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Our Sabbath Schools.

WHETHER wisely or not, the practice of closing the Sabbath School for a couple of months in summer is becoming yearly more prevalent, especially in the towns and cities. But whether closed or kept open with a limited attendance, the season of the year has come again when an infusion of fresh energy and activity are required in every department of Sabbath-School work. Everything almost, depends on a good start, and the chief responsibility for that rests on the shoulders of the Superintendent. It is he who must sound the note that is to muster his scattered forces; and he should do it in good time. Before the scholars are ready to resume their seats in the classes, teachers must be provided for them. Before the teachers commence the new campaign it would be well to have a conference and endeavour as far as may be possible to agree upon a general plan of operations. What stated meetings should there be for prayer? Is there to be a teachers' meeting for the study of the lesson, and how is it to be conducted? If not, why not? There may be some difficulties in the way, but they will speedily vanish before a united determination to surmount them. The solid advantages of such meetings will amply compensate for the imaginary inconveniences. We can scarcely conceive of a thoroughly efficient, enthusiastic and sympathetic staff of teachers who do not meet together for an hour once a week to compare notes and to draw upon each others experience both in regard to the matter of their teaching and the manner of adapting it to the varied capacities of their scholars. In the hands of the minister, or a competent superintendent, the teachers' meeting might answer all the purposes of a Normal class.

Disguise it as we may, the weakest point in the economy of the Sabbath School is inefficient teaching. The work has become too large and the interests at stake are too weighty to be any longer treated with indifference. We have nearly, if not quite, 100,000 scholars enrolled in our Sabbath-Schools. Justice to them demands that there should be something like 10,000 well trained teachers. It is a matter of the highest moment to every minister of the church that all who undertake the religious instruction of the young people in his congregation should be at least fairly qualified for that important duty. Hear what the editors of the *Westminster Teacher* have to say on this subject, and we do not know of any better authority.

"One of the things that needs attention in the autumn days is the teachers' meeting. Perhaps it has been taking a vacation; if so, this is the month to end the vacation and get to work. Perhaps it has died altogether; if so, now is the time to have a resurrection. Perhaps there never has been such a meeting in your school; if so, there will never be a better time than now to start one. The superintendent who allows himself to be persuaded that it is impossible to have a teachers' meeting in his school needs a new infusion of heroism. This is one of the "impossible things" that ought to be done whether it is possible or not. The superintendent who succeeds is a man who does not falter in his duty before difficulties. No matter then what the croakers say, there should be a teachers' meeting in every Sunday-School. Suppose the teachers live in the country, scattered over a large parish; take the meeting around from house to house, and let wagons be sent to gather them together. Or, if it is a city school, whose teachers have so many "engagements" that they cannot spare an evening for a weekly meeting; if they are not willing