelligence and piety of our people!

THE FUTURE.

As the doors of the new century swing wide their portals, they reveal a vision of the golden age of which the poets dreamed, which sages and seers have foretold—an age when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty sea, when upon its art and literature, its every industry and enterprise, even upon the bells of the horses shall be written, "Holiness to the Lord"—an age in whose higher civilization that great sin against God and crime against man, the drink traffic, shall be abolished when the song of the angels at the advent of our Lord shall be fulfilled when, instead of the loud alarms of war and its cruel strifes and bloodshed, shall be heard as over the plains of Beth'ehm the song of peace on earth good will to men. In hastening the coming of this golden age the Home Department of the Sunday-school, under the blessing of God, may have a very vital and virile influence.

Prayers for goodness and purity in a sense answer themselves; for you cannot pray for these things without in some measure receiving them in the very act. To lift up the soul to God calms and ennobles it.—Stalker.