

him for the time being into a precisely similar condition to his own. When this is the case, success is achieved, the work of teaching is really done."

* * * * *

He was a great believer in the use of the blackboard. An appeal to the eye was his favorite method of elucidating obscurities in the truths which his science required him to systematize. Illustration he regarded as necessary to make truth plain, impressive and memorable. Once, in addressing a body of professional teachers upon this point, he said:

"There are three ways in which you may give a child correct notions of a lion. You may describe the lion in words—you may speak of his mane, his tail, his head, his ears, his terrible roar. This is the least effective way of teaching. Then you may appeal to the eye—you may show the child a picture of the lion, and join your speech to this picture; and now you have tenfold more success in giving a true and abiding conception of the lion than by your first method. Best of all, you may take the child by the hand and bring him to the lion's cage and let him stand and look in through the iron bars with his own eyes, and let him hear the terrific roar with his own ears, and he has a truer conception of a lion in a few moments than you can give him in a hundred descriptions, and the certainty is that your home will be full of roaring lions for weeks and months to come."

YOUR CLASS

By Rev. J. W. Macmillan, B.A.

I would say to any teacher in a Sabbath School: Your class is your congregation, your band of disciples, your company of catechumens.

It is your congregation. You are to be its pastor. It is an ideal congregation, for it is small enough for you to know each mind in it, and how best to influence it. You need not draw any bow at a venture. You can be its "shepherd and bishop." For you know when any member is absent, and can find out the reason. You can learn how far each life is responding to your teaching, and

can supplement your class work by private admonishing.

It is your band of disciples. You know something which they do not know, and which they need to know. The truth of God is in your hands to be deposited in theirs. Let nothing obscure the intellectual side of your endeavors. The mind of a child is bright and keen, turning with intuitive quickness from what lies hopelessly beyond its powers, and seizing with avidity what lies within its capacity to grasp. You must lead that mind through a series of gates, each one opening into a field of vital truth, and each new field opening again into a yet newer and wider field. When your class arrives at the place where your own learning has halted, you must either arise and lead them farther, or resign your class.

You are in competition with the Public School teachers. They are trained upon pedagogic lines. Their life's business is to teach. Necessity forces them to be successful. Your pupils know whether or not you are their equal, and while you may bind their affections to you by other arts, you are not their teacher as you should be, unless they find the same completeness of knowledge and the same skill in imparting it at your hands as at theirs. Do not be content to be the elderly friend of your class. Be its master.

It is your company of catechumens. Dr. Dale, of Birmingham, said, "The Sabbath School is a device to remove the necessity of adult conversion." It is the natural thing for a child reared in the midst of Christian influences, at the dawning of adulthood to make profession of faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The other powers which educate the child are disposed to abdicate in your favor the task of accomplishing a decision. The religious instruction of the Public Schools is a triviality. Parents do not now, so much as formerly, hold family worship, and a home-study union on Sunday night. The minister's sermons sometimes shoot above the heads of the children. Yours is the task and the honor of bringing these boys and girls to the point where they make confession with the mouth unto salvation.