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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR,

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1896,

The Home Class Department.

This new departure in Sunday-school work has been accompanied with great success wherever it has been tried. In the late Ontario Sunday-school Convention it received special prominence. The Rev. C. D. Meigs, of Indianapolis, writes: "The work is coming on splendidly in Indiana with glorious results in some places. Fifty schools have adopted it in Montgomery County in the past three months."

In the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, a committee composed of Dr. J. J. Maclaren, Mr. C. D. Massey and the Rev. W. H. Withrow, was appointed to arrange for its introduction in connection with this [church. We shall report further concerning] the success of the plan, and in the meantime strongly urge our Sunday-school workers elsewhere to proceed at once to organize a home department.

It is found that it very largely increases the attendance at the ordinary Sunday-school. The Rev. Dr. Duncan, of New York, thus writes of its purpose and success:

Its purpose is to encourage Bible study in connection with the Sunday-school among all these who for any reason can not attend the regular sessions of the school. It is connected organically with the Sunday-school as a department, which, like other departments, must submit its quarterly and a...nual reports, and is subject to all the rules and regulations of the school applicable to it. The members of these classes are enrolled as members of the school, and are welcome to classes of like grade. They are entitled to the use of the library and to participate in all the Sunday-school socials, picnics, entertainments and lectures. All those who join a home class are entitled to the visitation and supervision of the class visitor, as well as that of the pastor and officers and members of the church with which the school is connected.

DUTIES

The duties of membership are very simple. Members are required to study the Sunday school lesson at least a half hour each week. keep a record of such study, and, if able, to make a weekly contribution to the benevolent make a weekly contribution to the benevoient work of the Sunday-school and report the same quarterly to the visitor. To systematize the work and increase the element of personal in-fluence, the department is divided into classes. A class may be formed of one or more persons reporting to the school through one visitor. The members of the class may be studying in different grades, and may never meet together for lesson study, but, because they are under the care of one permanent visitor, they form a class. The number in each class is determined by the ability of the visitor to give all the time required for faithful visitation and oversight. Few classes number more than eight or ten members.

It is quite advisable to promote a class feeling, and this can be done by bringing the members together for social purposes and getting them to undertake some work together, such as the reading of some author or supporting some frontier missionary, or doing local missionary work.

MUTUAL HELP.

The enrollment of members should be followed by regular visitation and supervision, to provide them with lesson helps and report blanks. These visits should be made immediately after the last Sunday in each quarter. The reports, when received, should be carefully scanned by the visitor, with reference to seeing whether the work has been faithfully per-