

The Sunday School

EVERY indifferent church member is a block under the wheel of the Sunday School, impeding its progress and disheartening the workers. What right or excuse can a Christian offer for indifference in the work which all believe to be the work of the Lord?—*Evangelical Bible Teacher.*

The Home Department aims to reach those who have lost their interest, if they ever had any, in the Sunday School. It provides a wide-awake visitor to enter the home and arouse an interest. The old people, the "shut-ins" and the "can't-get-outs" are made to feel that somebody cares for them; they have their place in the Sunday School, and are moving in the great current of Bible study.

The *International Evangel* recently gave a picture of Miss Libbie Hettum, claiming that she is the youngest superintendent in office. The Rev. E. B. Edmunds says of her: "She was fifteen years old, May 30th, 1898. She was then on her fourth year as superintendent of a Sunday School of Woodman, Wis. No grown people attended the school. She became superintendent when eleven years old, and has continued since, and faithfully."

A SUPERINTENDENT in Chicago laid his hand kindly on a little girl's head at an entertainment given by his school. The little girl was the daughter of a saloon keeper. She had brought her father that night to hear the music. At the close of the exercises, the father who had seen the kind act of the superintendent, stepped up to him and handed him \$5 for the Sunday School work, saying, "Not many people speak so to my child." It pays to be kind.

EVERY Sunday School ought to be provided with Bibles, but this is often not the case. A superintendent in Illinois tried many methods to secure the introduction and use of the good book in his school, but in vain, until he adopted responsive Scripture reading in the opening exercises. The Psalms were used for this purpose, and, as those without Bibles could not take part, it was not long before the number of Bibles was doubled, and even quadrupled.

By using five minutes, either before or after the lesson, in drilling the entire school on certain biblical or church information, it will surprise anyone to find what a large fund of important data can be stored in the mind for future usefulness. Knowledge of the Bible, of missionary efforts, of the denominational activities, the evils of the liquor and tobacco habits, etc., can thus be imparted, and in this way the session can be made to sweep a far wider area than merely the lesson for the day.

Do you hear the divine call to organize the Home Department? This outreach of Bible school effort is a providential remedy coming none too soon to bring about home Bible study and home co-operation with the Sabbath School, as well as to reach the many classes of people now prevented from attending our schools. You want to accomplish these desirable objects, here the Master points the way. Is it not His own voice calling to this blessed further service?—*Sunday School Herald.*

A SPLENDID chance to add four choice volumes to the Sunday School library is afforded in the Epworth League Reading Course of this year. The sensible way to replenish a library is to purchase books, not by wholesale, but a few at a time so that attention can be given to quality. Superintendents and librarians will make no mistake

in getting the League Reading Course for the use of the teachers and older scholars. They are cheaper than any other books that can be procured. Write and get them before the stock is exhausted.

Grace Church Sunday School.

The Sunday School of Grace Church, Winnipeg, is one of the largest in Canada, having a membership of 815, and it is doing a great and good work. The average attendance is 500, but often there are over 600 persons present. One of the reasons for this large attendance is the attractive nature of the service, a bright and interesting programme being presented every Sunday afternoon.

At a quarter to three o'clock a song service, led by an orchestra of fifteen instruments, begins in the school room. This is always largely attended, and the seating capacity of the school every Sunday is sorely taxed. An instrumental or vocal solo is generally included in the programme.

The adult Bible-class, which meets in the body of the church, is in charge of Mr. E. L. Taylor, and has a large membership.

The school has been favored with excellent superintendents, which accounts, to a



MR. W. H. PARR.
SUPERINTENDENT GRACE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.

considerable extent, for its success. Under the direction of Mr. S. R. Parsons a very high state of efficiency was reached, and when Mr. Parsons left the city it was a great loss to Grace Church. The work was, however, well carried on by Mr. W. D. Pettigrew, who although a very busy business man gave great attention to Sunday School work. The present superintendent, Mr. W. H. Parr, is a young man to hold so responsible a position, but he is full of energy and devotion to the work. A very superior staff of teachers is associated with him, and harmony prevails everywhere. The school has a library of a thousand volumes. All the departments are well sustained, but special emphasis is being laid upon the Home Department, under the direction of Mr. Thos. Ryan.

International S. S. Convention.

The Ninth International (Fourteenth National) Sunday School Convention, representing the United States, the British North American Possessions and Mexico, will be held (D.V.) in the city of Atlanta, Ga., April 27th to 30th, 1899.

The International Sunday School Lesson Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 25th. The International Sunday School Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday morning, April 26th, at ten o'clock.

The International Sunday School Field Association will meet Wednesday morning,

April 26th, at ten o'clock, in the First M. E. Church South.

The Sessions of the Convention will be held in the Opera House, beginning Thursday morning, April 27th, at nine o'clock, and continuing until Saturday evening.

Special meetings will be arranged for the Lord's Day.

Ontario is entitled to send 60 delegates, Quebec 16, New Brunswick 30, Manitoba 12, Newfoundland 8, North-West Territories 16.

Suggestions.

The Sunday School of Broadway Tabernacle, Toronto, has issued a little local paper which is printed on a postal card. From it we select the following valuable suggestions to teachers:

Be punctual. School session begins at 3 o'clock, but any teacher who is not in his place at least ten minutes before that hour is LATE. The wise teacher will make valuable use of those ten minutes.

During the opening and closing services, sit with your class in front of you, not behind you.

Be as careful in looking after the hymn books as if they were your own personal property. At the close of the school, the box—not the floor—is the place for them.

Do you ever mention the Home Department to your scholars? If not, why not? You should not rest satisfied until each scholar's parents are members of the Department; or, better still, regular attendants at school.

Give the Sunday School your first and best; its importance demands it.

Four things you should seek to secure from each member of your class each Sunday: A studied lesson, the memory verses, his own Bible, an offering; yes, there are five: attendance at one preaching service.

A sick scholar is your opportunity.

Some good books which would be found helpful in preparing the present lessons: "The Life of Christ," by Farrar, Eidersheim, Geikie, or Stalker; "Why Four Gospels?" by Gregory; "The Story of Jesus Christ," by Elizabeth S. Phelps; "The Messages of the Books," by Farrar; and "The Interwoven Gospels," by Wm. Pittenger.

When the bell rings, it is for you as much as for your scholars. Set a good example by promptly heeding its signals.

No Sunday School class can be successful in the highest degree that does not make much of class organization. If you have but five or six scholars, give each of them an office, with some definite work to do.

New Year's Rallies.

For five years past the Sunday Schools of Toronto have held a great union meeting in Massey Hall on New Year's morning following the example of Montreal and Winnipeg. Other cities have gradually adopted the same beautiful custom, until now we have a chain of meetings reaching across the Continent. On New Year's day of this year gatherings were held in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Victoria, and happy greetings were exchanged between the different cities. The Toronto meeting was the largest yet held, the Massey Hall being well filled. Forty schools were represented, having a membership of 17,842. Last year these schools raised for all purposes the handsome sum of \$14,381. We would like to see similar rallies held in London, St. Thomas, Belleville and other cities. It is a practice that helps greatly in the cultivation of the Connexional spirit.