

Higher Religious Instruction.

HOW TO USE THE "HOME STUDY LEAFLET."

The aim of the *Home Study Leaflet* is, as its name implies, to promote the home study of the lesson. It cannot do this unless both teachers and parents take a little trouble to use it effectively. Numerous testimonies come to us of the marked improvement in knowledge of the lesson before coming to the class which has resulted from its faithful use, and in almost every case in which the expected results have not been attained the teachers have failed to use the means which it has placed in their hands. We assume that all earnest superintendents and teachers are willing to persist patiently in a method of work if they are hopeful of achieving by it more effectually the end of S. S. instruction, namely, a better knowledge of the Word of God.

Any teacher may use the *Leaflet* with the best results even if no other in the school has adopted it. He must, however, shew the scholars that he esteems it very highly and attaches great importance to receiving the answers regularly and neatly written. He should conscientiously take, or send, it to absent scholars, and always insist upon receiving "excuses" from absentees. He should take the answers home, mark their respective values very carefully, note them in his class register, and comment upon them in an encouraging way next Sabbath. He should speak of them when calling upon the parents of his scholars, refer to the answers given by their children, and awaken their interest and sympathy. At the end of the quarter some small recognition, such as a bright card with a note on the back of it stating why it was given, should be presented to all who have obtained 50% of the total marks for the three months. He should also urge those who have shewn interest and ability to enter for the Quarterly Examination of the scheme of *Higher Religious Instruction*. (See Syllabus under Department I).

The best results, however, will be attained when the school as a whole adopts the *Leaflet* as part of its organized work. The superintendent, or some one specially appointed, should oversee the distribution of the *Leaflets*, their collection, the record of marks, announcement of these to the school, and award of "Merit cards" to those who have shewn diligence. A "Home Study" secretary would fill a very important post in a well appointed school. Frequent references should be made from the desk to questions and answers so as to keep up the enthusiasm and induce the less enterprising to take part.

The following plan has been followed with excellent results. A committee of two was appointed (changed quarterly) to read and value the answers from the whole school. Each teacher was furnished with a large and strong envelope, marked with his name and the number of his class, into which he put all the *Leaflets* handed in by his scholars. These class envelopes were handed to the examining committee who reported next Sabbath and the results were read out from the desk. At first only the brightest scholars and the most active teachers will take part but gradually the whole school will be drawn into the plan if a few are wise and persistent in their efforts.

When the *Home Study Leaflet* was first issued three years ago very few lesson helps contained questions for written answers, now no good series is without them. But we claim for the "*Home Study*" series a superiority over all others in *cheapness*,—the Westminster Lesson Leaf costs 5 cents and the Westminster Question Leaf 20 cents, making 25 cents for what we