

The Sunday School

A New Periodical

To meet the needs of Adult Bible Classes our Book Room has published an Adult Class Quarterly, which, in addition to excellent lesson helps, contains eight pages of matter relating to this movement. This periodical deserves a wide circulation. The price is 25 cents a year.

Cargill Adult Bible Class

The Bible Class of the Cargill Methodist Church, with an average attendance of 10 or 12, organized along new movement lines in the last week in July. They have now between 60 and 70 names on the roll, with an average attendance for the five months ending Dec. 31st, of 42. Much of the success of the class has been due to the untiring and energetic services of the secretary, Mr. F. A. Vandrick. At the close of the lesson on Dec. 22nd, the class presented the teacher, Mr. C. W. Keeling, with a framed address and a gold ring with the class initials (A.B.C.) on it in raised letters, as a token of their appreciation of his services in their behalf.

New Year's Rallies

In Toronto, Montreal, London, Hamilton, Ottawa, Winnipeg and other cities very inspiring Sunday School Rallies were held on New Year's morning which were well attended. A novelty was introduced into the programme of the Toronto Rally in the form of a missionary trip from Toronto to Chentu, China, conducted by Rev. Dr. Speer, and illustrated by stereoscopic views. Sermonettes Methodist Sunday School members were represented in the Rally at Grace Church, Winnipeg, when Rev. Hiram Hull addressed the young people, exhibiting three stuffed birds, and drawing lessons from their chief characteristics. The first was a golden eagle; the second a crane, which some named a stork, but which the speaker said, was a cousin of the stork; and a dove. Each characteristic dwelt upon was made to teach a lesson enforced by a Scripture passage.

A Cheerful Superintendent

Speaking of Mr. Marion Lawrence as a superintendent, his pastor, Rev. Dr. Allen, says:

"Our superintendent is a man who carries and radiates the spirit of cheerfulness. The weather may be cloudy, but it will be cheery within. The more rainy the day, the more hilariously happy we are apt to be, under his infectious good cheer. Like Mr. Moody, he does not try to make people laugh, but he is not put out when they do, for he believes that 'milk that slops one way will slop the other.' Laughter and tears are twin sisters. The school that gives attention to a bit of clean, it may be unconscious, humor, will heed the more serious message when it is spoken."

"His consistent cheerfulness is shown by his love of music. Behind him is a splendid orchestra, responsive to the wave of his hand. At his left stands a musical director, who knows how to lead and to sing, or how to let another lead. And the school sings! There goes the superintendent half way down the aisle to give his book to a silent boy. Then he returns to the desk with an encouraging admonition to 'Sing it out, everybody!' You

sing as though your life depended on it, and smile as he tells you to 'Make a joyful noise, if you can't sing!' It is worth a day's journey to our local Jerusalem to hear the school sing."

Hints on Securing Members for the Home Department

1. When seeking members, always carry with you, in addition to a supply of the membership cards, samples of the Lesson Helps and report and collection envelopes used by the department.
2. Tell of the privileges offered (see list below) and of the benefits to be obtained.
3. Be careful not to imply that they do not now study their Bibles. Emphasize the value of such a systematic course of study as the Sabbath-school offers.
4. Show that the conditions of membership are simple and easily fulfilled.
5. Ask those who become members to aid you in securing others among their friends and acquaintances.
6. If a person declines to join, give another invitation after prejudice has worn off or your arguments have been strengthened.
7. Make the canvass thorough. Let no one be overlooked or passed by.

PRIVILEGES OFFERED TO MEMBERS.

1. Guidance and aid in the study of the Bible.
2. Visitation by representatives of the Sabbath-school at least once each quarter.
3. The use of the library and participation in the social and other privileges of the Sabbath-school.
4. Attendance on special religious, instructional and social gatherings planned for the department.
5. A definite relationship with the church and pastor, where it does not already exist.—J. D. Mackay in the Nova Scotia Sunday School Worker.

Making the Opening and Closing Exercises Attractive

There is nothing in the average Sunday-school quite so unsatisfactory—so inipid, so meaningless, so little worth while—as the opening and closing exercises in some Sunday-schools. The program is so utterly tasteless that many of the pupils come late for the sole purpose of missing just as much of it as possible. Everybody feels the need of something better, but everybody feels that it is the superintendent's business, and meanwhile everybody is doing so poorly with the programme in use that the superintendent feels that it is hardly worth while to go to the trouble to find anything better. It is time we were waking up to the fact that every great Sunday-school of world-wide fame is famous for its attractive programmes. I do not know an exception to this rule. There is no Sunday-school of prominence to-day that does not set great store by its general exercises. Our leaders have learned that children, especially, cannot be won to the Sunday-school by the teacher alone. The teacher may win a child to himself, or to his class, but he cannot bind his heart to the Sunday-school unless the Sunday-school itself does something to attract him. The Sunday-school must draw and hold him with interesting exercises, and by little atten-

tions, such as the recognition of his birthday by the school, through its superintendent, an occasional visit by an officer of the school, who comes as a representative of the school, etc. The great Sunday-schools are doing these things, and herein lies a large part of the secret of their greatness. If we want our own Sunday-school to be worth while, we must get away from the ancient notion that all the burden is on the teacher, and that all the school itself owes its pupils a picnic in summer and a Christmas tree in winter. It is just as much the business of the Sunday-school to provide interesting and helpful exercises for every Sunday in the year as it is the business of the teacher to provide interesting and helpful matter for the lessons for every Sunday in the year.—Push.

A Great Record

Rev. Dr. Louis Albert Banks writes to Zion's "Heritage" Sunday, Oct. 29, in the Sunday-school of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Denver, of which I am pastor, Mrs. Sarah J. Hatch was made the recipient of a beautiful present and some handsome speeches by the superintendent and others on the remarkable fact that the business of the Sunday-school to provide interesting and helpful exercises for every Sunday in the year as it is the business of the teacher to provide interesting and helpful matter for the lessons for every Sunday in the year.—Push.

Mothers' Meetings

"Mothers' meetings" are one of the features of the life of Bridge Street Methodist Sunday School. At these helpful gatherings the mothers of the children of the primary Department meet with the teachers of the department for consultation and mutual help. The mothers in gratitude for these meetings and the numerous attentions to their children in and out of the school have a yearly "at home" for the teachers and members of the class. Last night this event, looked forward to for twelve months, took place, and at its close was pronounced the best yet. The refreshments were delicious; the games a delight; the cantata of Santa Claus good and cleverly "put on," and the "fruit" of that Christmas tree the delight of the youngsters.

A Precious Opportunity

The Sunday-school teacher has about a hour each session to teach. About forty-eight Sundays' attendance in a year is a good record for a pupil. That gives the teacher twenty-four hours, one whole day in a year, fifteen or twenty days in a lifetime to impress a soul for eternity. In this light, how precious is the Sunday-school lesson half-hour. Jesus' response to the challenge of the shortness of time was, I must work while it is day.—Margaret Slattery.

Philathea Class

The Philathea Class of McDougall Church, Winnipeg, Rev. H. Hull, teacher, has issued a very attractive booklet, which has been used as a sort of Christmas card by the members of the class. It contains fine pictures of the church, the pastors, officers and the members of the class. We are glad to hear of the continued prosperity of this class, one of the largest of the kind in Canada.