

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF PORTLAND

Is the modern Sunday-school a mere plaything for groups of iron-clad old theological squabblers and a few good but rather feeble-minded young persons? Or has the popular idea of the institution become conventionalized into a stock creation having no more truth in it than the stage Irishman, the maiden aunt in the play, or the minister who periodically wins the hatred or excites the derision of the gallery? Much truth has been made recently in popular magazine pages over the Sunday-schools of the past, interviewed with stock criticisms also of recent methods. The old library books, the old songs, the old teaching, may become the subject of cheap wit or of just criticism now, or they may be remembered with an affectionate smile, just as a successful man of today may think of the crude ways of the little old cabin of his boyhood. There is a difference in the smiles. It is true that the elderly person can remember, for instance, that the little thin cumber-covered books out of the little old home-made pine case which stood in the corner behind the big

ary spirit, hand in hand with earnest Bible study. As an outgrowth, the mission school started ten or more years ago up on Front street in South Portland, by Mr. L. G. Smith, the present superintendent, has been lovingly fostered. In later years through the care of Mr. W. D. Scott, and now is to have a beautiful new chapter. A letter from a young man who gratefully remembers that mission school was read to the school lately and listened to with loving interest. General missionary information is attractively placed before the school once a month. A boy student in one of the mission schools in India is supported by the school. Perhaps the most important of the many fine Bible classes is the one led by the pastor, Rev. E. L. House, in a comprehensive view of the Bible.

Library Is Neglected.

Some Sunday Schools have dropped their library work entirely. An account of the great abundance of literature provided through secular channels. Others are being enlarged, re-modelled and classified, and are winning their readers intelligently one more, after a period of discouragement. At the First Congregational school the young librarian in his lonesome nook shows you with a deprecating smile the books that are "read to rags." "Fanny" books, and "Little Libby Lee" order. He has no catalogue. There seems to be no missionary literature in evidence, no fresh practical books of instruction for teachers. Some splendid volumes of fiction occupy neglected shelves: Bulwer, Scott, Dickens, Barrie, George MacDonald, complete. The "Bride of the Gods," "The Seats of the Mighty," "Eccle Homo," "The Makers of Florence," all delightful volumes. How strange that the school cannot find a method to get these before some one who needs them! The librarian thought the city library had lessened the need of keeping these books; not half a dozen came to take out a book, even of the "read to rags" kind. The library some how seems dropping through loosened fingers.

Do the children slip trash now, of the "Golden Crowns" and "Glittering Palms" order? In this school the hymns sung are not sweetly tuneful, but the words are uplifting, in such hymns as "Lead, Kindly Light," "Sun of My Soul, Thou Savior Dear," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Rock of Ages," "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." In passing, it may be added that this is true of every representative school in Portland.

Time Is Precious.

Many Sunday schools are taking on more and more the character of Bible institutes for advanced Bible study, but Mr. S. G. Smith, superintendent of this school during 1903, emphatically presents his work as primarily for boys and girls.

The elderly person well remembers the horrors of a hot summer Sunday in the old-fashioned Sunday school, when the honored visitor appeared and addressed the children at his own sweet will. He never knew how to stop, and no one else could stop him. That is changed now. The honored visitor is received just as he would be in one of the big, practical systematic secular schools. He may, with the superintendent or one of his assistants, as a side glance at the different classes at work, but even here he must not interrupt. He does not address the school unless by previous invitation, for some definite purpose, and then his time is limited with a snap. No grateful wanderer need apply.

First Baptist.

One of the most thoroughly graded, business-like and well appointed schools in this city is the First Baptist Sunday school with its membership of 350, not including officers. During recitation time the large, well-lighted assembly room is vacated, except perhaps by the alert superintendent, Mr. J. G. Malone, whose time is usually filled up to the brim with conferences, with preparing some bulletin or other on the wide-awake-looking blackboard, visiting the classes, or looking after some details of the library work. The last mentioned department of this school is particularly admirable. It occupies a large bright room, where there are ample desks and comfortable chairs for secretaries, also a counter and vestibule for convenience of scholars taking out books. A definite sum from the school contributions is set aside each month to constitute the library fund. A committee of three persons makes a business of constant inspection of new books to be added to the library, and whenever an addition is made, some member of the committee presents such books to the school in a brief, attractive analysis. Teachers are expected to keep in touch with the literary material put into the scholars' hands. If a flood of literature is bound to reach the children, so much the more is it the business of the Sunday school to see that they get the right kind at the right time. It is the theory of these First Baptist people. A complete catalogue of the books in their library, constantly revised, hangs in bulletin form near the library door.

Classes Are Graded.

The classes of this school are graded as kindergarten, primary, intermediate, junior and senior, a classification mainly adopted by every large Sunday school in the city. The room devoted to the kindergarten department is a pleasant thing to look at in every way. A soft carpet covers the floor. A pleasant fire-place occupies one corner. Low tables invite little fingers to fashion some charming thing which will help to fasten a lovely lesson where it belongs. Pleasant light streams through a row of stained glass windows. On the teacher's low desk is a crystal jar for birth-plate presents. Blackboards, choice pictures, the organ, and secretary's desk are all in place.

The primary department, in charge of Mrs. McDonald, has an apartment to itself with plenty of room for work suitable to young children without disturbing other classes. The junior and intermediate classes are also at work

by themselves. How different all this from the old-fashioned babel of Sunday school scholars all reading their lessons at one time in the same room!

Bible Work.

A veritable Bible Institute seems this school as you make the tour of the bright and comfortable recitation room. Bible classes are gathered around study tables, with Bibles, reference books and maps. Important classes are the men's Bible class, taught by the pastor, Rev. A. A. Coats; a class of young men and women using one of the thorough courses in use by the Y. M. C. A., also an earnest class of young women, who contribute the entire support of Nagana, a native Bible woman in India, while another class has assumed the care of Hanna, a Bible woman who has begun to share Nagana's work. With all its exceptional facilities, Mr. Malone thinks the school needs still better equipment, and that a wise church should know that the equipment of a live Sunday school never will "stay put."

Three branch schools are supported by the First Baptist Sunday school. There were 27 conversions in the home school in the past year.

The country visitor to city Sunday schools always remark upon the large proportion of men at work. A roll call of all the officers and teachers of the score of schools or more would present names of a great number of the most prominent and successful business men in the city.

At the Grace M. E. church the school has a noticeably large proportion of young men, even for the city. Mr. Gill,



Nogana, Bible Woman in India, Supported by Mrs. Malone's Bible Class of Young Women of the Baptist Sunday School of Portland.

a wholesome atmosphere, in "My Dogs in the Northland," by E. E. Young; "Through Russian Snows," by Henry; "Mountain Climbing," by four great mountain climbers. Of animal books here are splendid ones by Burroughs, Kipling and Seton-Thompson. No boy could afford to miss Parson's "Captains of Industry" with its stories of such heroes as Michael Baslin, cannon founder; James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer; Joseph Whitworth, tool-maker, and inventor of great guns. Of books on athletics a notable one by D. A. Sargent, M. D. With all the rest, "The Schonberg Cotta Family" still holds a place; also "Tom Brown at Oxford," "Two Years Before the Mast," "Westward, Ho!" and the "Children of Westminster Abbey," by Rose Kingsley, the daughter of Canon Kingsley.

Many Missionary Books.

In a library provided by the school in a great missionary church, important missionary literature should be found, and it is here, including "The Laws of North Siam," "Leavening the Nation," a history of American home missions, biographies of David Livingstone, General Gordon, Robert Moffat, and a long line of other heroes. A warmly evangelistic church should furnish literary commentaries and devotional literature, and it is here. As representative may be mentioned "Imago Christi" by Dr. James Stuart; "Rocks Monday Lectures," by Joseph Cook; "The Light of the World," by Phillips Brooks.

This Sunday school began conservatively, with the gathering of the children of families of the church into the beautiful chapel for their religious exercises and Bible lessons. All the appointments of the place were given, and have today, a cloister-like grace. Soft light falls rather too dimly through lovely stained glass windows; velvet carpets give back a sound of footsteps. Fine traits of two great pastors of the church in bygone years, Rev. A. L. Lindsley, D. D., and Rev. Arthur A. Brown, D. D., look down from an honored place on the walls. And in those names we are helped to find the key to the health of this Sunday school, emphatically missionary ideals. From the babies in the kindergarten to the last member of the oldest Bible class, every one believes in following the Great Command.

Largest School on Coast.

With a membership of 619, not including the large home department, this school has the largest number in attendance on the Pacific coast and has far outgrown the decorous seating in the beautiful chapel for opening exercises. The primary department, in charge of that splendid primary teacher, Miss Jennie Smith, fills a large apartment in the basement, sometimes to overflowing. The kindergarten babies are entertained off in their nook with an enchanting teacher; the older ones after the opening exercises set their own little chairs in cosy circles.

Musical of the piano, motion songs that meet the joy and buoyancy of birds, little prayers in concert over birthday gifts, tender stories from the Bible, wisely chosen and sweetly told, tact and gentleness, all are here.

It is a far call, from the time when wretched little beings wedged in between the older ones, sat on high, hard seats, in the old-fashioned Sunday school. Do they know where their gifts go? Ask the children. They can tell of all the beautiful things the pennies do, beginning with Christmas time in Portland.

These primary children have a special curriculum of things to learn for promotion. So also have they in the intermediate department, in charge of Miss Ella McBride, another fine teacher from the city's public schools. Much of the Bible is memorized in this course.

The auditorium of the church, the parlors, the galleries, are all occupied by Bible classes during recitation time. Poor places for suitable equipments, yet with the Bible and devotion and determination, the lessons are learned, and the great school continues to grow. In the senior department, which occupies the main chapel, lesson leaflets have been discarded. Notes are provided, but the lesson text must be found in the Bibles.

The home department, led by Mrs. E. T. Allen, has a membership of 125, making a grand total of 744. The young women's Bible class, taught by Mrs. R. K. Warren, has a larger average attendance than any similar class on the coast, about 100 being present every Sunday. It has many splendid institutional features, but its central thought and purpose is purely evangelistic. This class has given within the past three years two of its members as volunteers to missionary service. The first, Mrs. Eva Ballis Douglas, is at the front, in Persia. The second, Miss Elizabeth Coe, will soon leave her position in the public schools to take up preparatory study. Out of 56 additions to the church on profession of faith in the year ending March, 1903, there were 49 who came from the Sunday school.

This Sunday school was the first in Portland to substitute Christmas giving for the old fashion of Christmas receiving. No gala evening could be more joyous and beautiful than the two Christmas anniversaries. It has so celebrated, the unique exercises being something long to be remembered.

The instruction of this school on missionary subjects is systematic and thorough, and the giving is done intelligently and freely. It fosters two fine branch schools in suburbs of the city. The genial superintendent of the home school is Dr. C. R. Templeton; assistants, Mr. A. A. Morse, Miss M. E. Smith.

Kassalo Congregational.

Speaking of the return to the study of the Bible text itself, discarding leaflets, a most delightful plan is in use by the Winchester Bible class of Kassalo-Street Congregational church. Led by their pastor, Rev. Charles E. Chase, the Christmas anniversary it has so celebrated, the unique exercises being something long to be remembered.

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Good Working Library.

In the field of general literature there is good fiction: "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush," "Lovey Mary," "Black Rock," "The Sky Pilot," besides books by Mary E. Wilkins, Kate D. Wiggin, Mary Halleck Foote, Nora Perry, Susan Coolidge, Miss Alcott, "Ouida" (in "A Dog of Flanders"), Edward Everett Hale, Mary Mapes Dodge, Sarah Orne Jewell, Jack London. The stories of adventure have

This class meets every other Tuesday evening with the pastor, and on every Sunday with the Sunday school. It has pleasant social features, and always closes before vacation with a banquet and reception.

First Methodist.

Perhaps no church in the city has better ground for a working "plant" than Taylor-Street M. E. church. The splendid rolling base which greets the ear of the visitor on entering the assembly room in the midst of a song tells of a good, strong element of young men in the school, which is just as it should be, considering where the church stands. There is here an unusually large proportion of men and women in Bible classes, who look as if they must be earnest, busy, capable people every day in the week. Then, again, the classes have swarmed out of the Sunday school assembly room into the auditorium. The rear gallery is occupied by a notable class of young men, taught by Mrs. J. Q. Williams. This class is well organized, and judging from past success, may move rapidly up to the 100-mark of membership. A fine social feature in



J. G. MALONE, Superintendent First Baptist Sunday School.

the reception to class and friends held once a month in the homes of the members, a delightful recent occasion being the Christmas-tree reception given by this class to two of the young women's classes.

This school has 350 members, not including the home department. A special effort is being made to gather in all children in the surrounding blocks of this downtown neighborhood. The kindergarten department, in charge of Mrs. B. N. Rankin, is truly kindergarten in methods, the sand-table and other attractive appliances being in evidence. The cradle roll wins many children to the school, incidentally the parents, often!

The sum of \$300 was given by the school to missions last year. In Taylor-Street school there is unusually good singing at opening assemblies, led by the piano. The piano? Why not? All the representative schools use the piano. Youth is youth, and needs bright, clear music. Perhaps the seating of the school, in democratic chairs, close together, partly accounts for the good chorus singing.

This school has no library at all, but uses Sunday school periodicals plentifully. The home department is being splendidly worked. It has a membership of 125, divided into 12 classes, superintended by 12 visitors, and is proving a fine evangelistic agency, aiding the pastor greatly.

The superintendent is Mrs. E. Lee Paget, with Professor Davis of the Portland High school as assistant superintendent and Miss Anna Farrell, woman superintendent.

Mr. Paget's great desire is for "more room and better appliances." There is devotion in plenty, and much of the teaching force is from the best talent in the city. But the workman must have tools.

"With Taylor-Street church and Sunday school stay here or move uptown?"

"We mean to stay where we are," says Mr. Paget, with earnestness. "I, for one, am devoted to the work here. It is a great field. I have to come many miles every Sunday to get here, but I have done it for several years, and I love the work and shall keep on."

One secret of the splendid success of the St. David's Episcopal Sunday school can be found in the teachers' meeting conducted every week by the rector, Dr. George E. Van Waters, for Bible study and comparison of methods and experience. Of the Sunday school Mr. Fred S. West is superintendent and Dr. F. C. Sellwood assistant superintendent. In this school, not one of the largest, but certainly one of the most progressive in the city, a noteworthy feature is the fine body of influential young business men actively at work.

The kindergarten department, in charge of Miss Ada Brown and Miss Viola Jamieson, has from 50 to 60 members, and out of this charming class has grown a thriving industrial school for girls, taught by Miss Brown, Miss Jamieson and Mrs. Fred S. West. All instruction in the school is entirely free, materials also being furnished, and the articles made in the school given to the pupils who have made them. The school meets every Saturday afternoon in the parish house.

The library supported by this school is liberally supplied with good fresh literature, and what is important, kept in the hands of the scholars by the efficient secretaries, Mr. C. Bell and Mr. Royal.

Educated benevolence is characteristic of the school, which has given \$150 to missions in the past year, besides a large amount to local philanthropies, including from \$10 to \$50 each year to hospitals.

A young men's Bible class is taught by Mr. H. C. Ferris and Bible classes for young ladies are led by Mrs. F. E. West and Miss Viola Sellwood.

LUCY VAN TRESS.

FADE AND FANCIES.

Bands and sashes play an important part on many toffs.

Curious flat gold purses, combining also card cases, are carried.

Cords and tassels, like braids, still continue to be a favorite trimming.

The old velvet reticula, with monogram and mount of gold or silver, is in vogue once again.

Afternoon reception frocks appear to be made in all the lighter and softly clinging fabrics.

Attractive cravats for out-of-door wear are made out of a combination of fur and pleated chiffon.

Mousseline and shifon velvets are the fabrics that are at the moment delighting Parisian fashioning hearts.

Confusing and sedas brushes will slip on the sides and only slightly waver.

Preferred Book Cases Goods. Allen & Lewis' Best Brand.



MR. B. LEE PAGET, Superintendent of Taylor Street M. E. Sunday School.

stove had a mouldy smell, and one of them was a horribly decorated with a coarse wood-cut of the car of Juggernaut, its awful wheels rolling over a mass of writhing human beings. This volume was not alluring, but it was faithfully read, so was the "Life of Cotton Mather," and the "Dairyman's Daughter."

New Methods from Old.

But it should be remembered that like the Sunday-school itself, the little old dry library had the elements of growth in it. The day came when its well-filled shelves occupied a whole wall. There you could get "The Schonberg-Cotta Family," just published, then came "Kitty Trevelyan," of Wesley's time. Then "Phlothesa," telling of Paul and the early church, with realistic charm. You could revel in Prescott's "Conquest of Peru," and the "Abbott Histories" and the "Roll Books," and "Little Victorians" and by and by came "The Bodleys," and a host of other books that have hardly been improved upon.

It is true, as humorists say, that you used to "give your pennies," then mostly because this was "pretty behaved," but you also had a glimmering that they were "for the heathen"—how, or where you did not know. The children now do know. Ask Miss Luckey, superintendent of the primary department in the First Congregational Sunday School. She smiles at the question and eagerly describes to you the pleasure the children have in contributing to the support of a kindergarten for almond-eyed tots in Japan, just as we and fun-loving as themselves; and how they love to get letters and messages from the little brown children over there.

Children Better Informed.

In the old days children learned strings upon strings of Bible texts.



MRS. EVA BALLIS DOUGLAS, Missionary in Tehran, Persia, Volunteer from Warren Bible Class, First Presbyterian Sunday School.

which they recited with lightning swiftness and forgot as swiftly. There are people who profess to believe this must have been the better way. They seem to expect that these long-buried verses will loom up, somehow, in the nick of time, supernaturally illuminated. But the children now find out what the verses mean. In Miss Luckey's class the child gives birthday pennies—a penny for each year of his life—thus celebrating his anniversary by giving as well as the usual receiving. Then the whole class superlatively illuminated. But the children now find out what the verses mean. In Miss Luckey's class the child gives birthday pennies—a penny for each year of his life—thus celebrating his anniversary by giving as well as the usual receiving. Then the whole class superlatively illuminated.

"Quench not the spirit," repeated her little primaries, when asked for the nick of time, supernaturally illuminated. But the children now find out what the verses mean. In Miss Luckey's class the child gives birthday pennies—a penny for each year of his life—thus celebrating his anniversary by giving as well as the usual receiving. Then the whole class superlatively illuminated.

"When a good spirit comes into your heart you must not drive it away by doing bad things. If you do, it's like going and putting water on a nice pleasant fire that you need."

This was simply and naturally spoken—not in a parrot-like way. In this class the children sit in a body, in little kindergarten chairs, before the leader, at opening exercises. When lesson time comes, at a soft chord from the organ, each child picks up his or her chair, and for half a minute the room is full of bewildering whirrs of cunning little chairs, gay frocks and bright curls. They stand one instant, then another soft chord finds them seated in cosy groups, each group presided over by a sweet-faced teacher for a 15-minute story and talk.

All through this school, outside of the primary department, goes the mission-



DR. CHARLES E. TEMPLETON, Superintendent First Presbyterian Sunday School.