

enthusiasm. The parade on a Saturday afternoon of 7,000 Sunday School workers, including one dauntless veteran of 81 years, was a striking feature and one which will challenge the interest of the general public.

And it was a working convention. Besides the great public meetings in the central hall, an immense number of conferences were held for the discussion of various phases of Sunday School work. The mere list of these conferences occupies nearly a hundred pages in the official programme of the convention. There was a Superintendent's Congress, and there were conferences on the Secondary Division, on Adult Work, on Missions, Social Service, Teacher Training, Home Department, Sunday School Evangelism and many other topics, the bare enumeration of which serves to indicate the wide scope of the Sunday School enterprise and the number of points at which it touches the life of the church.

Much stress was laid on the educational aspect of the Sunday School. Its function as a *school* for religious education, making the same demand for proper methods of instruction as the day school, was strongly emphasized.

The Convention agreed to the arrangement by which the International Lesson Committee shall henceforth consist of eight members appointed by the International Sunday School Association, eight appointed by the Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations and a representative from each denomination holding membership in the Sunday School Council. The new committee thus constituted held its first meeting in Chicago the day after the close of the Convention, and made preliminary arrangements for entering upon the work.

### A City Survey

In the following article, Rev. W. J. Knox, B.A., of London, Ont., stresses some of the facts revealed in a survey of the religious and social conditions obtaining in that city, conducted by the Men's Federation, which has been published in a pamphlet of about 100 pages.

There was manifest a considerable expenditure of time and energy in the work of reli-

gious education in the Sunday School and Young People's Societies, but, notwithstanding this energy and zeal of many consecrated bands of workers, there were revealed certain defects which must not be overlooked. The most serious defect was the steady decline in enrolment and attendance from the beginning of the 'teen age onwards. Having in mind the four departments, Junior (9-12), Intermediate (13-16), Senior (17-20), Adult (21+), and supposing that the enrolment of the Junior department is 100, the relation would be as follows :

Jun.	Int.	Sen.	Ad.
100	83	68	71

The figures indicating the average attendance of the pupils in these departments are as follows :

Jun.	Int.	Sen.	Ad.
84	65	48	42

The drop in the attendance of boys is still more serious :

Jun.	Int.	Sen.	Ad.
83	56	46	32

Practically, therefore, only 50 per cent. of the boys in the teen age are in regular attendance upon the Sunday School.

This is the more significant when we remember that the vast majority of those in the membership of the church become members during the teen age. In London, 91 per cent. of the church members became such before they were twenty years old.

An examination comprising a series of simple questions on the Bible was submitted to the pupils in several of the public schools. It is not necessary to go into details here ; it is enough to say that on the average less than 50 per cent. of the answers to each question were correct.

The investigation showed also that the men—more particularly those in middle life—were not "on the job." More than half the superintendents are men over fifty years of age. Only one in four teachers is a man.

Week day expressional activities have not been arranged to any great extent ; the work of religious education is largely confined to the hour on Sunday afternoon. In no case is the building and equipment entirely suited to thoroughly satisfactory work.