

minute is long enough for a prayer in the Primary Department, and a two minute prayer is long enough for the Juniors.

It is possible, however, for the whole School to worship together, and in small Schools this is the only form of assembly possible. But where such is the case care should be taken to see that the greater part of the service is adapted to the youngest pupils present. Older pupils can worship in a service adapted to younger pupils easier than younger pupils can worship in a service adapted to the older pupils. The reason is obvious; the older pupils have already passed through the stages of development and experience known to the younger pupils, but the younger pupils have never had the experience that would enable them to appreciate all that appeals to older pupils.

In cases where the whole School worship together it is well to indicate the portions of the service intended for the different departments. A pupil fourteen years of age may refuse to sing "Jesus loves me, this I know," if he thinks the hymn is intended for his use, but will sing lustily if asked to do so to help the Primary Class. When all Departments worship together it gives opportunity for training in mutual helpfulness and deference to one another.

When children are learning to worship it is important that as many influences as possible, conducive to the spirit of worship, be brought to bear upon them. Good music, stained glass windows, architectural dignity, and reverential associations are more needed in children's worship than in that of adults. This does not mean that nothing can be done in a basement, or a room without form or beauty; it simply means that it is more difficult to secure results without these associations, and that the Sunday School should have the first claim on such assets.

Montreal



The Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests

By Rev. W. R. McIntosh, B.D.

The church's attitude towards athletics has greatly changed,—for the better. Augustine tells us in his Confessions, that his love of sport was a matter of grave anxiety to his guardians and teachers. Bunyan represents the world of recreation and amusement as a place where the souls of the faithful were in danger of destruction,—and maybe they were at that time.

Now, we have come to see that moral and spiritual life have physical roots. Moreover, in addition to being a means of physical benefit and mental recreation, we are beginning to see in athletics a moral and religious

asset. Probably the best way to develop character in a boy and teach him the great virtues of courage, cooperation, self-control and public spirit is through group and team games.

But the question remains: Should the church itself foster and control athletics in connection with the Sunday School? Yes, and No.

The church which fails to see how large a place athletics occupy in the interests of teenage boys is not alive to its problem. During this period probably three fourths of a boy's propensities are physical, and this is so, not because of perversity, but by divine arrangement. God has all a boy's life in which to develop him mentally and spiritually, but he must build him physically by the time he is twenty or so. If the physical interests therefore are not properly appealed to or controlled it may bring to naught the entire work of the Sunday School, at least for the boy.

But how is it to be done? There is a right and a wrong way.

The wrong way we will call the Athletic League Plan. All over this country are ministers and Sunday School leaders who, alive to the physical interests of their boys, made the experiment of entering teams in town and church leagues, to win pennants and trophies; but they shake the head and say: "Never again." The tail wagged the dog. The church did not have the leaders or the experience properly to control the games. To win became the one ideal. Rules were broken. Ringers introduced, other professional features practised, with a resultant reaction upon the real life and work of the School far from beneficial.

The right way in our judgment is now being tried out in many churches. We call it the Standard Efficiency Tests Plan. This system of Sunday School athletics has several features about it that ought to commend it to church leaders:

1. It puts athletics in their proper place, as part of the all-round development of the growing lad. Athletics are not allowed to usurp an undue place in the four-fold programme. They are not introduced as a bait to catch or hold the boy but developed for their moral and vocational value. The old English ideal of playing the game is substituted for that of winning at all costs.

2. It enlarges the scope of athletics, giving prominence to group games and indoor activities, by means of which with little or no expense or equipment the boys of any Sunday School can secure their physical and social enjoyment and development for the most part in their own Schoolroom or hall.

3. It encourages every boy to take part. The tests are arranged on a basis of age and