

of its own families. The town was divided into sections, and a superintendent and suitable permanent visitors were appointed over the work. Another canvass was next made of all our families, with the object of getting:

1. As many as possible, both old and young, to attend the regular Sunday-school session.

2. To secure any remaining members of family to take up the home study of the lesson.

The results far exceeded our expectations, for after appointing visitors to canvass our people in the country, we had as a result of our first effort a membership of 198.

This number has increased, over and above deaths, removals, and the few who have given up the study, from 15 to 20 each year, until we have a membership to-day of 310. Our visitors have done splendid pastoral work in the homes, as they go around at the beginning of each quarter gathering up cards and envelopes used, and supplying lesson helps and envelopes for the new quarter. From the very beginning, this work has more than sustained itself financially.

— We look upon the Home Department

Then, in the selection of officers and visitors, great care should be exercised. For a superintendent, choose a Christian with good executive ability, who will carefully map out the work, inspiring his visitors with a true sense of the greatness and value of the task allotted to them, and also committing fully to them the responsibility and credit of success; at the same time keeping an eye over all the work in order to detect any weakness or neglect.

In a visitor there should be above all else Christian faithfulness, sincere love for the work, tact in going into the homes, and sympathy with those committed to her care.

THE CRADLE ROLL.

BY MR. G. M. LEE.

THIS is perhaps the latest addition to the now somewhat complicated machinery of the modern Sabbath-school. It is founded largely on sentiment, as are many of the world's other activities. It is for children too young to attend the primary department of the

cured from the Book Room or the Provincial S.S. Association at about five cents per set), and appoint a Cradle Roll superintendent, preferably the primary superintendent, or some one connected with that department.

2. Let the superintendents of the school and primary department make a clear statement of the plan to the scholars in main school and primary department, and ask the pastor to do likewise to the parents from the pulpit.

3. Ask all those having babies in their home, or knowing of babies in their neighbors' homes, to hold up their hands, and after the session hand to each of these a circular letter, explaining the plan, and application card to take to the parents in these homes.

4. Prepare the roll on which to record names, which may be in shape of a map, to hang on the wall of the primary room, or preferably an index book, ruled in columns to show baby's name, address, parents' names and address, birthday, date of enrolment, death, or transfer to primary department.

5. On return of application card duly filled out, enter name, etc., on your roll,



CRADLE ROLL OF A SUNDAY-SCHOOL IN FORRESTON, ILLINOIS.

as a very necessary department of our or any Sabbath school, holding strongly the belief that no school can do its best work for Christ and the Church without it. Our Home Department has proved helpful to every part of our church's work. For instance, there are those who are active workers in our church to-day who seldom, if ever, attend church at all, until they took up the study of the Bible lesson at home. One of our business men (not a member of the church) said he had studied the Bible more since joining the Home Department than he had ever done in his life before.

It has been especially helpful to our Sabbath-school.

1. By calling attention to, and creating a greater interest in school matters, among the older portion of the congregation.

2. By increasing the attendance at the regular Sabbath-school session.

3. By increasing the home study of the lesson among the scholars, parents and children preparing it together.

In organizing a Home Department it is necessary to be thorough in the first canvass of the people, laying the foundations as broad and deep as possible.

school, and has been rightly characterized as a three-fold cord, uniting the mother, baby, and teacher in a common interest.

What its full results will be is difficult to calculate. It cannot be productive of bad, but must be of more or less good. That good will be in exact proportion as the opportunity for personal work is improved. If the motive is simply to increase the number of scholars in the school, very little good may be expected; but if Christian workers realize this unusual means of access to home life and the influence that may result, then its possibilities are very great, especially if the homes are those without Christ.

The Cradle Roll may be used in both city and country schools, and does not depend on equipment, as it does on consecrated work, to make it a success. It is an excellent method of securing the child alone, but its parents as well, for the Church and Christ.

HOW TO ORGANIZE IT.

1. Purchase a sufficient number of (1) Application Cards, (2) Enrolment Cards, or Certificates, (3) Birthday Cards (the number will vary according to the size of your church and school, and can be pro-

and send enrolment card or certificate to parents of child.

HOW TO MAINTAIN IT.

1. As soon as baby's name is secured, that home should be visited, and frequent visits made thereto, and special visits in the case of death, if the whole object of the Cradle Roll Department is kept constantly in view.

2. In the primary class the Cradle Roll children should be remembered in prayer each Sunday, while the birthdays of these babies should be celebrated in the same manner as the eventual day is recognized for the other children.

3. Have both mother and baby present on such occasions, if possible, and present to the mother, or if not present send to her, a birthday card (where convenient a flower, and wishes for many happy returns may also be sent), showing that her baby is remembered.

4. Send invitations to the parents for the festivals and entertainments of the school. Many schools also send the picture card and paper used in the primary department to the cradle-roll mothers, finding it an additional means of uniting the two departments.