

SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

WE publish in another column the report of the proceedings of the General Assembly's Sunday School Committee at its meeting held in this city last month. It cannot but be gratifying to all interested in the Sunday School work of our church, and all ought to be interested in it, to watch the steady progress which this department of the church's activities has been making of late years. It is not too much to say that this is largely due to the perseverance, capability in every way for the work and enthusiasm in it of the Convener of the Committee, the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, of St. John, N. B. The report is altogether of a hopeful and encouraging character because of the spirit of earnest progressiveness which it breathes. The work laid out by the committee is wisely considered and arranged for. Cheaply as the Shorter Catechism can be got, it will be an advantage to print in the *Home Study Leaflet* the answer with the question for the day. The name, a very happy one, "Home Study Series," has been fixed upon for the Sunday School publications of the Committee, rather of the General Assembly. When the series is complete it will number five distinct publications which cover well the whole ground. When we add to this the excellence of our Sunday School lesson helps so far, to which the testimony of most competent men has been given, we may, when the whole series is complete, hope to have as satisfactory a system of helps for the Sunday Schools of our church as can be found. The proposal to supply these helps at reduced rates, or even gratis—we prefer the former—to schools in mission districts is a wise one and will undoubtedly be taken advantage of. It ought to be a great help in beginning and keeping up schools in such districts to be able at once, and at the lowest cost, to get all the necessary aids from our own church. The assistance proposed to be given also to French Sunday Schools in connection with our church is an important and wise forward step, and there should be little difficulty in bringing it at once within the reach of these schools. Next January and April are the months set in which to inaugurate proposed advance movements, and we earnestly hope that the suggestions, rather than the appeal of the committee as to funds to enable it to carry out its plans will meet with a hearty response.

KNOX COLLEGE JUBILEE FUND.

WHILE considering the very short time at the disposal of the committee to make arrangements about the collections for the Jubilee Fund, the result has been fairly good so far, but, on account of the numbers who have not yet reported, and who are desirous of doing something towards the removal of the debt, the Board has decided to keep the matter open for a little longer, in order to afford opportunity to all who may not yet have contributed. It will therefore be in order to remit any moneys for that purpose to Rev. Wm. Burns, Secretary-Treasurer, Jubilee Fund, Room 64, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

HYMNAL.

THESE facts may be interesting to readers, and indicate the care with which the hymns that appear in our proposed new Book of Praise have been selected. In the Christian Endeavor Hymnal are 257 hymns, of these our new book contains 64, with 560 additional hymns, and 98 selections from the Psalms. "Anglican Hymnology" (King) speaks of 325 hymns found in at least 15 books of the 52 English Church Hymn Books compared, and our new book contains 200 of these; and, in this proportion, 91 out of 105 in first rank as found in at least 30 books, 63 out of 110 in second rank as found in at least 20 books, 46 out of 110 in third rank as found in at least 15 books. These facts speak for themselves.—*Presbyterian Witness*.

IN MEMORIAM.

A SERVICE in memory of the late Miss Lucinda Graham, M.D., medical missionary in our Honan (China) Mission, and the sad tidings of whose death has just reached this country, was held in Westminster Church, Rev. Mr. Neil's, on Sabbath evening. Miss Graham, before going to China, had been connected with this congregation. The large church was filled with an interested and sympathetic

audience, called out by the affecting circumstances. The hymns sung, some of which were known to be favorites with the departed, prayers offered and Scriptures read, were all suited to the sad occasion.

In addition to the pastor, Mr. Hamilton Cassels and Rev. Dr. Caven gave brief addresses in which touching reference was made to the deceased. Those of Mr. Neil and Dr. Caven were in the strain of appeal to fill up the blanks made recent by deaths in this field. We greatly underestimate the missionary spirit now prevailing in our church, if there do not at once come forward more than sufficient to fill up the ranks, saying, "Here are we Lord, send us."

THE HOME MISSION FUND.

WE can only in the briefest way for the present call the attention of our reader to the circular of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, which appears in another column, on the requirements of the Home Mission Fund for the current year. He tells the church that "the expenditure this year is very largely in excess of any former period in the Home Mission work of the church, and the amount asked from Presbyteries is proportionately higher." This happens partly because, and at a time when, many Presbyteries in British Columbia and in the Northwest Territories are less able, because of unforeseen and unavoidable misfortunes, to do as much as they have been accustomed to do. It is plain, therefore, that the additional burden must fall upon the remaining Presbyteries. To meet it will call for systematic persevering effort, some self-sacrifice, and earnest interest on their part. The liberality which has been shown by the now disabled Western Presbyteries and their misfortunes, added to claims which Christ Himself has upon all His follower, together make an appeal which we hope our church will so feel and respond to that the whole amount needed will be raised and our mission work and our missionaries suffer no loss. If the amount required is larger than usual, the largest ever asked, there is the greater opportunity for the church over all its Presbyteries, in every congregation, in every family to manifest its consecration and devotion to the cause of Christ. Freely we have received, freely let us give.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee met in the Board Room of the Y.M.C.A., Toronto, on Sept. 12th. The Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John, N.B., in the chair. There was a good attendance of members.

The convener laid on the table a detailed statement of present and prospective liabilities and income which shewed a good prospect of making the income for the year meet the expenditure if members of the committee and its friends use reasonable diligence.

The Leaflets published by the committee were then considered, and it was resolved:

1. To print the answer to the question in the Shorter Catechism in full on the *Home Study Leaflet*.
2. To publish a scholars' *Quarterly*, corresponding to the *Leaflet*, beginning with next January.
3. That the *Teachers' Preparation Leaflet* be published in the form of a monthly magazine, and enlarged, beginning with January next.
4. That the S. S. helps published by the committee be called "The Home Study Series," and that the titles of each be as follows: *H. S. Teachers' Monthly*; *H. S. Quarterly*; and *H. S. Leaflet*, and that a *H. S. Primary Leaflet* and a *H. S. Primary Quarterly* be added as soon as funds will permit.

After an earnest discussion, in which the great unanimity of wishes and opinions was shewn, it was resolved "that whereas an urgent necessity exists for the supply of lesson helps *gratis*, or at reduced rates, to S. S. in mission districts, and whereas the committee finds itself unable, in the present state of its finances, to undertake to meet this want, they would earnestly appeal to the S. S. of the church for such increased support as will put them in a position, after payment of general expenses, to enter upon this important branch of work!"

This decision means an important new departure. As soon as the contributions received enable the committee to meet its current expenses and shew a clear balance to the Assembly, they pledge themselves to issue to our missionaries and catechists a supply of the *Leaflets* published by them, and, perhaps, the *Children's Record* as well, to every new school organized by them, so that it may start as a

Presbyterian Sunday school with all the literature necessary to its thorough equipment. This will be done to the extent of the funds that may then be given to them for this purpose. If Sunday schools and congregations respond liberally this winter the committee may be able to do something in this line next April. The horizon of the committee is widening every year, but nothing that it has yet proposed will commend itself so thoroughly to the sympathy of the church at large as this will. The condition of our finances next April will determine whether we can go forward or not.

Conveners of Presbytery S. S. committees are to be supplied with sample copies of the *Leaflet*, *Quarterly* and *Teachers' Monthly*, and are requested to endeavor, by personal solicitation and otherwise, to introduce them into the S. S. of the bounds. Also to secure an allocation to the committee from such S. S. as distribute their funds at a stated time. They are asked to associate others with them in these matters wherever they deem it desirable. They are particularly urged to "push" the committees S. S. helps.

Col. D. Torrance Fraser and the convener were appointed a committee to draw up the scheme of lessons for next year.

The Scheme of Higher Religious Instruction for 1895,* was next considered, and the following appointments made:

I. BIBLICAL. All Grades.—International S. S. Lessons for 1895. Additional for Seniors.—Stalker's "Life of Christ."

Note.—Diplomas, but not prizes or medals, will be given to those who pass the examination on the "Life of Christ" alone, without taking that on the S. S. Lessons. This is designed to meet the wishes of Bible classes and Christian Endeavor societies who make a special study of Stalker's Handbook.

II. DOCTRINAL. All Grades. Prof. Salmond's Bible Class Primer on the Shorter Catechism, Part. I. (Quest. 1-38). Whyte's Handbook is dropped, and one book prescribed for all grades.

Note.—All Junior or Intermediate candidates, who shall be certified by their pastors or superintendents as having answered correctly every question in the Shorter Catechism at one recitation, will receive a diploma. Names may be sent to the Convener at any time, and the diploma is issued at once.

III. HISTORICAL. Junior and Intermediate Grades.—M'Adam Muir's "The Church of Scotland." Senior Grade.—Dr. Norman Walker's "Scottish Church History."

IV. ESSAY. All Grades.—Theme, "The Life of Christ."

V. TEACHER TRAINING. Same subject continued another year. Text book, Morrison's "Sabbath School Teachers' Handbook." A diploma will be given on each year's examination, instead of a certificate.

The examiners of last year were reappointed, and the Convener and Vice Convener for H. R. I. were appointed a committee to fill vacancies.

The Convener was instructed to send out the blanks for statistics as last year—i. e., one copy direct to every minister and superintendent, and a full supply besides to the Presbytery conveners.

A committee, consisting of Rev. W. J. Martin, Rev. J. W. Rae, Rev. J. G. Stuart, Mr. D. Fotheringham and Mr. R. S. Gourlay, was appointed to examine, revise and publish the new Record books as accepted by the committee, copyright the same and arrange with publisher as to terms.

A communication from Col. D. T. Fraser, of Montreal, who was unable to be present, was read in regard to the optional Primary lesson, which the International Lesson Committee were instructed to issue, and, after careful consideration, the following motion was unanimously carried: "That this committee greatly prefer one uniform International series as at present, and without an optional Primary course. Should such an optional series be published, we will not adopt it or encourage its use." This motion the Convener was instructed to send to Mr. B. F. Jacobs, chairman of the International Executive Committee.

The question of providing lesson helps for French S. schools was considered and it was resolved that the committee have no funds at present for this purpose, but that they will willingly furnish the "copy" if the Board of Board of French Evangelization, or any one else, will translate and publish it.

The Convener was authorized to enquire as to the cost of a suitable map for the *Quarterly* and *Teachers' Monthly*, and, if not too great, to have it inserted in the same. T. F. FOTHERINGHAM, Convener.

* This is not the syllabus on which candidates are examined next January, but that for the examination in January, 1896.