

To get, not only boys and girls, young men and young women, but also fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, to read about what Jesus says, think about what Jesus says, believe what Jesus says, and do what Jesus says, is vital. "As the heavens are higher than the earth", so are God's thoughts higher than man's thoughts. Whatever will draw mankind away from the god of this world, and the god of gold, and the god of self, back to Jehovah-Jesus, must be helpful in the life of humanity.

The Home Department calls out and develops a specific class of workers. These consist of the superintendent of the Home Department and his staff of visitors. I speak of them as a specific class, not only because of the specific nature of the work they have in hand, but also because of requirements in them essential to success. A successful worker in the Home Department must be possessed of the missionary spirit. The work itself is really home mission work within the congregation. Whatever promotes the growth of the missionary spirit in the Sabbath School is helpful to its inner life, as well as to its usefulness both at home and abroad.

A larger attendance at the Sabbath School and increase in contributions for the work are also helpful results. The Home Department helps to increase the attendance in the School, by the direct transference of members from it to the School; but the indirect help it gives the School is perhaps even greater. A successful visitor has always a goodly number of parents enrolled. As their interest, through the weekly study of the lesson, deepens, they become more keenly interested in the attendance of their children at the School, and more helpful to them in their lesson study at home.

A properly conducted Home Department is not only self-supporting, so far as funds are concerned, but it is generally able to do some additional work, either within or without the congregation. Last year, from the surplus funds of our Home Department work, the expenses of the Cradle Roll Department were met, and, with a little help from the Sabbath School, we were able to put the Presbyterian Record into each home within

the bounds of the congregation for the present year. At the end of the present year, I think of asking the visitors to get as large a number as possible of regular contributors to the Presbyterian Record in their respective districts. Any surplus funds this year will thus be available for development work in some other direction.

Lower Musquodoboit, N.S.

The Home Department in a City

By Rev. J. A. Wilson, B.A.

[In the TEACHERS MONTHLY for May of this year, Rev. D. Currie, B.D., Perth, Ont., gave an interesting account of the successful working of the Home Department in a country district. Mr. Currie's article has been reprinted in leaflet form, and copies of it may be had from Rev. J. C. Robertson, B.D., General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. In the following article, Mr. Wilson shows that the Home Department may be equally successful in a city congregation.—EDITORS.]

The experience of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, which has one of the largest Home Departments in our church, shows that a Home Department can be successfully carried on in a city congregation.

Two lady delegates whom we sent to the Sabbath School Convention at London three years ago came back fired with enthusiasm. The key-note of that Convention was, Home Department. Meetings of ladies interested were held, and organization took place. Six lady visitors each offered to be responsible for at least six homes. This was but a beginning. With an enthusiastic superintendent and a most painstaking secretary as leaders, the interest soon spread beyond this little band of six. Others were enlisted, new homes were entered, until now we have in connection with our Home Department sixteen faithful visitors, and two hundred and twenty-five homes where the Sabbath School lessons have been introduced for systematic home study.

Perhaps the most helpful feature in the work is the monthly meeting held by the visitors for prayer and conference. At these meetings the lessons for the month are taken up and freely discussed. Nearly every one of the workers speaks or leads in prayer. They are thus prepared to talk intelligently about the lessons as they make their visits to the homes assigned them. At these monthly meetings cases of sickness and need are report-