

power of the Holy Spirit, to guide them in years to come. A final Hymn during the Offertory and the Blessing brought the Service to a close. It occupied about an hour, and the whole of the afternoon work, including School and Church, all came within an hour and three quarters and did not, owing to the variety of employment, prove to be too long.

I find on looking at the titles of the various series of Lessons given during twenty years, that they are as follows:—Old Testament, 95 Lessons; New Testament, 112 Lessons; The Gospels, 52 Lessons; Church Catechism, 48 Lessons; Church Catechism, 47 Lessons; Church Catechism, 8 Lessons; Church Catechism, 16 Lessons; Church Catechism, 50 Lessons; Church Catechism, 43 Lessons; God's Commandments, 13 Lessons; Prayer and Worship, 5 Lessons; Morning Prayer, 29 Lessons; Holy Communion Service, 13 Lessons; Church Principles, 41 Lessons; Pro Deo et Ecclesia, 17 Lessons; History of the Church of England, 11 Lessons; The Great Message, 52 Lessons; Great Truth, 70 Lessons. This gives a Total of 727 different Lessons of which some were repeated after an interval of seven or eight years. During upwards of twenty years therefore one of these Lessons was given five or six times during the week, and at least three or four times in the week to the same child.

It is most important of course that the questions should be framed clearly and in such a way that young people can answer easily and definitely in a few words, and it is also absolutely necessary that there should be a plan, *i.e.* that the successive Lessons may really form a united whole.

The Church Catechism itself gives us some answers of considerable length; and these answers should all be thoroughly learned and expected, with little exception, of all our people; but, in all more extended Catechisms, the work should be arranged, with answers that are short, and to the point, and the Catechist should always be glad to accept any short answer, which truly satisfies the question, and should not enact the very words of the answer given in the Book.

In order to encourage our children, we gave them marks and to the younger ones tickets for attendance, punctuality, lessons and good behaviour; and those who, when

the tickets were called in after each quarter day, had obtained a certain proportion, *i.e.* two-thirds of the possible maximum for the quarter, received an illuminated Card. Those moreover who obtained three illuminated Cards during the four quarters received a Reward at the end of the year, and these Rewards were of a higher or lower value according as the children approached more or less nearly to the possible maximum for the year. The expense was of course considerable, but the whole cost was provided by the proceeds of half-yearly Entertainments given by the children themselves for the amusement of their parents. The whole system was very simple, but it had a very marked effect upon both children and parents, and did much towards maintaining a very high average of attendance and good work.

Now, with such a system going on from year to year, I am sure you must see, my Reverend Brethren, how comparatively easy it was to draw our young people, who were already well instructed, and who, owing to our constant lessons, knew us quite intimately, into our Confirmation Classes, where our plan was as follows:—We distributed, after opening our meetings with prayer, a paper of questions to the members of the Class. To each of these questions I gave full and careful treatment; and then, when with the help of the Holy Spirit, by illustration and argument, I had brought the answer home to my hearers, I would pause, and say "You cannot be expected to write all that has been said, and yet you ought to be able, after what has been said, to write down a good definite answer." And, indeed, in order to shew you how to do this, I will now tell you what I should write, if I had to answer that question on paper." I used then to read again the question, and say, "Now this is the answer, that I should write," and I then gave the answer deliberately and clearly and in the briefest possible form, and repeated it very likely two or three times. There were also kind friends among our Church helpers, who were always ready to assist the Candidates in the preparation of their papers. In this way it was astonishing how intelligently, and how exactly the written answers of the Candidates, who were for the most part the children of the labouring and artisan