

Primary Teachers' Department.

Though's for the New Year.

WITH heartiest New Year greetings to all primary teachers who read the BANNER, we ask especial attention to this truth concerning the entrance upon Christian life and opportunity. "Childhood is the open gateway; youth, the closing door; age, the barred entrance." And also to this suggestive word spoken by a little child in Sunday school: "When I get to heaven I am going to reach down and draw my papa up."

WE take great pleasure in presenting to our readers at this time some helpful words on Primary Lesson Construction, by Miss Johnston, who is a teacher of much experience, and with a heart full of love for the work.

Miss Baldwin also furnishes us with an admirable "Preview of the Quarter's Lessons," which will be eagerly welcomed by many teachers.

Points.

IN one hour the Sunday school teacher must correct errors that have come to the child's notice for six days, and help to lay the foundation of Christian character. It is therefore very necessary that the teacher should be in touch with God! One once asked a little boy how he liked his Sunday school teacher. He replied that he did not like her. When asked why, he answered, "Because she never cries." He had seen tears in the eyes of a former teacher, and the Spirit of God, which had filled her eyes with tears, had also moved the hearts of her scholars.

The next point to be taken into account is the manner in which you come before your class. You should come fresh in body, having on previous days made all necessary preparation for the teaching of the lesson. You should come from your knees—from a humble talk with God.

Other suggestions to be borne in mind are the following: Teach the lesson to yourself before you attempt to teach it to your pupils. Secure the attention of your class before you teach the lesson. Always have your scholars tell you what you have told them. Review every lesson. Never forget to make prominent the application of the lesson—the bringing of the central truth to bear upon the life of the scholars.

Take a few moments occasionally to teach the members of your class the peculiar denom-

inational doctrines of your Church. Some schools that are graded make such knowledge a point of promotion. Be encouraged when the way seems dark. You little know how your words are treasured by your scholars.

A man once found himself in the hands of the law. "If I only had done as my Sunday school teacher told me," he said, "I should not be here." Does not this show that a teacher's words follow his scholars?

A Preview of the Quarter's Lessons.

It is generally acknowledged in all grades of Sunday school teaching that the only way to have a successful review at the end of the quarter is to take a comprehensive *preview* of the work before it begins, and find an axis about which the whole may revolve; and nowhere is this more essential than with children of the primary age.

Usually the quarter's Golden Text may be used as a central thought, but the one given for this quarter is difficult for little children. There is an alternative, however, in the Easter text, and that is much better. The lessons of the quarter show how the Church of Jesus Christ grew. A tree might be used as an emblem of growth, and as it is kept before the class week after week something to suggest the various lessons added. Begin with the text, "Jesus said, . . . I am the resurrection and the life," written underneath the tree. Only a *living* Saviour could help the Church to grow. (A suggestion of this kind will be sufficient at the beginning: the truth can be further emphasized in teaching the Easter Lesson.) The lessons on the promise and its fulfillment are followed by the great results told of in Lesson III. How fast the Church grew that day! Jesus gave his friends power to heal sick people, and a lame man who had never walked was helped (IV). The rulers tried to make the Church stop growing (V), but they could not. Then came something that would—and the only thing that could—destroy the Church of Jesus Christ: sin in the lives of those who belonged to it (VI). Just as worms that would kill trees must be destroyed, so that sin had to be blotted out of the Church. (Have nothing referring to that lesson in the preview chart. Its absence will impressively emphasize the truth.) Again the rulers tried to hurt the Church (VII, VIII, and IX).