

The Teachers Monthly

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With the first issue of the New Year we begin the study of John's Gospel; and we may be sure that, when the disciple "whom Jesus loved," and who leaned on His bosom at the last Supper, tells the story of His Master's life, it will be surpassingly sweet and tender and that we shall be helped to see deep into His mind, whose every thought was God's thought, because He was and is God, and to feel the very beating of God's heart of compassion for sinful men.

90 BACKWARD LOOK AND FORWARD

Three great needs have been specially before our Sabbath School workers this year, the need of better training for the teachers, of more accurate and systematic scripture knowledge on the part of the scholars, and of a larger practical share in the work of Missions on the part of the whole school.

We are beginning to cope successfully with the training of the teachers. The highest authority in the United States on the subject says that our course is the best before the public, and during the year just closing this course has been made much more effective by the publication of the two admirable Handbooks—by Professor Murray on The Child Mind, and by Dr. Tracy on Sabbath School Methods. There is a chorus of approval of these Handbooks, both inside and outside of our church. For example, Professor Murray's book had scarcely been off the press, when it was adopted by the New Brunswick and by the Nova Scotia Provincial S. S. Associations as part of their courses.

The material for Principal Falconer's Handbook on the Gospels and Life of our

Lord, with Professor Ballantyne's chapters on New Testament Geography, is appearing by instalments in the TEACHERS MONTHLY. The completed book will be issued in good time for next year's work, as will also the Handbook on the Old Testament, and that on Doctrine, the latter by Professor Kilpatrick, of Manitoba College. With so complete an equipment (the five books will cost only 50c.), teacher training should go forward with a bound.

The Supplemental Lessons, authorized by the General Assembly in June, will provide, amongst other things, for systematic drill on the books of the Bible, their chief personages, places, and events, the drill being so arranged as to carry the school forward methodically, step by step, from the quite young classes, until, when the adult classes are reached, they will be ready for such material as the Teacher Training Course provides. Indeed, if the Supplemental Lessons are thoroughly mastered, the Teacher Training work may at once be pitched upon a higher level, much preliminary material having already become familiar.

It will be noticed that our new "Bible Catechism," which was in course of preparation for more than two years, appears just at the right time to meet the call for more consecutive instruction in the Bible. In the hands of parents and teachers it will give vast aid in the Supplemental Lessons. The Catechism has been well done, and will take rank for terseness and thoroughness with the Carson's Primary Catechism, by the same author and very widely in use.

The question on Missions each week with its answer, to be given in the TEACHERS MONTHLY and the QUARTERLIES, should in-