

Young People's Societies.

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S "PLAN OF STUDY."

CONDUCTED BY THE REV. R. D. FRASER, CONVENER.

The Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study for 1898 bear the general title, "Some Books, Fields, and Men," and are so arranged as to be adapted to the various sorts of Young People's Societies. They are set down for the second weekly meeting of each month, and the Topic is treated in the Record of the month preceding, in order that Societies may have the materials for the meeting on hand well in advance.

Attention is drawn to the fact that a specially prepared Topic Card for Presbyterian Y.P.S.C.E.'S is published by the "Record" at 60 cents per 100. Less than fifty, one cent each. It is issued by arrangement with the Assembly's Committee and embraces the "Uniform" Topics, the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study, and the Questions on the Shorter Catechism for each meeting throughout the year.

A Booklet containing the same matter and, in addition, Daily Readings for the whole year, is also ready, at \$1.00 per 100. Less than fifty, one and a half cents each. Orders for the Topic Cards or Booklets should be sent to Rev. E. Scott, Y.M.C.A. Building, Montreal.

Topic for the Week beginning March 13th.

THE SHORTER CATECHISM.

Its Maker, Merits, and Influence. Deut. 6: 1-25.

LITERATURE.

On the Westminster Assembly.—

The various Encyclopedias, such as the Britannica, Schaff-Herzog, Chambers, Eadie's (Ecclesiastical); Mitchell's History of the Westminster Assembly, Aiton's Life and Times of Alexander Henderson, Dean Stanley's Memorials of Westminster Abbey, Beattie's Presbyterian Standards, Article on Westminster Assembly in Record for April 1896.

On Shorter Catechism:—

Dr. Whyte's Handbook; Prof Salmond's Primer.

Patterson on the Shorter Catechism.

Nicholson's Value of the Shorter Catechism (Pres. Board.)

Points For The Programme.

Following the order of the Topic as announced above.

1. Makers:—

A short sketch of the Westminster Assembly, some of its chief members, for example,—Sciden, Tuckney, Rutherford, Henderson, Gillespie.

2. Merits:—

As a specimen of good English;
As a piece of logic;
As a well balanced statement of doctrine and practice;
Brief outline of its contents;
A few papers on some of the more important questions.

3. Influence:—

The connection between the study of the Catechism and the stalwart character of Presbyterianism and Presbyterians.

Testimonies as to its value; for example, —in the article of Principal McRae. The minister, elders, Sabbath School teachers, and others, would likely give valuable testimony from personal experience.

The probable effect of the study of the Catechism in the Young Peoples' Societies.

PARAGRAPHS.

1. Our church recognizes very fully the importance of grounding the young in this admirable little manual of doctrine and duty. The course in the Sabbath School provides for the recitation of one-third of the Catechism each year, and diplomas are given by the Sabbath School Committee, under the authority of the Moderator of Assembly, to all who may repeat the whole Catechism at once. The question learned in the Sabbath School is repeated the same week in the Young People's Societies, and it is recommended that five minutes of each meeting be given to an address or paper upon some leading point in the question.

When the Catechism was introduced into the Young People's Societies last year, there was fear in some quarters lest it might be found too heavy. The fear was groundless. It has been taken hold of very widely, and in many instances enthusiastically; and the five minutes devoted to its study has proved to be not the least interesting or profitable part of the meeting.