

NOTES AND QUERIES.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING.

II.

DEAR EDITOR,—You have asked us to describe our attempts at a P.N.E.U. Sunday School. We are very glad the subject is being opened, and hope that this letter will lead to more light being thrown on a rather difficult matter.

May we first say that our village school is a Church school, and P.N.E.U. The children come to us for thirty-five minutes (after preliminary Roll Call and Prayers), and we have more or less a free hand.

Unfortunately we are not able to use the whole P.N.E.U. Sunday School programme, partly owing to lack of time, and partly because some of the books recommended come in the term's work. Also, we feel that a Sunday School should be different from the daily Bible lesson. It is an opportunity to make clear the reality of God, prayer and personal religion. Surely a little personal experience helps here. So we have simple extempore prayers and intercessions on subjects likely to appeal to the children, and get them to bring their own. Parts of the Bible story can often be turned into prayers, thus helping to show the oneness of religion and everyday life. One has to go very carefully as this side can easily be overdone.

With a small class of girls, ten to fourteen, we did Paterson Smyth's Genesis and Exodus with great success, the children reading the Bible parts given and narrating orally or in writing. Each drew a map to which places were added as we came to them.

With little girls of nine to twelve we are now doing a consecutive Life of Our Lord from the Gospels with Amy Steedman's book, *A Child's Life of Christ* (Jack, 7/6). It has very good descriptions of the Holy Land. For a change we read stories of the Saints.

With younger children my sister tries to teach the first simple truths by Bible stories which they narrate or write about, and by poetry and hymns which they learn by heart. Very small children will learn more by pictures than anything, but of course they should be good pictures.

With girls of fourteen and over one might have a "Study Circle" (it sounds more grown-up for those who have left school) one of Carey's books, a Church History, *The Clash of Colour*, [p 767] by Basil Matthews, or something of the kind. I must confess to not having tried this yet. Has anybody else?

The children here learn the Catechism in school, and are taught about the Church Festivals at Children's Services. Otherwise I suppose this would come into the Sunday classes.

We use Picture Study pictures, other reproductions of Old Masters, and pictures of the Holy Land when possible.—

Yours, etc.,

TWO P.U.S.A. MEMBERS.

(Further discussion is invited.—ED.)