

mies away up the river. Let us do our best by Tom and Dick, who are pretty regular in their places, but let us not forget that we have a responsibility, too, to Harry, who three weeks out of four is absent, both in body and spirit.

These are platitudes, you say. I acknowledge it. Please let me repeat them. There is a certain class of little girls, we will say. Five or six of them attend regularly; they are intelligent and enthusiastic, they like the school and love their teacher, and she rejoices in them, as she would be very ungrateful not to do. But she is a happy teacher if, when she looks at her class roll, she does not find the names of two or three scholars who are conspicuous by their absence. Such little straying sheep belong in the fold, and she must answer for them to the head Shepherd. Shall she not echo His own words, "Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice"?

How are we to win these indifferent and irregular scholars? It is no holiday job. I have no facile remedy to offer, and any suggestion from me must be made in the spirit of meekness, considering myself and how desperately discouraged I, too, often am in just this matter. What I wish to do is to play the part of interviewer, and let others share with me the benefit of a few sentences from an energetic primary teacher who has been laying out her plans for the year.

"I have fifty scholars," she said, "or rather, fifty names on my roll. That means fifty families; not quite so many, either, for some of the children are brothers and sisters, but they all make a big parish for one woman. You see, I mean to consider those families as my special field. I am going to see them and get acquainted and try to help them."

She did not enlarge on the subject. What she said was thrown into our talk by way of explaining some position, and she has no doubt forgotten that she told me anything about it; but I have been wondering what the result would be if all Sunday-school teachers took the same "field" and put the honest, persistent labour upon it that this teacher will. Do we know the fathers and mothers of our scholars, their brothers and sisters and homes? Do we follow them up during the week in any practical, actual way? Never mind what our theories may be; what is our practice? When have we gone the rounds of our class in

a pleasant, friendly, profitable visit to each?

This, again, is commonplace. But there was something novel in the clean-cut, business-like shape in which my primary teacher had the idea in her mind. And I take it that in these days of "methods" there can be few found better suited to raise our school averages than this very simple one.

Let us set before us the ideal of an average attendance of the whole class, and let us put as a limit to our efforts after that ideal the "seventy times seven" of our Lord.

Points for Teaching.

Pray while you teach.

Be sure and be thorough.

Make your teaching vivid and practical.

Make the opening words of each lesson impressive.

Know what answer you desire before asking a question.

Teach many texts of Scripture and verses of beautiful hymns.

When the scholar has not learned, the teacher has not taught.

Come before your class every Sunday with a message for them.

It gives confidence to know that you know what you are teaching.

Make the lesson so short and simple that you will have ample time for review.

Correct mistakes kindly; sometimes praise where questions are answered correctly.

Study the lesson carefully, but study no less diligently the children whom you teach.

The primary teacher should above all things teach the children to love God and hate sin.—Our Young Folks.

One of our American exchanges announces a Harmony of the Gospels, which it declares essential for a comprehension of the Sunday-school lessons. Price, \$1.50. Withrow's Harmony sells for just one-third that price. One teacher ordered twenty copies for use in the school, another a larger number, and one gentleman ordered one hundred and thirty copies for gifts to his Bible-class. Agents wanted in every school. Special discounts offered. Address, Rev. Dr. Withrow, Toronto.