

forty-minute period for the study of the lesson follows, the adults being organized as a Bible Class and taught by the pastor. The closing exercises occupy not longer than ten minutes. Thus the entire service takes about one hour and twenty minutes.

From the standpoint of the Sunday School some of the results have been these :

1. A spirit of reverence and an atmosphere of worship never before conspicuous in the Sunday School.

2. The regular,—almost perfect—attendance of teachers.

3. The older girls and boys present in record numbers.

4. The inspiration of men and women worshipping and studying with children and youth.

5. The release of workers for one strong effort instead of two undermanned ones.

We have been organized now as a Church School for eight months. The plan has been a success. Continually we are introducing improvements. As for its possibilities, it hath not yet been revealed what they shall be.

Rossland, B.C.

Some Christmas Suggestions

BY ELIZABETH CRINGAN

The twenty-fifth of December is the happiest date on the Sunday School calendar. Other seasons and holidays have each their special significance and their peculiar opportunity for deepening and developing spiritual life, but Christmas combines all the joy and thanksgiving and love of service which the other festivals inspire.

The spirit in which Christmas is observed is of primary importance, and the elaborate scale on which the Christmas spirit has been commercialized and exploited in recent years has thrown an added responsibility upon the Sunday School. Long before Christmas Day the little children are worked up to a feverish excitement over the coming of Santa Claus, and our older boys and girls are often completely absorbed in anticipating the presents they are to receive from friends and relations.

The Sunday School teacher cannot begin too soon to instil into his scholars the true spirit of Christmas. Help them to think of Christmas as Christ's birthday, and to regard the giving and receiving of presents as a means of commemorating God's great gift to the world on the first Christmas Day. Try to lead the scholars to suggest some way in which they can please Christ on his birthday.

Christmas is essentially a church festival, and the Sunday School is the ideal place for its celebration. The Sunday nearest Christmas should be the occasion for a special service, and there should also be some form of entertainment during the week.

The Sunday service is our first consideration. Let the scholars help in planning the programme for this service, and let them take an active part in carrying it out. Familiar hymns, a recitation by one of the scholars, and special lantern slides will prove attractive.

Our Book of Praise contains many beautiful Christmas hymns. Others may be found in Gems of Christmas Songs, which is a collection of sixty favorite carols and Christmas hymns.

A Christmas tree will add much to the spirit of the Sunday service. If possible, procure a tree early in the week, and appoint some class to decorate it before Sunday. Or some member of your congregation may be willing to give you a tree which has already fulfilled its mission in his home on Christmas morning. This tree is not for gifts for your scholars, but is to afford them an opportunity of giving to others. Let them bring a new toy or book or some cherished possession which they think will give pleasure to another child, to hang on the tree.

The children themselves should plan for this Christmas tree, and should decide who is to receive the gifts from it. Instead of toys or books, they might bring some of the candies or nuts or popcorn that they have received as presents, or some of the home-made sweetmeats that they have saved from the Christmas dinner. Folding candy boxes can be obtained in a variety of pretty Christmas designs, and these could be distributed to your scholars on the Sunday before Christmas. The boxes should be filled on Christmas Day, and taken to Sunday School the day after. Let each scholar hang his box on the tree by the convenient tape provided for that purpose. After Sunday School some of the older boys and girls could carry the boxes to a hospital or children's home, or they may be left on the tree for some entertainment which may be given in your church for the children from a poorer neighborhood.

Suitable postcards may be procured by teachers who desire to send Christmas greetings to their scholars. For those who prefer to give them some little remembrance, there is nothing more appropriate than the beautiful gift calendars and booklets which are provided specially for this occasion.

A Christmas entertainment may be held in the week either preceding or following Christmas Day. There are several books