

The Board has most industriously promoted its work and plans, not only in individual Sunday Schools and Societies, but in the Presbyteries and Synods and through Presbyterial Institutes and Rallies; Summer Schools (about a score of these were held during the year, reaching fully 500 workers), City Training Institutes, Older Boys' and Girls' Conferences (upwards of 7,500 being reached through these), and in the Theological Colleges and the Deaconess Training Home. In some important instances this work has been cooperation.

The importance of these last named avenues of influence cannot be overstated. The young ministers and the deaconesses are the coming leaders in the Church, and it is vital to their truest success that they should be thoroughly equipped for leadership amongst the young. Some of our Theological Colleges have already made provision for instruction in these lines, to be given by members of their staff. It is to be hoped, in the interest of Religious Education, and in the interest also of the Colleges themselves, that the day is not far distant when instruction in this fundamental department of preparation will form an integral part of the Curriculum. Ministers should be taught to be skilful seed-sowers as well as skilful harvesters.

Figures Which Should Lead to Thought

Statistics may be dry, but they are worth studying. Some figures in the Report on Statistics to the General Assembly are startlingly worth studying, namely, those relating to the additions to the membership of our Church year by year on profession of faith.

The Report is made up of figures gathered from the congregations and mission stations of the whole Church, and in regard to this vital matter it says: "The number coming into full communion during the year is shown to be 16,208, being 1,404 less than in the previous year, and 1,883 less than for 1914."

The absence of so many young men on Overseas service, doubtless accounts in part for these decreases, but when many—alas very many, congregations report no additions at all, or less than a half dozen, it should set all Christian people, and Sunday School teachers especially, a thinking. If every Sunday School teacher, in his or her class, had been diligent and faithful in this matter, what a different result would have been recorded.

The Report of the Sunday School Board says, pointedly: "The goal of all the Board's work is spiritual. Its objective is always the instruction and training of the young in Christ and for his service." This is fundamental; and a very vital part of this religious education is the leading of the children, as well as those of more mature years to a realization of their place in Christ's Kingdom and acknowledgment of the same by public profession of their faith in him at the Lord's Table. No excellence in equipment or organization, or in imparting religious instruction can take the place of this winning of the children to the Lord Jesus and bringing them into full communion with the Church.

It is to the end that this may be the better and the more widely done that we have published the little book by Rev. Robert Pogue mentioned in previous issues of the *TEACHERS MONTHLY*. The little book is entitled "The Children's Guide to Christ and the Lord's Supper." It is a book which *the child will read*, and which in the hands of parents and pastors will, we trust, prove greatly helpful in increasing the number of children who will be led to a conscious knowledge of their Saviour and to their proper place in his Church.

All Women : No Men

It is one of the significant things of the War that the appointments to our foreign field during the past year were all of women: no men. All the men who had offered for the foreign field had entered the military service.

This was entirely creditable to them, indeed, just what might have been expected. The call of humanity which would in ordinary times bid a young man offer himself to foreign mission work, compels him, in these days of War for human rights and liberties, to put himself at the service of king and country.