

In the song service the lantern is a great help. There is little difficulty about the light, as, with blinds drawn, the screen shows up well.

There is no rattling of hymn books, and with heads up and eyes front, the whole School is able to follow the leader with a vigor, as well as a volume that is at times tremendous.

There is no secretary's report indistinctly heard; instead, the report is thrown on the screen where all may see and read the report of to-day and of a year ago.

Occasionally a series of mission views, which are easily obtained, are put on and mission interest is thereby deepened.

Recently the Manitoba University extension work has included our district, and we have had some very interesting illustrated lectures. These are just a few of the ways in which the stereopticon proves itself a very great help.

Kenora, Ont.

### Teaching as a Tonic

*By An Old Teacher*

What a tonic teaching is. I have in mind Bible Class teaching, and speak after an experience of more years than need be confessed.

It is a mental tonic. I always knew it; but now know it better from realizing its lack after a year of enforced non-teaching. The necessity of study, the stimulation to excel, the growing appetite for reading along the lines of the lesson, as well as in current literature—all provided a brain tonic that kept the gray matter busy and the mind alert.

But it meant even more markedly a spiritual tonic. Under this study stimulus, the Bible became more and more a new book, a wonder book, indeed. It was like searching in a treasure house and making fresh discoveries in every room. Lessons that had been studied over and over again, as they came around in the cycles, revealed new truths, new beauties, new inspirations; and as each new discovery quickened the mind to further search, the spiritual and every part of one's being was fed.

Bible Class teaching a tonic? Yes, and yes again, and a hundred times again. Whatever the members may have gained from my teaching, I gained tenfold more, and would this very moment give much to be a Bible Class teacher again in a certain old classroom made dear by a wealth of memories, and facing a hundred young men with eager eyes and alert minds and truth-absorbing souls.

In a word, I miss my tonic!

## THE DEPARTMENTS

### Preparing the Lesson Story

*By Mrs. J. J. Eaton*

Do we need to prepare the lesson story, or can we, who have been studying our Bible for years, tell the story as well without special preparation? The command is, "Feed my lambs," and just as the mother must prepare the food for the children in the home, so must the teacher prepare the lesson story "food" for the children in her class, if she is to obey the Master's command.

In preparing our lesson story, we must:

#### I. STUDY IT FOR OURSELVES

First read the Bible story over quickly, to get the general idea, then again thoughtfully, and again analytically. Now the text is well in our minds.

Now we must know also when, why, where, etc., something of the country,—the map, that flowers grow there, what birds, what kind of houses the people lived in, what the customs of the people were. It has been said, "A cannon must weigh at least a hundred times the shot it puts," so the teacher's mind

must be stored with all kinds of knowledge surrounding the lesson story,—very much more than she imparts to her scholars.

#### II. STUDY IT FOR THE CHILD

(a) What is the *aim* of the lesson story? What do we want to teach from this story? What do we want to put into the lives of the girls and boys?

(b) What *point of contact* can we use?—an introduction, something the child understands, to build upon, to lead up to the lesson story, something to gain the attention the very first moment. For this purpose we may use:

(1) Pictures. All teachers of little children should have a store of pictures, and if one is constantly on the watch, a supply is soon gathered from magazine covers, advertisements in the magazines, the Perry or the Wilde pictures, which can be secured at a very small cost, and the different sets of pictures, missionary and otherwise, that go with the various courses of instruction and can be had from Sunday School supply houses. One teacher has several friends who watch for pic-