

The Teachers Monthly

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EDITORIAL

These Fifty Years

The TEACHERS MONTHLY for June goes to press too early to avail itself of the completed statistics for the Sunday School year. Otherwise it would be tempted to make a statistical comparison between our Sunday School work in 1867, at Confederation, and that work in this year 1917, after Confederation has been in force for fifty years. We hope to do this in the July issue.

Meantime Dr. Macgillivray's article on another page will set many of our older workers thinking of that simple yet delightful past. There was little machinery. There was no set lesson system, whether Uniform or Graded. Organization was in its infancy. As for Lesson Helps, they had hardly been thought of. But the work was done, and in large part done effectively. Parents were in earnest. Teachers were in earnest. They had God's Book to teach out of and God's way to teach it in. And, although they had no knowledge of the modern child psychology and pedagogy, their hearts instructed them. Through love they knew the child's needs, and the Word, under their simple—some would call them primitive—methods, they brought the children to the master's feet and into the master's service.

But there is no virtue in discounting new methods, because old methods were, in good measure, effective. It is not a case where "the old is better." Study of the child, and studies and experiments in methods and in organization, have vastly increased the opportunity of the Sunday School to action, and of parents, for effective educational work. It will be a shame for these if our growing children and young men and women have not a better knowledge of the Word and are not brought, in large numbers, into fellowship with the church and into active Christian service. Indeed, it would be a gloomy day for the Christian religion and for our land, this approaching First of July, which marks the semi-jubilee of Confederation, if we did not believe that Christian homes and the Christian churches in Canada were not even more desirous at the end of this half century of national life than they were at its beginning, that the young should all be "taught of God," and that the methods and equipment for such teaching were such as were likely to leaven the minds of the whole rising generation amongst us with Christian truth, and prepare them for a better citizenship than even this Christian country yet knows.

A New Book

PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS exists for the good of our churches, Sunday Schools and young people. It is the church's medium of providing them with all that is new and best for religious instruction and for equipment. This month of June will be memorable for the issuing by the PUBLICATIONS of an entirely novel little booklet for children.

The booklet for children will be *The Children's Guide to Christ and to the Lord's Supper*. The writer is Rev. Robert Pogue, whose manual for communicants, under the title, *The Lord's Supper*, is widely known. The new booklet is for younger children. It takes them by the hand, as it were, and very gently and very wisely leads them to the blessed Saviour and master