

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

Essential to highest efficiency.—What should be done before the meeting.—What should not be done at the meeting.—What should be done.—Normal work to a limited extent may be done.—Business meetings.—Prayer meeting an auxiliary to Teachers' meeting.—When these meetings are no failures.—Meetings in rural districts.

A weekly teachers' meeting is essential to the highest efficiency of a Sabbath School. The first study of the lesson should not take place at this meeting. That should be thoroughly done by every teacher and officer before the teachers' meeting. Neither should the meeting be conducted as a Bible Class. The main teachings of the lesson should be developed, and real difficulties discussed rapidly. With the special condition of the school, or of some classes, or special circumstances, clearly in view, let the best method of presenting the lesson, or some section of the lesson, with apt illustrations suitable for the various grades and classes, be agreed upon. There should be free interchange of thought and experience in regard to study, teaching, personal dealing with scholars at school, in their homes, or elsewhere. Special cases of interest or difficulty should form the subject of conversation and prayer.

No fixed mode of conducting a teachers' meeting should be followed. The lecturing and speech-making style should have no place; nor should formality and routine. Christian sincerity, frankness, cordiality and charity, should characterize the meeting from the opening to the close; and when this is the case the most timid will be led into taking a part. In no other circumstances will the staff be so knit together, become of one heart and mind, and be so well fitted for success in the school.

It becomes practicable and highly advantageous, when the teachers' meeting can be held in an evening by itself, to devote a limited time to normal work, discussion and drill, on the principles and methods of study and teaching. Excellent and inexpensive text-books could be procured and studied chapter by chapter as time and circumstances justified. Too much should not be attempted, but a little of such work would undoubtedly improve and strengthen those who took part in it.

The business matters of a school should never be neglected, yet to discuss them frequently at teachers' meeting is damaging to the tone and work which should prevail; and it is recommended that as far as possible the last meeting of each quarter take the character of a business and social one. A small committee should be authorized to deal with special business requiring early attention.

As a rule the most convenient time for the teachers' meeting is at the close of the regular weekly prayer meeting. Some pastors, at this, deal in a practical and devotional way with the lesson of the coming Sabbath. This awakens interest and sympathy in the congregation toward the Sabbath School, and helps to expedite the work of the meeting at its close. The devotional portion of the exercises should give place to nothing. There is no fear of failure in these meetings when those present can say, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

To hold meetings successfully in rural districts is more difficult than in towns and villages; yet even there such meetings with workers fully alive to their importance, have been and are carried on with great advantage.

ACCOMMODATION.

In the Church.—Its disadvantages.—Success more remarkable.—Accommodation may be modified with advantage.—Fitting and furnishing should be modified.—Suggestions for building separate school rooms.—General shape.—Arrangement of classes.—Seating, etc.—Advantages of school-whole exercises.—Maps and illustrations.—Blackboards.

Most Sabbath Schools are of necessity conducted in churches, the arrangements of which are usually quite unsuitable for school purposes. Those who have succeeded in making Sabbath School work successful in spite of uncomfortable seating, bad ventilation, crowding all classes into the same room, and other drawbacks, deserve the highest commendation. In addition to the qualifications of teachers successful in ordinary circumstances, they have had the valuable one of skill to overcome the effects of serious hindrances.

Since the great majority of our schools must continue to meet in churches, we would urge upon those who have it in their power to so modify church arrangements that while the congregation will not be put to inconvenience, the Sabbath School may be carried on under favorable conditions and hindrances.

It is recommended that, where new churches are being erected, special consideration be given to the seating and arranging of classes. Seats comfortable for half grown boys and girls would not be uncomfortable for adults, and less so for children. It would be well to have a reversible chair in nish that on Sabbath the seating could be changed to suit an infant or Bible class. Then, great importance to keep the air of the church pure and the temperature even. If it is of exist it should not be difficult by sliding doors or curtains to convert both the spaces over and under the gallery into class rooms.

In the construction of separate school rooms, much attention should be given to the lighting, heating and ventilation. The neglect of any of these will materially increase the difficulties of teaching and management. Basement schools, as a rule, are very defective in one or more of these respects—sometimes in all.