

## The Memorizing of Scripture

By A. W. Wright, Esq., B.A.

Most of the memorizing done in connection with our Sabbath Schools is fragmentary, disconnected, and anything but thorough. In an attempt at improvement in this and other matters the Bible School of the Central Presbyterian church, Galt, of which the Rev. Dr. Dickson is pastor, has devised a system which works admirably. A description of it may prove suggestive to other schools.

Certificates suitable for framing have been neatly printed. On these is a small cut of the church edifice and the following letter-press:

THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GALT.

"Search the Scriptures." "Thy word have I hid in my heart."

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the Bible School of this church. Standing and honors as they are attained will be indicated by seals attached.

\_\_\_\_\_, Pastor. \_\_\_\_\_, Superintendent.

Certificates are not granted until at least one seal has been earned by memorizing, regular attendance, or otherwise. These seals are of twelve different colors, as many as could be obtained: White, pink, brown, dark blue, maroon, light blue, yellow, light green, dark green, light red, dark red, silver and gold. The first six are used to indicate standing in the Primary Department, Junior Department, Senior Department, and Home Department, or as teachers and officers respectively. The last six are used to indicate various kinds of merit. Gold seals are given for honors, silver seals for proficiency in Bible knowledge as decided by an examination test. Yellow seals are given for regular attendance to those missing only two, three or four Sabbaths in the year; gold seals to those not missing more than one Sabbath. Gold seals are also awarded to all who memorize either the Shorter Catechism or the Sermon on the Mount. Silver, light green, dark green, light red and dark red seals are awarded for memorizing any one of half a dozen passages named under each seal, of which the following is a list: The Ten Commandments; Psalms 1, 19, 23, 51,

72, 84, 90, 100, 103; Eccl. 12; Isaiah 11, 35, 40, 53, 55, 61; The Beatitudes; The Lord's Prayer; John 14: 15; Romans 12; 1 Cor. 13; Col. 3; Rev. 22; Paraphrase 2; Twelve Great Texts; the Books of the Bible in order.

This list may easily be extended by putting additional items under each seal, and the colors that indicate standing may also be utilized for this purpose, which would give everyone an opportunity to win seals of all colors.

The seals are about an inch in diameter. They have no printed device, except that what they are awarded for is concisely stated on them, a rubber stamp with the smallest moveable type being used to effect this. For facility in stamping, which requires a little practice, the seals are not gummed; they are attached with mucilage or paste, and arranged on the certificate to suit the fancy of the recipient. To keep the certificates in good order until they can be framed, a mailing tube is given with each.

Before seals are granted for memorizing there are three tests,—by the parent or some one else in the home; by the teacher; and by one of the six superintendents. Particulars of the recitations are noted in prepared blanks, and these slips are handed to the Seals Secretary, a very important officer, who encloses the proper seals in small envelopes, distributes them the next Sabbath, and keeps a record of the work. Neatly printed slips, in the form of a book-mark, contain all the particulars thought necessary for the guidance of scholars and others.

The following items of expense may be interesting:

500 certificates, not including cut.....	\$8 00
500 book-marks.....	3 00
4,000 seals, 12 colors assorted (Brown Bro., Toronto).....	3 00
Rubber Stamp outfit.....	1 50
300 mailing tubes, 1½x12 inches (Brown Bro.).....	2 75
Quire seal paper, assorted colors (will make 6,000 to 8,000 seals).....	45
Die for cutting seals, of local manufacture, at cost.....	1 50

Participation in this plan is entirely voluntary. The interest in it has been keen, and promises to be permanent.

Galt, Ont.