

MEMORIZING.

The following questions were recently asked a number of teachers :—

"Is it wise to have children memorize passages of Scripture, the meaning of which is not understood by them?"

(a) If not, why not? Give two arguments commonly used.

(b) If so, why so? Give two arguments commonly used.

(c) What is your own opinion?

The following is one of the answers received. The second one being omitted. Others will be published later on.

I. (a) 1. No. Because the words are then only a meaningless succession of sounds, and the words as we grow older, tend to retain their meaninglessness.

2. Because what we aim at, is to cause the child to know, and this we do not succeed in doing, if the words are not understood.

(b) 1. Yes. Because it trains the memory.

2. Because when the child grows up, it will be able to understand the meaning.

(c) I. My own opinion is that, it is folly to impose upon the memory a mere jingle of sounds, and the Scripture which should be a help to the child is thus made distasteful.

I would teach carefully, the exact meaning of each word, and the meaning of the thoughts as a whole, showing their relation to other thoughts, and if I succeed in doing this, it will be known; but, if not, I would only repeat my explanations in further and more attractive ways.

II. (a) No it is not wise to have children memorize passages of Scripture the meaning of which is unknown to them.

1. Because learning contrary to the will of a child, is distasteful, and the child will come to dislike the Bible out of which it is given distasteful lessons.

2 This method of teaching overloads the child's mind.

While some valuable truths are imparted still there is much that is of no value to the child and remains a burden. Froebel says :—"In after life when comprehension of the child, attaches sense to sound, the senseless word will be the more injurious."

(b) The arguments that it is right are :

1. In after life when the child has grown up, the passages that he has learned will come back to him when he has little time to read the Bible.

2. Unless you compel the child to learn it will not do so of its own desire.

(c) My own opinion is that it is decidedly wrong to make a child learn passages, the meaning of which, is not clearly understood. The child will learn his Bible and come to love it, if we follow the proper method.

Let the teacher teach the lesson brought out by the text, and be sure that it is firmly fixed on the child's mind.

This, will make memorizing a pleasure instead of what it usually is, a drudgery.

RECEIPT FOR GELATINE PAD.

Get a tray made of zinc, 18 inches by 14 inches wide and about five-eighths deep. Have the pan flat. Mix 26 fluid ounces of glycerine, (45 ounces in weight) 4 ounces of French gelatine, one ounce of white glue. Soak the gelatine in cold water a few hours, and after soaking, pour off all surplus water. Set the dish of gelatine into another dish of hot water to melt. Dissolve the glue with a little hot water, and stir into the melted gelatine, then pour in your glycerine and see that all is well mixed. Set your pan in a level place. Do not pour your mixture directly into the pan until you strain it. Any air bubbles can be removed, by putting them to the edge of the pan. Let the mixture cool before using. Get Hectograph ink, Black or Violet. Paper to make a copy ought to have a glazed surface. Write, or draw your pattern on paper and put it upon the pad. Let it remain there two or three minutes, then remove and make as many copies as you like. When finished, take luke warm water and wash off your pad, being careful not to make holes, or depression as you wash it. Wash immediately after using.