

THE S. S. AND Y. P. S. BOARD

The space in this Department is at the disposal of the General Assembly's Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies, of which Rev. J. C. Robertson, B.D., and Rev. C. A. Myers, M.A., Confederation Life Building, Toronto, are the Secretaries, and is devoted to the plans, policies and work of the Board.

Learning by Heart

The S.S. and Y.P.S. Board has always advocated that boys and girls should learn by heart selected Bible passages, and for many years has encouraged this work by granting Certificates and Diplomas free of charge to any scholars who had recited correctly the passages selected by the Board for this purpose.

This plan is still continued, and, beginning with 1917, a further step has been taken. The lists are now carefully graded to suit the understanding and the needs of the various ages, and a limited number of verses is prescribed for each year, 25 verses each year for Beginners, 35 for Primaries, and 50 for Juniors and other older scholars.

A small Card Certificate has been prepared to be given to all scholars who have done the required work for any year. These cards will be provided free for any scholars taking up this work, and the regular Certificates and Diplomas will be given as before to the scholars who take all the yearly parts of any complete list.



Juniors and Their Religious Care

This is the title of the second in the series of Five Pamphlets on Religious Education, prepared by the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies. It follows in general the same outline as the first pamphlet which deals with Children and Their Religious Nurture (see article in February number, *TEACHERS MONTHLY*.)

In many respects the religious education of boys and girls from nine to twelve years of age is simply a carrying on of the work of earlier years. This is recognized in the pamphlet, where it is made clear that we must continue to help them to live their best life, and in the doing of this we must continue to provide for them suitable and adequate religious instruction, worship and training, with the best possible organization and equipment for doing this work.

In other ways, however, as well as in years, these Juniors are quite different from younger children. Perhaps in no respect is this change quite so noticeable or so important for the teacher to note as in the distinctive character-

istics of the Juniors. The following paragraphs from the pamphlet will make this clear, and will also explain why training should occupy a relatively larger place in their complete programme:

"Health is almost at its best, activity is greater and more varied than it ever was before, ever will be again, and there is peculiar endurance, vitality and resistance to fatigue. This tremendous energy seeks expression. This characteristic must be reckoned with in the work of the Sunday School, not with a view to repressing it, but to using and directing it."

"Reasons are sought, and the question 'Why?' is characteristic. Literal exactness is demanded. The verbal memory is at its best, hence the importance of memorizing passages of scripture and hymns, etc.; reading is enjoyed, hence the value of providing right books. The reasoning faculty is developing, and full use should be made of it in the Sunday School class."

"They delight in great deeds, in stories of heroes and heroines, and in impersonating those whom they admire. Happy the boys and girls whose parents and teachers in some sense embody their ideals. Loyalty to Christ and the church should be carefully nurtured and regular church attendance secured."

"They respond at once to any appeal of need or suffering that they really see. For this reason they should be given a definite share in the missionary work of the church through the Budget, but the appeal should be made concrete and definite. They should see the need."

Some practical suggestions are therefore given as to ways in which every Junior Sunday School class may be trained to do some definite work for others each year, and a list is added of things which many such classes are now doing. It is not necessary that there should be any additional organization or machinery for this purpose. Other things being equal, the simplest way is always the best way in this as in any other work. The Sunday School class, or all the Junior classes together where there are more than one, could easily have a mid-week meeting for this work of