

day. The results of this flood of direct religious teaching pouring forth from the press is simply incalculable; only the Great Day shall reveal it.

LIBRARIES.

The work accomplished by our schools in supplying instructive and interesting reading, of a direct religious tendency, to the people, is often overlooked or underestimated. The number of books in the libraries is reported at 246,274. In many cases these are almost the only books accessible in the families and communities where the schools exist.

WINNOWN LIST.

As a "Winnown List" of about 1,600 Sunday-school books had been prepared during the previous quadrennium, at a cost for books and printing of about \$700, it was not thought advisable to spend much more money for that purpose. Publishers were requested, however, to send books gratuitously for review for such a list; about \$400 worth have been so sent, and a classified "Winnown List" has been prepared of those books. Examination of this list is invited.

THE CATECHISM.

The number of children and youth reported as studying that excellent compendium of Christian doctrine, the Methodist Catechism, is 31,962; but this is far too small a proportion out of 220,000 scholars. Superintendents and teachers are earnestly urged to do all they can to promote, as much as in their power, the study of those Christian doctrines that make wise unto salvation. These Catechism lessons find a place in all our Sunday-school Lesson papers, and circulate to the extent of nearly 250,000 copies every Lord's-day.

FOUNDING NEW SCHOOLS.

In no department of its work has the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund been more successful than in promoting the planting of new schools in remote and religiously destitute parts of the country. It is safe to say, that never in the history of Methodism in this land has the founding of new Sunday-schools been so actively and successfully prosecuted as during the past year. The brethren on remote circuits and in destitute neighbourhoods—among the fishing villages of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia; amid the pine forests of the St. John and the Ottawa; in the wilds of Muskoka; upon the prairies of Manitoba and the Far West; and among the mining settlements

of British Columbia—have been diligent in planting these nurseries of piety and nuclei of future churches. In this work they have been greatly helped by the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. There is no way in which its aid can be so profitably employed. Many schools established by its assistance soon become self-supporting, and in turn contribute to the planting of new schools in still newer neighbourhoods. Brethren are urged to freely seek its aid, and such aid to the limit of its ability, will be freely given.

During the last year there has been an increase of 142 new schools, 1,349 officers and teachers, and 10,785 scholars. It is impossible to state the number of new schools founded in the previous years of the quadrennium, as in the transition state of our work the Minutes afford no basis of comparison.

Notwithstanding the growth of our Sunday-schools, there are still a very large number of appointments in connection with which no Sunday-schools are yet organized. In some cases there are union schools, where no schools of separate denominations can be maintained. But where there are no such schools the assistance of the ministers is urgently solicited, that in every place where there is Methodist preaching there may also be a Methodist Sunday-school. It is in helping this work that the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund has been most useful in the past, and may be expected to be increasingly useful in the future.

The following utterance of the Guelph Conference, in its Sunday-school Report for 1886, expresses, doubtless, the sentiment on this important subject of the entire Church: "The results of Sunday-school work are beyond our power to fully estimate, but enough is manifested to rebuke the most distant approach to despondency, and to encourage firm and assured confidence for the future."

ONE reason why many children do not attend the church service is that no place is provided for them there. In one instance, several years ago, a gentleman invited a Sunday-school superintendent to select twenty boys and girls, who were unable to pay for sittings, and invite them to accept seats, for which the rent would be paid. Most of them were grateful for the gift. As they grew older and able, they began to pay the rents themselves. Several of them have united with the Church, and have become Sunday-school teachers. In many churches this experiment might be repeated with gratifying results.