

that, on coming home, I tried the experiment with considerable success and now hope to make this mothers' meeting a regular function.

Another method of securing the cooperation of the home in Sunday School effort is through persistent correspondence. Many pastors use this method of keeping in touch with their church members and some Sunday Schools have already made a weekly letter experiment with quite definite results.

Perhaps the best way to relate the Sunday School to the home is for the teacher to visit the homes of the children. The only way to do this successfully is to have regular monthly meetings of the teachers and ask for a report from every teacher on visits made during the month. Unless the parents cooperate with the Sunday School much of our effort is in vain. If we can secure this cooperation we can hope for success.

Winnipeg



An Institute of Religious Education

The Community Training School is one of the latest answers to the question, "How shall we train our Sunday School workers for their tasks?" And to many thoughtful workers that question reaches the very heart of the Sunday School problem. Is there anything else more vital, more fundamental? The problems of evangelism, missions, instruction, organization, and administration are all bound up in this one central task.

The Toronto Institute of Religious Education is one of these Community Training Schools. Early in 1915 several of the leaders in Sunday School work called the pastors and superintendents of the city into conference and an organization was effected to undertake and carry on the work proposed. The organization is as follows:

- (a) The Board of Directors. This Board, composed of experienced educators, is responsible for the curriculum, for the arrangement of courses of study for each year, and for the appointment of the staff. Members of the Board hold office for one year, but are eligible for re-election.
- (b) The Advisory Committee. This Committee has charge of the business and publicity arrangements of the Institute. Whenever it may seem desirable to the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee may be asked to meet with them in joint session.
- (c) The General Council. This includes the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee, and representatives duly appointed by the Sunday Schools of the city. Each Sunday School has the right to appoint representatives to sit

in the General Council, which shall be called together at least annually, on the day of the election of the members of the Board and Advisory Committee, as well as at such other times as may be expedient.

The purpose of the Institute is stated as follows: "to provide for Sunday School teachers and other workers in the field of religious education such instruction and training as shall best fit them for their work."

The courses of study are on the four main topics as adopted in the new Teacher Training Course of the Sunday School Council:

- (a) The Pupil: elementary general psychology, and special studies of the different periods of life.
- (b) The Teacher: principles, problems, and methods of religious pedagogy.
- (c) The Bible: general outlines and special studies.
- (d) The School: its history, purpose, and administration.

The courses cover 24 evenings, divided into two terms of 12 evenings each. There are on each evening two sessions: a general session of 45 minutes, and a series of parallel sessions of 45 minutes. The general session of one term is devoted to Bible study and for the other term to principles of teaching or some topic connected with the pupil or the School. The parallel sessions cover the different sections of the School from the Beginners to the Adult department, and include Bible teaching, and Sunday School organization and administration. Every phase of the work of the Sunday School will be covered in the three-year course mapped out by the Board, and additional courses may be given at any time on request of a sufficient number of students. Examinations are provided at the end of each term, and credit given, and at the end of the three years' work diplomas will be awarded to those who have completed the courses and passed the examinations.

A very comprehensive eight-page programme is issued each year. The programme for year 1917-1918 contains a general outline of the three year course of studies adopted as the result of the work of the first two years of the Institute and from comparison with the work offered at other Community Training Schools.

The first year, 1915-1916, the Institute was held for the Fall Term in the new Sunday School building of the Walmer Road Baptist Church, an ideal place. The Winter Term was held in the new Knox College, one of the finest theological colleges in America. During the second year, 1916-1917, the Institute was fortunate in holding its sessions in Wycliffe College for most of the year, with the closing