

How to Deal with the Adolescent

The most interesting and significant discussion of the annual meeting of the Sunday School Council, held in Boston in January, was on the report from the Education and Extension Section, on the grouping of the adolescent age, the general aim in the religious instruction of adolescents, the aims for each group, both as to knowledge and activities, and the organization by which these aims may best be accomplished.

Our own Mr. C. A. Myers, the Associate Secretary of our Sunday School and Y.P.S. Board, has taken a large part in the formulating of the plans for adolescents, which, let it once more be mentioned, provide for the training in and for active Christian service, the boys and girls from twelve years of age upward.

The Twelve-year-olds

The liveliest part of the discussion of the adolescents turned on the twelve-year-olds. The elementary workers claimed these for their group. The workers in the Secondary Division claimed that the twelve-year-olds, belonged not to the 9, 10 and 11's, but to the 13 and 14's. The net result of a whole forenoon's most illuminating discussion was that the twelve-year-age was reckoned to belong *either* to the Junior *or* to the lower Intermediate group—for the present.

As the readers of the TEACHERS MONTHLY are aware, the present accepted classification puts the 9, 10, 11 and 12-year-olds together as the Juniors, and the 13, 14, 15 and 16's as the Intermediates. The reckoning of the twelve-year-olds "optional" as between the Juniors and the Intermediate Departments, by the vote of the Sunday School Council, evidently foreshadows a change by common consent of all interested in Sunday School work, making each Department (save that of the Beginners) *three years*, the unscientific four-year Junior and Intermediate Departments—as now delimited—disappearing. The organization of a Sunday School would then become :

BEGINNERS' DEPARTMENT.....	Years	4, 5
PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.....	Years	6, 7, 8
JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.....	Years	9, 10, 11
LOWER INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT (or some such title).....	Years	12, 13, 14
UPPER INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT (or some such title).....	Years	15, 16, 17

As joint originators of the Departmental Graded Lesson Courses, we should heartily welcome a change whereby the number of years in each Department would be the same, and whereby each Department would consist of three years.

In any one of the Departments as outlined above, a lesson written for the middle year in the Department would quite effectively embrace the needs of the two other years also.

Why Sunday School Teachers Should be Trained

There are many reasons why Sunday School teachers should be trained for their work.

Training is necessary to the highest efficiency in any kind of work. No one expects to become a skilled workman without training.

The scholars in the Sunday School class are under the care of a trained teacher on week days. There should not be an unfavorable contrast between the teaching methods of the Sunday School.

No task is more important than that of the Sunday School teacher. In large measure the religious instruction of the scholars depends upon him. He cannot be too well equipped for this weighty responsibility.

The training so urgently needed, is within the reach of every Sunday School teacher. Our own church has two Teacher Training Courses, the First Standard and the Advanced Standard. Either of these can be mastered by any teacher willing to put forth a reasonable amount of effort. And such mastery will put a new zest and efficiency into the teaching.