

literature. The genial influence of such visits to the homes of the poor and neglected, or those who are shut out from social intercourse by sickness or isolation, is in itself an unspeakable benefit. It is an exhibition of Christian altruism that overcomes prejudice and wins confidence. It is a proof that the churches are not mere social clubs of the well-to-do, but that they seek to remember the forgotten, to visit the neglected, and to benefit the needy.

The intellectual stimulus of such study upon even sluggish minds is very great. They feel the inspiration of keeping step with the great army of twenty millions, who are every week studying the same chapter of the Bible. They share the advantage of the cheap but valuable literature which is prepared for the explanation of the selected lessons. They are encouraged to give written answers to questions on the text. They acquire a new interest in the greatest classic of all the ages, and many are led to reformed lives.

The domestic effect is scarce less striking. Parents take a new interest in the Bible studies of their children, and feel a new sympathy for the Sunday-school. Fresh themes of thought take the place of mental vacuity. New topics of conversation are suggested instead of trivial gossip. A love of books is fostered. The Sunday-school libraries and books of Bible comment and illustration are drawn upon. These libraries possess great possibilities of popular education. They already far outnumber all the other libraries in the country, and they may be greatly developed in size and scope, and elevated in tone. In the church with which I am most familiar they number 375,000 volumes, and about \$25,000 are expended yearly for Sunday-school literature. Other churches have similar libraries and expenditure. By the Home Department a new opportunity of circulating good reading in the homes of the people is made easy.

It will be seen what large possibilities for the mental development, moral training, and social betterment of the people, for the brightening of dark lives, and the cheering of solitary souls, the Home Department offers. The number reached by this means in our country might be readily doubled by general and systematic co-operation.

These sentences are written to awaken more general sympathy and effort on behalf of this movement. All the church publishing houses, I think, will gladly

furnish leaflets for organizing and conducting this system. Those who are most familiar with it are loudest in its praise. It has been tried in many parts of Canada, from Newfoundland to the Pacific Coast, and needs only to be better known to win heartiest commendation and support.

Home Department Supplies.

Our new Quarterly will be found just the thing to meet the needs of the Home Department. Indeed, it was specially to meet those needs, as well as those of the senior classes in the schools, that it was prepared. We have arranged for a complete supply of the membership cards, forms of application, visitors' list, and the like. The proportion of these require is one of Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, for each member of the Home Department, and only 3 and 5 for each class. The list and prices are as follows:

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| 1. Membership Cards... | \$0 50 per 100 net |
| 2. Quarterly Report Envelopes | 0 40 " " " |
| 3. Canvassers' Report.. | 1 00 " " " |
| 4. Descriptive Leaflet .. | 0 50 " " " |
| 5. Class Record | 0 02 each |
| 6. Senior Lesson Quarterly | 0 05 per quarter |

Studying the Bible at Home

The Home Department of the Sunday-school is one which is gaining every year a greater importance and acceptance in the Sunday-school world. It contains great possibilities in the way of promoting the side of Sunday-school work which sometimes suffers amid the multiplicity of exercises and the miscellaneous interests of a well-organized school, namely, the study of the Bible. In most schools a period of thirty minutes is devoted to the study of the lesson. In a one-hour session no longer time can easily be given. In the home, however, there are no such limitations. If the subject and material are interesting, the study period can be indefinitely extended, even through all the days of the week.—Christian Advocate.

(We are pushing the Home Department in Canada. Send to our Book-Rooms for leaflets.—Ed.)