

man, who also plays an instrument. By the help of the orchestra, the singing shows a wonderful difference, and goes with such increased vim, that any one coming in to the School who had not been in it for six months, would hardly recognize it as the same School.

At first, the orchestra seemed somewhat of a novelty, and distracted attention from the singing; but that gradually wore off, and now the whole School joins much more heartily in the singing of the hymns. A great advantage, also, in having an orchestra is, that new and unfamiliar hymns can be taken up and learned much more easily. Our School has been able to use many of the hymns which, without the orchestra, would have dragged, and been impossible to attempt.

The first thing to do, is to get a practical leader, who will take this bit of work up enthusiastically; and there are very many Schools in which he can find some members, either teachers or officers, or from among the scholars, who can play some instrument. It is worth trying. A very important part is to have a good pianist.

Winnipeg

*The Lantern and the Hymns

SOME PRACTICAL HINTS

By Harry Bragg, Esq.

I fully believe that the enlarged printing on the screen fastens the words of the hymn on the scholars' minds much more firmly than that in the hymn books, even where the slide gives only the bare words of the hymn, without any picture. But it is now possible to procure slides which have an appropriate and explanatory picture along with the verses, which emphasizes the thoughts in the hymn; and these, I am convinced, indelibly fix both picture and meaning, if not the actual words of the hymn, upon the children's minds.

The following are a few practical hints as to the best way of handling the lantern for use in singing hymns:

The slides should be as good as the school can afford. Ordinary uncolored ones, with

* Frederick W. Moffatt, Weston, Ont., for the Sabbath School Committee of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, has, in addition to slides illustrating the Lesson and the Question on Missions, a large number of Hymn Slides from the Presbyterian Book of Praise. Price, 25 cents each.—EDITORS.

the words only, are the cheapest. Then come uncolored ones, with pictures along with each verse, while the best and most expensive are the colored picture ones.

It has always seemed to me that it would be a good thing for neighboring Sunday Schools to unite in purchasing several sets of slides, to be used in common, thus giving each a much larger supply than any one School alone could afford.

The lantern must necessarily be of sufficient power and size for the room. The light should be good, so as to show up the words and pictures distinctly. Electric light is the most convenient, as the lights in the room can be turned up and out so readily; and there are now devices for using an ordinary bulb of high candle power, instead of the more intricate and risky arc lamps. Gasoline, incandescent oil lamp, and simple acetylene, machines are all available.

The room should be absolutely dark. This is most essential. If your room has not blinds that will exclude all the light, and not merely subdue it, get them. They will pay. A good lantern, good slides, good light and a good operator are all wasted, if the room is not properly darkened.

The operator should not only know just how to use his lantern, but should have tried the slides he is going to use, and be able to replace the chorus after each verse, if this is called for. The slides should be in order, and should be properly dusted.

The accompanist should be able to play the organ or piano in the dark. If not, provide a small reading lamp, with a cover, which will throw a light on the music, without glaring into the room and spoiling the effect of the lantern.

The superintendent, though referred to last, is not to be displaced by the lantern operator and accompanist, important as these are. He should be the leader and the head in the service. He should know the hymns as they appear on the screen, as well as in the book. He should also know enough about handling the lantern to allow time for the operator to change the slides, if he wishes this done. He should above all, learn to talk to the audience, and not to the screen.

Finally, the man behind the lantern should