

ing that doors and windows may be opened, while all the while the fever is in himself, not in his room. It is the unwholesomeness of men's own spirit that makes the world and all life about them so full of discomfort for them."

SEND A LETTER.

"With the summer comes a period of rest. Many churches close their doors during July and August, and the little feet that crossed its sacred threshold are frolicking in the country fields, or splashing in the gray waters of the ocean. It is a time to rest, but not a time to forget. Often the teacher's mind wanders to the boys and girls far away—the quiet, attentive girl, the mischievous boy. She is a wise teacher if she keeps a link of remembrance between herself and her class. Let her write during the vacation time one letter to each member of her class. The thing most mysterious and fascinating after a Christmas tree is perhaps the postman's bag, or the country post-office box. It bristles with many possibilities. One of the proudest moments in a child's life is when he holds in his hand a letter addressed to himself. He feels his individuality as never before. If the letter is from his teacher the joy is heightened. If neither teacher nor scholar of the closed church go from the city let the letter of greeting be sent notwithstanding.—*The Sunday-school Helper*.

THE BIBLE IN THE INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

"Children should not be transferred from the primary department to the intermediate or junior until they can read. As soon as they can read they should be taught how to use the Bible. It is the blessed province of the intermediate department to do this, and that it does so is one of the strongest reasons why this department should exist in every school.

1. "Encourage every child to own a good Bible. If it is possible that this should be given by the parents, it is much the best way. If not, it should in some way be provided by the school.

2. "Encourage these children to bring these Bibles to Sunday-school every Sunday. Hold-

ing them up as a regular part of the exercises is a great help toward this. Show them what assistance to the memory it is always to use the same Bible, as we learn to remember on what part of the page to look for certain verses.

3. "This, and not the primary department, is, in my judgment, the place to teach about the Bible—the names of the books, their contents, writers, etc., and, with some of the books, the epistles, for instance, why they were written.

4. "Call for but few references during the teaching of the lesson, but have regular drills by the whole department in turning rapidly to book, chapter, and verse.

5. "It is the memory age; therefore, there should be, in addition to the Golden Text, and what we call the standard memory passages (Beatitudes, 23rd Psalm, Commandments), the memorizing of some portion of Scripture each quarter. I recommend, in order not to discourage the child, that not more than an additional verse a week be required, but that this be learned perfectly. It is well if a passage is selected which embodies the teaching of the International Lessons for the quarter.

6. "Most important of all, cultivate a habit of daily Bible reading. I would far rather have one verse a day, read in the daytime, and with a thought running through the week, than a chapter at night, dragged through from duty. The very best way, it seems to me, is to have a plan by which the whole department scholars and teachers, read the same daily verse, and that not generally from the lessons, but teaching the lesson truths. At first the teacher may have to mark the verses for the week, but it is surprising how quickly this becomes unnecessary.

7. "We have had reading and memorizing. The second year a third part of Bible using should be added—searching. Give, each week, something not too difficult to search for.

"The average length of the child's stay in the intermediate department should be four years. With faithfulness and persistence on the part of the teacher, habits will be formed which cannot be easily shaken off. The words of the most eloquent teacher among us will be forgotten, but the word of the Lord endureth forever."—*Mrs. M. G. Kennedy in the Sunday-School Herald*.