

Five things are essential in order that our country Schools may be kept open throughout the year :

1. A session deeply conscious of their responsibility in the training of the young.

2. A superintendent, thoroughly alive, who is really in earnest, and has the work at heart and faithful no matter what the weather conditions may be.

3. A band of teachers loyally supporting the superintendent and seized with the great privilege and opportunity which is theirs of having a share in training the boys and girls for service.

4. The hearty cooperation of parents with the aims and ideas of the Sunday School and in planning to bring them to the service in time.

5. Last, but not least, a caretaker who is always careful to have the School well heated for the scholars when they arrive.

Swansea, Toronto



Preparing for the Fall and Winter

By Rev. John Mutch, B.D.

"And rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race." And part of that joy is due to the knowledge he has of something to be tackled, a definite course to cover. Even so the wise teacher will make his scholars realize now that a new lap lies ahead, the 1917-18 milestone, and thus enlist at the start their youthful enthusiasm.

And the church and whole community should be made to feel this fresh start. They, too, should have their enthusiasm stirred. This may be done for the church by a splendid Rally Day Service at the Sunday morning service, when the work of the School and its demand for the last boy and girl in the congregation may be brought before the parents and big brothers and sisters, all of whom will be invited to share not only by sending the tots but by coming themselves. The community as a whole may be reached by a systematic canvass of its districts in which every last child shall be sought to see whether or no he is attending School.

Such methods will not only stir the people to an intelligent interest in our great work, but will increase the attendance,—and it is surprising how often, even in the smallest rural communities, there are some children not attending the Sunday School. Each scholar will be pressed to bring some one who is not attending another School. There are no recruiters like the boys and girls. Each teacher will make up his mind to see that every scholar who has been connected with the class is still coming, if at all possible, and will keep on the lookout for others. One of the first steps in preparation is, of course, to get the scholar.

Another step in the year's preparation is to make the School attractive. Too often we find the bare notion that all boys and girls and young people should attend Sunday School because it is their duty and yet nothing is done for them. Your School should be of such a nature that any boy left to his own devices would sooner come than stay away. Of course, such an interest depends on a great many things, such as wise and consistent teaching, the teacher's knowledge of, and sympathy for, his class, and so on. But it is wonderful to think how much could be done in many churches if the superintendent and teachers would get together this month and plan what they could do to make the School-room brighter and more attractive, either by means of a little paint, a few pictures, new hymn books and chairs, curtained-off classrooms, a few new books in the library, bright, rousing opening and closing exercises, proper lesson helps.

And yet, having all the scholars of the neighborhood in Sunday School is not the essential thing. Jesus Christ worked with 12 men who were to transform the world. A small group of well-trained individuals means more than a mob. Nor, necessary as it is, making the School more attractive is not of first importance. In all this the controlling purpose is to nurture the scholars in religious life. That life is a big affair and includes more than teaching the lesson. It means worship to promote reverence, it means study to guarantee a sound faith, it means activity so that there will be exertion and self-expression. Each teacher and School should keep before them the idea of an all-round religious development and the purposes of doing something worth while in each phase of the work. There should be impressive devotional exercises, encouragement of singing, learning some new hymn and Bible passages, thorough lesson study, and intelligent activity in missions. Such an all-round programme should be faced now.



* Alcohol and the Intellect

By Charles Henry Lerrigo, M.D.

"He is a man of great intellect," we say of some celebrated man of affairs, and although intellect and mind are interchangeable terms, we know that something more is meant than mind, something more than memory, something more than brain capacity. One might say that intellect represents character in mentality. It is not that to which a person is born. You may be born smart, or quick, or of a prodigious memory, or with a special talent for this thing or that; but none of these represent intellect. It comes only as natural talents are applied, improved, per-

*This article will be helpful in the study of the lesson for September 9.