

self-repression. "I die daily," said Paul. Daily dying was for him the secret of daily living. For the law of the wheat-seed is the

law of the human soul—if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Ottawa, Ont.

PREPARATION IN TEACHING

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

The importance of preparation for teaching cannot be overstated. Before the teacher can hope to get the message of any Lesson into the minds of his scholars, he must, by earnest, intelligent, prayerful study and meditation, have made himself master of that message.

But not less important than the teacher's preparation for teaching, is his work of preparation *in* teaching. Having got the Lesson into his own mind and heart, he must, when he stands before his class, begin by preparing the minds and hearts of his scholars to receive the teaching which he has planned.

The teacher will not accomplish the best results unless he gets the class to work with them. If his efforts are to be successful in the highest degree, these must be seconded by their interested activity. Now the teacher should face the fact, that, when the scholars come to the class, their minds will, almost certainly, be filled with other things than those which he wishes to present. It is most unlikely that ideas will be uppermost in the scholars' minds which will help them to grasp the ideas which the teacher desires to introduce. The first and most urgent task, therefore, is to get such ideas uppermost. This is what preparation *in* teaching means. The minds of the scholars are to be prepared for what is about to be taught.

Take, for example, Lesson V., August 3, The Plagues, Ps. 105 : 23-36. Suppose that the teacher has planned to make clear that we should be humble before God. There are various ways in which he might prepare the way for this Lesson. The way which he selects should be chosen in view of the ages and circumstances of his scholars. If he has a class of boys, his line of preparation might be somewhat as follows :

Teacher. "Boys, did you ever know any one who was proud?"

Boys (their attention arrested by the question). "Yes."

Teacher. "George, tell us one reason why boys are sometimes proud."

George. "Because they are strong and good at playing games."

Teacher. "Can you tell of some ways in which this strength might be lost?"

George. "Through sickness or accident."

Teacher. "Can any boy prevent his becoming sick or meeting with an accident?"

George. "No."

Teacher. "Who alone can prevent these things?"

George. "Only God can."

Teacher. "Upon whom, then, does every one depend for health and strength?"

George. "Upon God."

Teacher. "Well, boys, is it right to be proud of anything we have or can do?"

Boys (who have been following the conversation with interest). "No."

Now the teacher may tell the scholars that the Lesson for the day is about a king who was proud of his power and defied God, but who was humbled by the sending of dreadful plagues which showed how great was God's power and how dependent upon Him was even the greatest of earthly kings. After some such preparation as that just indicated, the Lesson story, showing, step by step, how Pharaoh's pride was humbled before God's power, will be followed by the scholars with intelligent interest and leave a definite and enduring impression.

Adviser ; Not Autocrat

By Frank Yeigh, Esq.

A speaker at a Bible Class Conference coined a new and apt phrase when he described the teacher, in a modern Organized Class, as an adviser, instead of an autocrat.