

The Sunday School

Practical Pointers.

A PAINSTAKING secretary is the superintendent's best ally.

MAKE your Sunday-school wagon pass to one side of the ruts.

SCHOLAR, do you pray every day for your teacher and your superintendent?

LET the recurring, changing seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter come to you as prompters to budding, blossoming, garnering, and feasting.

GIRLS' classes are the lazy teacher's refuge. To rightly manage a class of boys requires grit, grace, and gumption, and of these three the last is not least.

IT IS none too early to begin planning for a special Easter service in your school. Improve the occasion offered by the great church festivals to impress their value and importance upon the scholars.

PRAYING for the members of your class by name each day is one of the best ways of reaching their hearts. You cannot pray for a person long before you begin to love him, and when you love him, you will agonize until he is won for the Saviour.

THE Methodist Sunday-school, of Mitchell, Ont., with a membership in the main school of four hundred, has a Home Department of two hundred members. Well done! Mr. Fred. Holtby is the energetic superintendent of this wide-awake school.

SPECIAL attention should be paid to the adult department of the school. Building a wall of fathers and mothers about the boys and girls is the best way to stop the leak that occurs in nearly every school when scholars reach the age of sixteen and eighteen.

SOME schools consider it very old-fogyish to sing such hymns as "Jesus, lover of my soul," "Rock of ages," "When I survey the wondrous cross," "Oh, could I speak the matchless worth," and others of the grand harmonies which are the priceless heritage of the church universal. This is a great mistake. The up-to-date school, with its bright, inspiring song service, will not neglect the hymn-classics, but will weave one or more of them into the web of every service.

THE FOLLOWING is a good plan to get your scholars interested in studying the lesson at home: Occasionally adopt the week beforehand, a programme of exercises. Give to each scholar something to do. Let one look up the *persons* of the lesson; another, the *places*; another, the *doctrines*; another, the *duties*;

another, the *geography*, with a simple outline map; another, a Bible story or an illustration bearing on the lesson. A brief composition or two on the lesson is also helpful.

New Books.

THE wide-awake Sunday-school worker is always on the lookout for helpful material in both papers and books; and one of the greatest encouragements of our day is the abundance of this material. The best and brightest minds in the world are giving time and thought to the Sunday-school movement, and offering their rich products to all who will partake.

There have been four books recently issued to which we direct special attention. The first is "Sunday School Success" (F. H. Revell Co., Toronto), written by Prof. Amos R. Wells. Then there are: "How to Make the Sunday School Go" (Eaton & Mains, New York), by A. T. Brewer, of Cleveland; "Hints on Bible Study" (the *S. S. Times*, Philadelphia), by H. C. Trumbull, Bishop Vincent, and others; and "Guide Boards for Teachers" (the *S. S. Times*, Philadelphia), by Mr. W. H. Hall (illustrated). Each one of these books is a gem, and all should be read carefully by those *S. S.* workers who are anxious to keep in the front rank.

Senior and Adult Classes.

Some Difficulties in Management of Adult Classes.

1. Adults do not appreciate Bible study.
2. Adults are afraid to expose their ignorance of the Bible.
3. The Sunday-school is too commonly spoken of as a "children's institution"; thus adults are repelled.
4. Incompetent teachers.
5. Lack of careful preparation by teachers who otherwise would be competent.
6. Failure to make practical, pointed application of the truth to every-day needs of class.
7. Lack of a deep, devotional spirit.
8. Lack of personal sympathy between teachers and scholars.
9. Diversity of taste and of ability among scholars.
10. Irregularity in attendance.
11. Demands made upon class for "supply teachers."

How to Overcome these Difficulties.

1. The secret of successful teaching is the *teacher's individuality*—the teacher must in every respect be the best that it is possible to be.
2. Thorough preparation of the lesson.
3. Lay hold of *one vital truth* in each lesson.