

An Old-Fashioned Church

With Modern Ideas and Plans of Work

BY THE EDITOR

PROBABLY the best example of the old style Methodist Church of forty or fifty years ago is located on Brunswick Street, Halifax. It is built of wood, oblong in shape, with a large square tower in front. The internal

hear the straight truth, even though they do not always act upon it.

There is always an after meeting, which is well attended, and conversions occur frequently. During last winter about forty persons turned to the Lord in these regular services. Everybody expects that this will be the result of the preaching of the truth, and their faith is honored. A number of very remarkable cases of spiritual transformation took place last year.

One of the best things about Brunswick Street Church is the Sunday School, which has been for many years the second largest school in the Nova Scotia Conference. It is fortunate in having at its head one of the best superintendents in America in the person of Dr. Frank Woodbury, a man of splendid ability, who gives to the Sunday School work his very best energies of mind and body. He is the author of the Supplemental Lesson Course, which has been such a success in the Maritime Provinces and which has been adopted by the General Conference of our Church. It is the most complete and workable system of Supplemental Lessons that has yet been devised and solves the question of grading in the most satisfactory manner. There is nothing like it to interest scholars in the study of God's Word, the doctrines of the Church, etc.

Sometimes the question is asked: "Can the Supplemental Course be worked?" The best answer is the fact that it is being worked most successfully in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

On the first Sunday in October last a unique service was held on Brunswick Street Sunday School. Certificates of grading were presented to every department of the school as a result of careful examinations, from the Beginners to and including the Senior department. Also six adults were presented with Teacher Training Diploma, and Miss M. M. Bell received the first International Teacher Training Diploma ever awarded in Canada, thus showing that this school is doing real educational work. These certificates to the pupils carry seals for faithful attendance at church, attendance at school, Bibles brought from home, etc.

The subject of Missions is receiving practical attention. A weekly envelope system has been introduced which



BRUNSWICK ST. METHODIST CHURCH, HALIFAX

arrangements are as old fashioned as they can be. A wide aisle runs down the centre from end to end, the pews are guarded by doors, the galleries are high and ponderous, and the pulpit is an immense box, towering to a great height against the end wall. There is absolutely nothing like it in any Canadian city. It is a relic of the past, with historic memories clustering around every column and every pew.

Brunswick Street Church remains as it is because the people who worship in it, desire no change. They love the old building, and any attempt to modernize the structure would meet with decided opposition. But when we come to consider the methods of work used by the pastor and congregation we find they belong to the twentieth century, and are in every way up-to-date. The pastor, Rev. J. W. Aikens, is a young man of great energy and evangelistic zeal. His sermons are different from those of any other man, but are always bright, pointed, and interesting. On Sunday evenings he usually preaches an evangelistic sermon, followed by a direct appeal to men and women to yield themselves to Jesus Christ on the spot. He regards the congregation as a jury from whom he must, if possible, obtain an immediate verdict for his Master. When this plan of conducting the evening service was commenced, some feared that the attendance would dwindle, but such has not been the case. On the contrary the congregation generally fills the church, and keeps up wonderfully well.

An unconverted man on being asked how he liked the pastor of Brunswick Street Church spoke in a most approving manner. "But he strikes you pretty hard, does he not?" was the remark of the questioner. "Yes, he does, but that is what he is there for." This indicates that most people like to



REV. J. W. AIKENS
Pastor of Brunswick St. Church, Halifax