

NOTES AND QUERIES.

[We have received an interesting letter enquiring how it is possible to carry out Miss Mason's methods in Sunday Schools, and are glad to be able to publish two statements from members of the P.N.E.U. who are making use of the methods in their own Sunday Schools.— Ed.]

I.

As the question of using Miss Mason's methods in Sunday Schools has been asked from time to time, you may be interested to hear about our little Sunday School.

Some fifteen months ago I revived a Sunday class for little children which had been discontinued a few weeks previously. There were six children between the ages of four and eleven, and, as each week one or other of them brought a friend, we found that in a very short time our room was not large enough, so were obliged to move into a more spacious room where there is a piano. This enabled us to open and close school with a hymn, or, as some of the children were very young, a song from *Child Songs*, by Carey Bonner; we also use the "Musical Signals" from the same book, thus intimating quietly and reverently to the children when to prepare for prayer, when to take seats (on the floor!) preparatory to learning a new hymn or song, or when to march to their own special corner of the room for the lesson.
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Thanks to the willing offers of help which I received, we were able to divide the children into classes according to their ages, limiting the number of children to about six in each class. This I find a large enough class for inexperienced teachers who are feeling their way and learning as they go along. Narration was something quite new to the children; they found it difficult, and I am afraid we did not persevere sufficiently at first; however after some months it seemed as if the time had come to try and work the P.U.S. Scripture programmes in the school. We had then about thirty children between the ages of four and fifteen.

I discussed Miss Mason's methods with the teachers, they read portions of *Home Education* and the three pamphlets entitled *A Liberal Education for All*, and were keen to make a start. This we were able to do without the children being conscious of any change of method; we simply emphasized the narration after a single reading as something the children would enjoy and they are gradually becoming able to tell what they have heard read.

The time given to the lesson, while suitable for the older children, is too long for the younger ones, so a "picture talk" follows the scripture lesson; the pictures chosen are not necessarily religious as the central idea is to inculcate into the children a love of the beautiful.

The babies under five years of age are kept happy with bricks, paper and pencil or scripture puzzles. As one or two leave their play the teacher draws them to her and tells a Bible story, very shortly and simply, illustrated by a picture; as these children slip back to their play others take their places and so each child in turn has his Sunday lesson.

We have only made a beginning but all feel confident that Miss Mason's methods, if introduced into Sunday Schools would produce as satisfactory results as they have done in the

home and in secondary and elementary schools.—Yours, etc.,
M. IRENE WALKER.

[*To be continued.*]