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SCHEMES OF LESSONS FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Nothing contributes more to the smooth working of a Sabbath School than a well arranged scheme of lessons. Such help is almost essential in the case of young and inexperienced teachers, who might find great difficulty in making a proper selection of lessons. A scheme of lessons is indispensable where a teachers' meeting is held weekly to prepare for the duty of the following Sabbath. It would be impracticable to prepare the teachers if each gave different lessons. It would, however, be wrong to enforce too rigidly any system, when the teacher is conscious that he can, by a departure from the ordinary plan, do more good. We have known teachers, very successful in impressing savingly the hearts of the young, who never exacted any tasks, but contented themselves with narrating the Gospel story in such a way as to fascinate and delight. And, if a teacher could do most good in this way, it would be unwise to interfere with him for the sake of uniformity. There are few, however, who will not experience the benefit of a scheme of lessons. The Church of Scotland has not as yet sanctioned any scheme of lessons, though most large schools use such schemes. They are however either drawn up by the individual congregation or by the Unions with which the congregation is connected. A difficulty has been felt in drawing up a scheme for the Church, generally from the circumstance that many Church schools in large towns are connected with Unions embracing various denominations and use schemes published by the Unions. The Sabbath School Committee of the Church have hitherto declined to sanction any particular scheme. The difficulty has been in a great measure met by the scheme of the Revd. Mr. Fisher, of Flisk, who has been long known at Home for his devoted labours in behalf of missions and the religious education of the young. He has drawn up an admi-

nable scheme, sanctioned by the Presbytery of Cupar and several Sabbath School officials. He has had long experience in the training of the young, and he has now embodied that experience in the scheme which he has drawn up. *The Presbyterian* is often indebted to him for missionary intelligence, and more especially for the deeply interesting information in reference to the labours of his friend, Mr. Ross, in South Africa. For the convenience of the teachers the schemes of lessons are bound up with an excellently arranged roll. The schemes are also to be had in sheets for insertion in the Bibles of the scholars. A supply has been sent out for the use of schools in connection with the Church of Scotland. An excellent scheme of lessons is drawn up yearly for the use of the Sabbath School of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston. In this scheme there is a feature that cannot be too highly commended, viz.: that one Sabbath in the month is devoted exclusively to missionary intelligence. In Montreal also a scheme of lessons has long been used. Sabbath Schools that do not draw up schemes for themselves have thus the opportunity of making a choice from the excellent schemes of other schools.

SCHEMES OF LESSONS.

Most of our Sabbath Schools now use Schemes of Lessons with great advantage. In this way a much larger amount of Religious instruction can be communicated in the course of a year than by giving out lessons for each Sabbath without plan or system. Such schemes generally comprehend:—

1. A question or two of the Catechism.
2. A short portion of a psalm or paraphrase.
3. A short portion of Scripture to be committed to memory.
4. A larger portion of Scripture to be read and explained.
5. A question to be proved from the Bible.