

The Teachers Monthly

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The New Year is a good time to take stock. "What is our Sunday School attempting?" "How are we equipped for the task?" "What is our chief aim?"—are guiding questions in this stock taking.

The Standard of Excellence approved by the General Assembly serves as a criterion of attainment. Until at least this moderate standard is reached, the School should still be "attempting." The Standard is worth reproducing once more:—

1. SABBATH SCHOOL OPEN ALL THE YEAR.
2. A CRADLE ROLL.
3. A HOME DEPARTMENT.
4. AN ORGANIZED BIBLE CLASS.
5. A TEACHER TRAINING CLASS.
6. A COMMUNICANTS' CLASS.
7. GRADED INSTRUCTION (THE UNIFORM LESSONS WITH SUPPLEMENTAL WORK, OR GRADED LESSONS).
8. OUR OWN LESSON HELPS AND ILLUSTRATED PAPERS.
9. MISSIONARY INSTRUCTION AND OFFERING.
10. OFFERING FOR RALLY DAY FUND.

Mark out now the points on which your School *has* attained; and lay plans for the marking out, before 1913 ends, of the points that still remain. Let the end of the year show a clean sweep.

As to the equipment for your task, what about your meeting place? Is it as convenient and comfortable as it ought to be? If not, why not set about the improving of it? And if, in the matter of blackboards or maps or music; or of class books or secretary's equipment, or library; or of proper Lesson Helps and Illustrated Papers, your School has not what it requires, why not plan right away to supply what is lacking? Equipment of all sorts is to be had, and to be had at a moderate cost. No Sunday School, in these days, can afford to carry the handicap of an insufficient equipment.

But the aim is, after all, the main thing. What is your chief aim as a School? Size, attendance, good teaching, hard study, generous giving, active work? All excellent. But, without the chief end, to make of each scholar a true child of God—the best is cheap and poor. Is it not for this that the Sunday School exists—to teach about, to lead to, and to train up in, Christ the Saviour and Lord, through whom alone we come to our place in His Father's house, and our share in His and the Father's work. Is it to be the chief aim of your School, this year, to bring every scholar into living touch with Jesus as his or her Saviour and Friend and Master? If so, we predict for you great joy and success.

For the New Year

Frequently, in Switzerland, one sees inscriptions, cut in quaintly formed letters into the wooden walls of the chalets. One such inscription, in German, after giving the name of the man and his wife who had the house built, continues: "Let all prepare themselves for the coming of eternity. God bless and protect this house and all who enter and leave it. For where God's blessing is not found, there a house has no basis or foundation."

The opening of the New Year is a fresh starting point in the building of life's edifice. Who will not build the better for going on in the spirit of the motto which has caught the eye and impressed the heart of many a traveler amongst the Swiss mountains and valleys? Life building is for eternity and must, at last, stand or fall by the tests that eternity brings. And there is no work that can stand those searching tests into which the blessing of God does not enter.

But with what glad confidence,—confidence which multiplies one's strength a

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