

his pupils. Nothing appeals to children like reality. "I commend to you your own sanctification", said Richard Baxter to a preacher who complained of the ineffective-

ness of his preaching. It is a piece of advice to which the Sabbath School teacher might also give earnest heed.

Brampton, Ont.

Some Factors in Successful Teaching

The Teacher's Character and Personality

By Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, B.A.

Until recently the character and personality of a Christian worker were frequently used as interchangeable terms; but of late, in the minds of educationists at least, a sharp distinction has been drawn between them. It is often found, that a good and pure character may be associated with a personality that is neither strong or persuasive, while, as frequently, a strong personality may be dissociated from a good and pure life.

A true and noble character is rightly regarded as an essential qualification in every teacher. This is true, in the very nature of things, for God invariably employs human agencies for carrying on His work amongst men, and these agencies must be kindred in character to the influences they are seeking to convey. Some substances as rubber, are non-conductors of the electric fluid, and when that subtle force comes up against the non-conductor, it is arrested and can proceed no further. Something like this happens when, in the spiritual world, a character out of harmony with the spirit and purpose of God, attempts to become the vehicle of divine influence. Such a character proves to be a non-conductor.

In the touching story of the healing of the Shunammite's child, the prophet Elisha went in and shut the door upon them twain and prayed, thus putting himself in close touch with the Source of spiritual power, and thus, by becoming a true conductor of spiritual power, was enabled to restore life to the child. A first requisite of the successful teacher is, to put himself in true and living touch with Jesus Christ, the Source of power, and so become a channel of divine influence.

Personality, on the other hand, is of a more indefinable and subtle nature, and may be found as a potent factor as well in a bad, as in a good, man. It is not wholly a product

of character, but is an ally of great, nay even momentous value. It is that which gives success to the business agent, as he captivates his customer and persuades him to purchase what he did not seek. It is that which, in the religious world, has given us great evangelists and preachers, and has exerted a mysterious spell upon thousands.

Happy is the teacher who possesses this power, and consecrates it to the highest service. It may be used as a potency in governing and guiding the members of a class, it may serve to discover like quality in the individual member of it, or it may be most helpfully employed at odd times, when a closer fellowship is sought with the individual child, and when a deeper and more lasting impression may be made.

Let no teacher despair of acquiring, in some real and helpful degree, the power of an attractive and persuasive personality. Only the other day, it was said, in explanation of Phillips Brooks' wonderful influence as a preacher, that he knew God and Jesus Christ with rare intimacy and fulness. That secret of influence is open to all.

Montreal

What Training Can Do

By E. A. Hardy, B.A.

1. *Training will help us to realize the problem.* Too often we lightly undertake the task of the Sunday School teacher, or reluctantly yield to the superintendent's importunity, and are sadly unconscious of what we have attempted. To stand before a class and try to teach the Word of God is a serious business. The priceless opportunity, the wondrous text-book, the human soul, what factors of tremendous import!

Training will show us that we must have a reserve fund of knowledge. A teacher who has a good general knowledge of the