

a meeting and all the ordinary exercises gone through, greatly to the advantage of the assembled teachers.

QUESTION DRAWER.

There are many subjects on which teachers desire information, which they do not obtain in the discussions and exercises which we have already noticed. For their benefit an exercise bearing the above name is provided. Slips of paper are distributed in the Convention, on which the members write their questions, and at a specified time drop them into a hat or bag. They are then given to a person of the highest knowledge and experience who gives rapid verbal answers to them, and thus the whole Convention gets the benefit. This process is sometimes reversed, and thereby becomes an *answer drawer*; a question being given out to the Convention, answers to which are written, given in and read. The answers are sometimes given verbally, but this practice is not generally desirable, as liable to lead to confusion and frittering away of time.

HIGHER AIMS.

One great want of this day is a vast extension of the Sabbath-School work. There is a loud call on the Church at large and on individuals for action. All the exercises of a Sabbath-School Convention should force the truth on the conscience that there is a pressing want of more work for Jesus. Time is short, souls are perishing, and how can they be saved? By love within and work without. Let the loving heart pour itself out in work,—earnest work, for nothing less than this will now do,—faithful work, persevering work, self-sacrificing work, patient work, prayerful work and loving work for Christ.

The history of the Sabbath-School enterprise, though yet short, shows that it has passed through several important epochs. At first, an instructor of the poor and destitute in the elements of a common education; then a teacher of children in religious truth; next growing into an important instrument of the Church for its own edification, it has now expanded into one of the most extensive and efficient agencies which the Church employs for evangelizing the masses and bringing the knowledge of salvation to the lost. It is not to be wondered at that many of the most earnest and devoted christians of the present day should turn their attention to the means of increasing and extending its efficiency. The formation of Sabbath-School Associations, and the holding of Sabbath-School Conventions afford the most ready means of doing this, and consequently these are rapidly multiplying and increasing in usefulness.

We have not made suggestions as to any special means to be used in forming Associations, or conducting Conventions in Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages and Townships as distinguished from those of a Province. The principles governing them and the exercises to be employed are so much alike in all, that we have not considered it necessary to do so. The differences in practice arising from the differences of circumstances can easily be arranged by the use of ordinary judgment and skill. The great matter in all cases is to obtain a large attendance, a deep interest, rousing exercises and practical means of training teachers to be better teachers than they were before. It is most important that efforts should be used to have Associations formed and Conventions held in every Municipality in the Province where several schools exist or may be organized.

SABBATH SCHOOL INSTITUTES.

Sabbath School Conventions have shown the necessity of some more practicable means of training teachers for their work. The Convention goes a certain length in giving general information, and new and valuable suggestions to teachers; but training of a more direct and systematic nature is necessary, and