

warmth and radiance. The two large windows at the angles of the room are emblematical, the one representing Christ blessing little children, and the other the child Jesus in the carpenter's shop, subject to his parents. The room is seated with chairs, which can be grouped for the convenience of classes, or arranged to face the school platform or the church pulpit, as circumstances may demand.

What the Home Department Can Do.

BY ETHEL WHITTEMORE.

RECENTLY while visiting in a small city in Ohio, I found that several of the churches had taken up the Home Department.

In one of these churches a large number of persons united with the department, among whom were two families who lived so far down in the scale of society that to kindle any religious interest in their hearts seemed, to many, an impossibility. But the persevering visitor soon succeeded in awakening an interest in her visits, and, later, in the study of the Word of God.

For some time this weekly work went on, causing a gradual awakening in the adult members of the two families, and, in time, conviction of sin.

The pledge was signed in both of these homes, and drink, which had been a great curse in both, was banished. The children became happy, and were clothed for Sunday-school, and both parents and children found their way to the house of God.

Ere long the time came when, after careful examination by the session, all of the adult members of one family, three in number, and the mother in the other home, were considered suitable persons for church membership. Another Home Department visitor, looking for persons to unite with it, found an aged woman, who said:

"There are two households of us who came here three years ago. We have been very homesick, because we could not find a church home. There is no church here of the same name as the one at our old home, so we do not know where to go to church."

The children were added to the regular Sunday-school at once, and, in a short time, three adult members of the two households were taken into the membership of the Congregational Church. Thus Christian fellowship was renewed, and a new start in the better way given. Shall we say this department of the Sunday-school is of small value?

Hearing of these instances reminded me of

the experience of a Christian woman whom I met several years ago. In her childhood she was surrounded by the love of a Christian home and many friends. When she was married she went to a home prepared for her reception, where all was love and happiness. But soon this charming little home was swept away from the happy pair by reverses. They sought a new location, and settled on the outskirts of a quiet town. There, surrounded by her little family, far from dear friends and relatives, sick and discouraged, the wife and mother passed eight lonely years. The pastor of a local church after some time found her, through her little girls at Sunday-school; but, save an occasional precious visit from him, she was unvisited by Christian people.

Why was it that she was so lost to the Church? First, because she was too sick to seek new friends in their usual meeting-places, and she was not so destitute as to need the ministrations of the benevolent committee. Second, because there was no department of church work into which she could enter at home.

If the Church of which she became a member when health was restored, and in which she found many friends, had had a Sunday-school Home Department, it could have thrown its arms around her and brought her into touch with itself, thus supplying the Christian fellowship for which her soul longed.

Seeing the good this department has done, and recognizing the unsatisfied hungering of many souls deprived of Christian fellowship, shall we not arise and speed on the movement?—*S. S. Times.*

On the Border-Land.

THE telescope and the microscope have each extended wonderfully the realm of our knowledge; the one in the vast, the other in the minute. Yet the final limits of our apprehension are probably far from being attained, for with each improvement in the instruments the heavens become deeper in the vastnesses of space and richer with suns and stars, or the minute presents increasing marvels of infinitesimal forms of organism and life. So also in the sphere of sound our knowledge is bounded by the capacity of our organs of hearing. Here the audiphone makes revelations akin to those of the microscope in the field of vision, and sounds so tiny as the footfall of a fly, and others of equal delicacy, are distinctly heard. There can be no doubt that, as suggested by Professor Huxley, if our dull ears were sufficiently sharpened we should be able to "hear in the wonderful noonday silence of a tropical forest the murmur of tiny maelstroms as they whirl in the innumerable myriads of living