

One Difficulty with the Graded Lessons

Many of our Schools, in all parts of the Dominion, are finishing, this month, the first Quarter with our Departmental Graded Lessons. For most of these Schools this has probably been their first trial of graded Lessons, and doubtless some little puzzlements and difficulties have arisen. This is inevitable with any new method.

A most likely difficulty has been in connection with home work. In the familiar Uniform Lessons, the home work of each Lesson is done *the week before*. With the Graded Lessons, it is done *the week after*; and the scholars, especially those of the Junior Department, are apt to say, "Oh, we've heard all about the Lesson in the class. What's the use of doing anything more?" If this view prevails, more than half of the good of the Lesson is lost, namely, the scholars' working of it out for themselves, and into their own heart and life.

The key to good home work is very much in the hands of the teacher. In the first place, the teaching should be well done—all sorts of things started by it that the scholar will be eager to follow up for himself. In the second place, such a careful marking of the Written Answers, and such a keen, searching review of the Lesson at the beginning of the next Sunday's Lesson as will set the scholar on his mettle to be ready for the review. And, in the third place, a visit by the teacher to the mother—when the scholar is not about—and a talk with her to secure her help to get the home work done, will aid mightily.

The difficulty is, after all, not new. It is the old and ever present difficulty of home work, in a new form; and the solution is, intelligent, sympathetic teaching in the class, and the enlistment of the home in the hearty doing of its share.

Graded Lessons in the "Non-Evergreen" School

About Graded Lessons in the "non-evergreen" School, let it be said, first of all, that every "non-evergreen" School should, as soon as possible, become "evergreen," that is, open all the year round. There are very few cases

in which this cannot be accomplished, and it would mean a wonderful advance in our Sunday School work if all the Schools which are now planning to begin their work for the spring and summer, should, at the same time, seek to arrange to carry this work on through the fall and winter also, so that, next year, they will be on the list of "evergreens." There would be no "non-evergreens" left.

Many of these Schools are small Schools, but the small School can quite readily be divided into Departments for graded instruction. There can, for example, be a Beginners' Department wherever there are children four or five years old; the Primary Department, where there are children of six, seven or eight; and a Junior Department, where there are boys and girls of nine, ten, eleven and twelve. The Intermediate Department includes those from thirteen to sixteen, and the Senior those from seventeen to twenty.

Our Graded Lessons material is issued in a form to suit Schools of all sizes. For the first three Departments,—Beginners, Primary and Junior—the material is in the familiar form of Quarterlies and Leaflets. The School can thus begin with any Quarter. In the Intermediate and Senior Departments the material is in the form of Quarterly booklets, and, therefore, in like manner convenient.

Our Graded Lessons material is now being used in a very large number of Schools open all the year round, and we are looking for a similarly general employment of it in Schools which, so far, are open only a part of the year.

The Beginners Teacher's Quarterly

AN ADDED FEATURE

A charming feature will be added to our already popular BEGINNERS TEACHER'S QUARTERLY, to begin with the April-June issue, which will soon be in the hands of the teachers of this Department. Along with the teacher's material for each Lesson, there will usually be given a piece of fresh, bright, new music,—words and tune suitable for the little Beginners. This feature should be a great help to the teachers, as it surely will be a great joy to the little tots.