

Sunday-school Helps.

THERE are persons who complain that under the International Sunday-school Lesson system, there is not that close and consecutive study of the Bible that was possible before its introduction. With such a complaint we cannot at all agree. It is true, that in many cases, teachers may rely too much upon the Lesson Helps, which may thus enfeeble instead of strengthen their powers. It is also true that diligent students with only a Bible and a concordance, and such commentaries as may be within their reach, may dig out for themselves most valuable Bible lessons; and that much is thus discovered by the student, is of much more value than any which can be given him by others. But every system must be regarded as a whole, and not in its few individual cases.

We think it unquestionable that more intelligent, more complete, more thorough study is being given to the Bible in consequence of the international system, than ever before. The best Biblical scholars of the day devote their best energies to the elucidation of the sacred text. Whole commentaries are being condensed into fly leaves, which are scattered like the leaves of autumn throughout the length and breadth of the land. Leaves of the tree of life, which shall be for the healing of the nations.

These leaflets go, too, where the voice of the living teacher is seldom or never heard. We have seen them in the hands of the poor unlettered colored teachers in the black belt of Alabama, who, without these aids, could not teach the poor colored children at all. They go to the remotest parts of our land, to the fishing villages of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia; to the lumbering regions of New Brunswick and of the Upper Ottawa; to the mountain settlements of British Columbia; to the remotest places on the frontier, and do much to elevate the standard of living in these places.

NOR are the needs of the most advanced teachers neglected. In such books of D. W. Hurlbut and Doherty's Teachers' Commentary, there are brought together the best thought of the best thinkers on the selected portions of the Holy Scriptures. They are comprehensive commentaries, full of critical information and practical suggestions, enforce the selected lessons. Accurate and elegant maps and engravings, large and small, speak through the eye to the understanding.

Fourteen years ago such books as these were impossible, but now, so great is the demand, that publishers are warranted in spending large sums of money in the preparation of these commentaries and serial lessons helps, whose circulation in the aggregate is so enormous.

A NOBLE and attractive every-day bearing comes of goodness, of sincerity, of refinement; and these are bred in years, not in moments.—
F. D. Huntington.

Book Notices.

Boston Homilies: Short Sermons on the International Sunday-school Lessons for 1891. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

FOR several years a very admirable series of sermons on the lessons has been issued by the Boston Monday Club, a number of Congregational ministers. The present volume is one of similar character, by a number of the most distinguished men in Methodism, all of them members of the Alpha Chapter of the Convocation of Boston University, one of the leading Methodist institutions of the United States. Among the contributors are:—Dr. P. Raymond, President of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Dr. McDowell, Chancellor of University of Denver, Col.; Dr. Bashford, President of Ohio Wesleyan University; Prof. Mitchell, Dean Huntingdon, and Prof. Curtis, of Boston University, and a number of other distinguished ministers. The volume consists of forty-eight short, crisp, incisive sermons on the Sunday-school Lessons for the whole year. It will be found very helpful to superintendents and teachers.

One Little Life. By MARY LOWE DICKINSON. Pp. 272. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

MRS. Dickinson is one of the sweetest and purest writers on American Methodism. There is an elevation of thought, and of literary style much superior to that found in most Sunday-school books. This is the story of a life consecrated to the interest of humanity, and to the noble altruism, and the unselfish endeavor to benefit and bless mankind. It will inspire in its readers lofty ideals, and suggest practical Christian work.

A Piece of Kitty Hunter's Life. By MARY E. BAMFORD. Pp. 336. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

THIS is a well-written story in the form of a girl's diary. It gives us a peep into the recesses of a girl's heart, ennobled by suffering and sorrow. It describes vividly the trials of a young author endeavoring to procure recognition, and also her compensating joys in, "wreaking her thought upon expression," and at length procuring tardy fame and modest compensation.

Phabe; or, The Ewings of William Hock. By MARY HARRIETT NORRIS. Pp. 308. New York: Hunt & Eaton.

THIS book, by the author of those successful volumes, "Dorothy Delafield" and "A Damsel of the Eighteenth Century," will be welcomed by the many friends whom the writer has won by her previous volumes. These are studies of American Methodist life, with certain foreign elements that are very interesting and instructive.