

schools, and are more popular than ever. The following resolution was recently unanimously adopted by the General Board in relation thereto :

"Resolved, That the Board desires to reiterate its devotion to the International series of lessons for the Sunday-schools. Few things have so drawn the Evangelical Churches together as the fact that in the Old World and the New many millions of scholars and teachers, Sunday after Sunday, for year after year, study the same portions of the Word of God. We earnestly deprecate any attempts to so modify the uniform system as to interfere with the plan of one lesson for the whole school and for all the schools."

SUNDAY-SCHOOL AID FUND.

This fund was established about twenty-three years ago for the purpose of assisting poor schools in remote and destitute neighbourhoods to secure papers and periodicals with which to carry on their work.

In some places the population is so scattered and the people so poor that it would be an impossibility to keep up a Sunday-school without some such help as this.

The principle of self-help is adopted to as great an extent as possible, and schools receiving aid are expected to contribute one-half of the amount of the grant. In this way the schools assisted have contributed during the past four years the sum of \$10,655.66.

In the case of entirely new schools in needy localities an entirely free grant is frequently made for the purpose of giving the workers a fair start.

The collections for this fund should be taken up annually in all our schools. The following is a statement of receipts from this source for the quadrennium :

1895	\$2,712.36
1896	2,747.04
1897	2,556.11
1898	2,699.28
Total.....	\$10,714.79
1890 to 1894	10,362.61
Increase	\$352.18

This fund is very greatly indebted to Mr. Warring Kennedy, who for over twenty years has acted as General Treas-

urer. The business-like manner in which he has prepared the annual statements and the interest he has manifested in the welfare of the fund have been of the greatest value. We trust that the collections in the Sunday-schools for our other connexional funds will not be forgotten.

THE CATECHISM.

We would call attention to the new Catechism which has been specially prepared for use in our schools. The returns show that 27,504 of our scholars are learning the catechism, which is altogether too small a percentage. It is important that our young people be well grounded in the doctrines of their church, and no other means are so likely to accomplish this end as a systematic study of the catechism.

The committee appointed by the last General Conference have spent much time and care in the preparation of this new book, and it is expected it will be introduced into all our schools, memorized and carefully studied every Sabbath.

TRAINED WORKERS.

One of the greatest needs of our Sunday-school work is trained teachers and officers. While teachers in the day-schools are required to undergo a special and thorough preparation for their duties, Sunday-school teachers are in most cases placed in charge of classes without the slightest preparation. This ought not so to be.

Pastors and superintendents are strongly urged to conduct Normal classes wherever practicable. There should at least be a regular weekly meeting of teachers for the study of the lesson. It is most astonishing that out of 3,387 schools only 296 have such a meeting. Many of the difficulties which seem to stand in the way are imaginary, and the real obstacles might be removed by earnest effort.

The work of a Sunday-school teacher is so important that every possible means should be used to reach the highest possible standard of efficiency. We have our fears that the lesson helps in the International Series may lead our teachers to think that the weekly meeting for the study is not a prime necessity, and so result, too often, in mere routine and superficial instruction. The Board would urge upon pastors and superintendents to use their best efforts to correct this evident evil.

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