

### PLAN OF STUDY FOR 1898.

A circular containing the Plan of Study for the Young People's Societies for 1898 has already been sent out to the ministers, missionaries and secretaries of Young People's Societies throughout the Church. It follows up the general survey of the history, policy and work of the Church embraced in the Plan of Study for the present year.

The heading of the Plan for 1898, "Our own Church, some books, fields and men," will give an idea of its scope.

The books are : "The New Book of Praise," which is to be taken up in January, and the "Shorter Catechism, its makers, merits and influence," the Topic for March. It is itself a course in theology to study the new Book of Praise, so varied are its contents, and so carefully have those who had charge of the indexing of the book done their work, whilst to learn how to use the book is a part of the education of the young people which will tell not only in their meetings but in all the public worship of the Church.

The Shorter Catechism seems to have taken on fresh life, and the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of its composition, which are to be held during the later months of this year, will only sharpen the interest of the young people in that wonderful little book when it comes up for discussion in March.

As to the Fields, the Home Mission Field is taken in connection with some early pioneers. McGregor of Nova Scotia, McDowall of Eastern Ontario, Black of Kildonan, and Jamieson of British Columbia, will furnish subjects for articles in the "Record" in connection with these Topics, and Societies will be at liberty to consider any other of the pioneers that may be specially known to the various localities.

The Presbytery comes in, as a Topic, for the first time, and the young people cannot but profit by the study of their "Own Presbytery, its strength, its work, its Young People's Societies," as is proposed in the Plan.

A glimpse is taken in the June Topic of "What the School has done in our French Work."

In October "The Genesis and Growth of the Augmentation Scheme" is considered.

For men, we have "The Scottish Covenanters" in May; "Our Three Home Mission-

ary Superintendents and their Fields" in July; Geddle of the New Hebrides in November; and McKay of Formosa in April.

In addition there is to be a meeting devoted to the question of "Baptism," and the closing month of the year brings the young people face to face with the work that lies nearest to their hand, "The Congregation, and what the young people may do for it."

Not the least attractive and valuable part of the Scheme is the series of articles to be published in our columns on the Topics. The authors are all specialists on their respective subjects, and the list which follows shows that a feast is in store, and it reveals also the readiness with which the leading men of the Church give themselves to the service of the young people.

For the January Topic—Rev. J. Somerville, D.D., Owen Sound, and Rev. A. McMillan, Toronto.

For February—Rev. Prof. Gregg, D.D., Toronto, Rev. James Black, Hamilton, and Rev. D. McRae, Victoria, B.C. (expected).

March—Rev. Principal McRae, D.D., Morrin College, Quebec.

April—Rev. J. A. McDonald, Editor "Westminster," Toronto.

May—Rev. Prof. Ballantyne, Knox College, Toronto.

June—Rev. Jules Bourgoin, Principal of the Pointe aux Trembles Sch. Jrs.

July—Rev. C. W. Gordon, B.A., Winnipeg, Rev. R. N. Grant, Orillia, and Rev. Geo. Bruce, D.D., St. John, N.B.

August—Rev. J. Thompson, D.D., Sarnia, September—Rev. R. Campbell, D.D., Clerk of Assembly, Montreal.

October—Rev. Principal King, D.D., Winnipeg.

November—Rev. Geo. Patterson, D.D., New Glasgow, N.S.

December—G. Tower Ferguson, Esq., Toronto.

We expect that there will be a very large increase in the number of Societies following the Plan of Study in the coming year, and an extensive demand for the Y.P.S.C.E. Topic Cards and Booklets with Daily Readings, which are being issued by the "Record."

We regard this scheme as one of very great educational value, and it is worth the while of ministers, and indeed of all who have the opportunity of promoting the welfare of the young people to render what assistance they can in the discussion of the Topics as they come up month by month.