

Results cannot be tabulated at present. But there is every reason to believe that the Institutes were worth while. From the manifest interest and the eager desire for information, it was evident that many delegates were resolving to do their part to introduce more thoroughly in their respective Schools the new Curriculum, and to make a place for Teacher Training as well as to give greater attention to training and enlisting for service the older boys and girls and young people.

At each Institute delegates were present

from almost every congregation in the district. The impressions gained were that the church's volunteer Sunday School workers are not only anxious to become more efficient as leaders and teachers, but, given the programme, they are prepared to work it out and to "carry on" until the aim of religious education is reached, namely, "to bring every individual to a conscious acceptance of Jesus Christ, build them up in Christ, and train them for his service."

Grimsby, Ont.

THE DEPARTMENTS

"The Visitors Laughed"

By Rae Furlands

The lessons were on Kindness to Others, and the Memory Verse was, "Be ye kind." There were five or six lessons in the series, with the same Memory Verse. On the fourth Sunday, a little girl nearly four years old, said to the teacher, "Mrs. Blank, I know the Golden Text." "Would you like to say it?" she was asked. "Yes! 'Be ye kind.'" "And I know some more," she added. "Well! say it," was the answer. "Be ye kind one to another," and "I know some more: 'Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.'" And I know some more," and then went on in exactly the same tone and hurried way: "Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet eating." Here the visitors laughed, which so disconcerted the four year old that she did not volunteer any more. The other children took it quite seriously, as did their teacher.

Mrs. Blank told this at the tea table, at home, that evening. Her own daughter, aged nine, laughed with the rest for a moment and then, looking quite conscience stricken as if she had committed sacrilege, said: "Oh, mother, was not that awful?" "No!" said her mother. "Irene is too young to understand. A nursery rhyme and a Bible verse are the same to her at present. If she was older and had done it for mischief it would have been wrong." "Well, if they do not see any difference what is the use of teaching them the lessons?"

This incident, which happened exactly as told, brings up two problems of Beginners teachers.

First: The visitors laughed.

It is usually the best teachers who are most troubled in this way,—those:

1. Whose teaching excites comment on the part of the child.

2. Who encourage the children to express themselves that they may find out what they are thinking about and how they have been impressed by what has been taught.

3. The one who knows how to draw the children out and can manage to keep all interested while one is telling something in its baby, rambling way unintelligible to any but most sympathetic ears..

4. The one who can bring her class back to the point, when it has wandered away, in a skilful manner without any one's feelings having been hurt.

These are, the teachers who suffer by the audible laughter of the visitors. It is one thing to laugh *with* the children; quite another to laugh *at* them.

We want visitors. We are glad to see young teachers who are just learning how to conduct classes; but especially do we desire the presence of parents and nursery helpers in the homes of the pupils because these are they who are going to see that the thoughts planted on Sunday are going to have a chance to grow during the week.

We cannot altogether stop the laughter that the childish remarks provoke, but we can show by our own manner with the children that it is undesirable that they should know of it.

If there are regular offenders a tactful word in private of our aims with children would help.

In most class rooms it can be arranged that the visitors shall be seated *behind* the children. This is the best for many reasons, and wherever possible they should be some little distance away, so that any trouble of this kind which may arise will be less noticeable.

The question of the nine year old child is