

It is too soon, as yet, to announce our programme in detail for 1917. Our Sunday Schools and Young People and congregations have grown accustomed to look for the coming year's new things in the Illustrated Catalogue, which is due about the end of September. We are already busy upon this. It will contain some happy surprises; for the programme of PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS is—"ALWAYS SOMETHING BETTER."

## THE COMING YEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

In its Reports to the General Assembly, our Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies usually outlines its plans for the coming year. The emphasis for this coming year of 1916-17 is to be placed:

*First*, on the suggested "unified programme of religious instruction."

For the year now past, as mentioned by Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies, in the *TEACHERS MONTHLY* for June, the importance of educational evangelism in work among the young was specially emphasized.

The work laid out for the coming year carries on this propaganda a step further, by an earnest endeavor to assist the local church to translate the aims and purposes of educational evangelism into actual practice.

Those aims, as the Report of the Board to the Assembly says, have been variously stated:—"to lead to a conscious acceptance of Jesus Christ;" "to develop efficient Christian lives;" to produce, through instruction, training and influence, true Christian character, expressed in right living and efficient serving."

The problem is, the means to be employed best to realize these aims; and the Board offers as its contribution to the solution of the problem,—and it is a very valuable contribution,—a "Unified Programme of Religious Instruction, Worship and Training." This programme seeks to systematize what parents and teachers and ministers have all along been trying to do, often without a very clear idea of just how the task was to be accomplished.

Five pamphlets are to be issued, covering respectively the ages up to eight; from about nine to twelve; the early teen years (thirteen to seventeen); the young people (eighteen to twenty-four); and adult men and women. Each pamphlet will set forth what is to be aimed at in the period to which it applies, and the means by which this aim is to be realized, under the headings of Instruction, Worship, and Training for Service.

The programme is carefully graded, and the details have been worked out with great sympathy and discernment. We shall be disappointed if the little booklets setting forth this programme of instruction, worship and training for service are not hailed with delight by all concerned,—by the scholars as well as by their teachers and parents and ministers. It will be to all concerned "a clear cut challenge to a worth while task;" and the Report adds: "We believe it will draw out the interest and enthusiasm of a sufficiently large and capable body of workers to carry it out successfully." The booklets setting forth the programme will embody many and valuable suggestions as to the organization and equipment necessary to the carrying through of the programme to success.

*Second*. If this success is to be realized, more attention must be given to the training of leaders—and this is the second chief objective of the S.S. and Y.P.S. Board for the coming year. The Board has made, through a special Committee, a close and extended study of the whole question of leadership, and it plans, through Teacher Training Classes, Presbyterial Institutes, City Institutes, Summer Schools, Short Term Training Classes for Leaders in Boys' and Girls' Work, Correspondence Courses, and Young People's Societies, greatly to increase the number of trained leaders available. It also calls upon the Theological Colleges and the Deaconess Training Home to enlarge their facilities to this same end, and plans through