

Some Gains from the War

Nothing is the same as before the War. Its effects are seen and felt in every department of life. The losses which it has brought are staggering. But over against these losses are to be set even greater gains. We shall come out of it the richer in the things which really count, than when we went into it. We do well, as we come to the close of another year, with the dark War cloud still hanging over us to reckon up some of these gains.

For one thing, there is a new sense of the reality of God. A recent book, by a famous English writer, speaks of "our sons who have shown us God." These brave lads have gone into the most terrible conflict of the world's history, trusting in no arm of flesh, but in the living God, and he has not failed them. They have put his faithfulness to the fierce test of this awful experience, only to find in him a rock which cannot be moved, and we share with them the strengthening and deepening of their faith.

Another gain from the War is, that the capacity for heroism latent in the most com-

monplace souls, has leapt to light. The most ordinary boys who filled our Sunday School classes two short years ago, have amazed the world by emulating the bravest and most unselfish deeds recorded in the annals of mankind. And we, God forgive us, so often failed to recognize and make our appeal to the heroic in these boys when they were with us in the studies and activities of the School!

And there has come to us a firmer conviction that right will triumph over might, that the eternal principles of morality and justice will win the ultimate victory over brute force employed in an unrighteous cause. It is this confidence that puts courage into the hearts, and strength into the arms, of those who are fighting our battles. And the assurance which possesses the fighters at the front has spread to those who support them at home.

Such are some of our gains from the War. And none should rejoice in them more than the Sunday School teacher. For those things are, in no small measure, the harvest of the seed which he has long and patiently sown

THAT CLASS OF BOYS

By W. Randolph Burgess

VI. HOW TO PREPARE THEM FOR TEACHING

(Two plans that have worked)

Boys are not naturally particularly interested in "the kids." They are looking forward to the problems they are to face, not back to the struggles they have been through. Besides, somebody has whispered in my ear that the boys' interest in the Bible cannot be described as a burning fascination. How shall we turn his interest toward younger boy and Bible and train him to bring the two together in the right relation?

One class I knew spent more than a year studying a teacher training course at the regular Sunday School hour. The teacher was no pedagogical genius. He simply talked over the problems of teaching with the boys as he had talked over other lessons.

They learned a good deal about teaching. Better still, was the interest in, and respect

for, teaching that gradually developed. I could almost see the mental wheels going round every Sunday. The thought process was something like this: "What is the lesson for to-day? O, teacher training, of course. I may be a teacher some day (small-sized cold shiver, somewhat warmed by the thought of achievement). This is a long course, and harder than the regular lessons; examination, too. It is a pretty important thing to be a teacher."

Fancy that mental process going on, at least once a week, in a boy's head. The dividends in results cannot help being large. And they were in this class. The first dividend was a boy's club carried on by the class. Another was substitute teachers when they were needed, although care was used here