

institution intended exclusively for children, and the older people to a great extent remain at home. In consequence of this, it is difficult to retain the young men in the school. How much better it would be if we could bring our people to regard the Sunday School as the teaching department of the church for the whole congregation.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT

has interested a number of the older people in the study of the Bible, and brought them into intimate relations with the school. Lonely families have been reached, mothers who are prevented by domestic duties from attending the school sessions have become interested, our periodicals have received a wider circulation, many people have been brought under pastoral oversight, and not a few have been won to Christ. So far from becoming an excuse for the indolent, to stay away from the school, it has actually helped the attendance at the Bible classes. There has been a steady increase in the membership of the Home Department, from year to year, since its organization, until it now numbers 11,814.

THE CRADLE ROLL

is intended to do for the very young what the Home Department does for the seniors, bring them into vital relations with the school. The names of children too young to attend the sessions are entered upon the books of the school, to be under the watchful care of the Primary department. On their birthday a beautifully illustrated card is sent to them, and occasional visits are made by the teachers. As a rule, mothers greatly appreciate attentions shown to their children in this way, and many families have thus been brought into contact with the church.

RALLY DAY.

By resolution of the General Board, the last Sunday of September was set apart as Sunday School Rally Day, and the General Secretary was instructed to prepare a programme for general use. This was intended to bring together the forces of the school which in many places have become more or less scattered during the summer, and rally both scholars and teachers for the season's work. Judging by the large sale of the official programme, the day was widely observed, and proved exceedingly helpful.

TO OBTAIN BETTER TEACHERS.

By universal acknowledgment the greatest need of the Sunday School is a better equipped class of teachers. In many places very young persons have had to be placed in charge of classes without any previous preparation, and of course the best results have not been attained. Pastors and superintendents should be constantly on the lookout for persons who are intellectually and spiritually fitted for this important work, and Normal classes should be conducted for their benefit. Teachers' meetings, weekly or fortnightly, for the study of the Bible, and methods of work are of great importance. Our ministers should receive, during their college term, such instruction as would enable them to teach others to teach.

OUR PERIODICALS

maintain their high standard of excellence, and during the past four years have increased greatly in circulation. Many schools which have been taking foreign publications have discovered that our own are better. These papers are doubtless exercising a powerful influence in moulding the character of our young people.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AID AND EXTENSION FUND

continues to carry on the good work for which it was established. During the quadrennium many new schools have been established in remote and destitute localities, and poor schools in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and portions of Ontario and the far west have been assisted in securing papers and lesson helps. The plan usually pursued is to grant periodicals to new schools for the first six months entirely free, and after that they are expected to pay at least half price for what may be ordered. In this way Sunday Schools have been maintained in many places, where, without aid, they could scarcely have been kept open. Very sincere expressions of gratitude from those assisted come to the General Secretary's office from time to time. During the past four years the receipts have been as follows:

From collections—

1899	\$2,485 27
1900	2,653 09
1901	2,597 78
Total	\$7,736 14

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