PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

The Holy Night.

BY MARY A. LATHBURY.

In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,
  The little children lay asleep,
And lambs lay sleeping in the folds
  Where shepherds watched their sheep.
The stars hung high within the sky,
  But just above the silent town
A star more wonderful than all
  Was softly shining down.

It touched a lowly cattle shed,
  That to the angel host around
Became the palace of the King,
  And made it holy ground.
For there, while all the children slept,
  And shepherds waited for the morn,
The Lord of angels came to men—
  The Holy Child was born.

No light upon the temple shone,
  But over David's little town,
And o'er the folds of Bethlehem,
  The heaven of heavens came down,
And "Peace on earth" the angels sang,
  While angel legions answered them;
And so, while lambs and children slept,
  Christ came to Bethlehem.

Christmas in the Primary Class.

BY MRS. J. W. BARNES.

"CHRIST first, others next, and self last," is an excellent motto for primary teachers to keep in mind while planning their Christmas.

Christmas, of all the holidays, is doubtless the dearest to the children, the mysterious preparations and delightful anticipations helping to mark it as the event of the year. In our desire that their anticipations shall be realized, we are in danger of reversing the motto and helping the children to place "self" first, and thus we miss the teaching of the true Christmas thought.

Our celebrations being in honor of the birthday of the infant Saviour, we naturally give our first attention to the religious thought. At this season we desire to draw the children very closely to the Lord Jesus, and to accomplish this we ourselves must be filled to overflowing with his spirit, for in these days of "rehearsals" we have abundant opportunity to impress the children helpfully.

Then the Christmas spirit being a giving spirit, it is essential that the children understand clearly that we give gifts to each other in memory of and thankfulness for God's gift to us; that while we give to those we love, God's gift of his Son was to those who did not love him. To cultivate the spirit of giving we should plan for the children to bring gifts for "others," and because God's gift of his Son cost him so much, help them to give that which to them is a real sacrifice, not permitting them to offer cast-aside toys. Their gifts secured, an experience in the blessedness of giving should be afforded them by letting them see their gifts distributed.

Having these thoughts in mind and the above-mentioned motto for a guide, last year a teacher of a class of one hundred children planned their Christmas celebration somewhat as follows:

The religious thought was emphasized by holding, with the adult school in the church, a special Sunday service. That the true mission of the Christ-child might be correctly taught, the songs and recitations were selected with care; and that undue prominence might not be given to a few children, concert recitations were selected.

The program for the midweek entertainment (primary department only) was divided into three parts:

Part I was the repetition of the Sunday service, with a few additions. This made unnecessary the teaching of secular songs and recitations, for while when used they are not rehearsed on Sunday, still their use contributes, in a large measure, to the spirit of restlessness which frequently possesses a class prior to these special occasions. We can well afford to leave songs of an everyday character to the secular schools and the homes.

Part II was not a novelty, simply a stereopticon, with carefully selected pictures, hired for the occasion.

Part III combined the last two teachings of our motto, "Others next, and self last." The gifts from the children were collected, and a committee of the older children in the class was invited to come in the forenoon and help arrange a "give-away tree." Blessed little hinderers! much of their work had to be rearranged, but the training in helping meant much to them. At the beginning of Part III the sliding doors of the school-