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Introducing Teacher Training—A Plan that Worked

SARAH ELIZABETH BUNDY*

Short cuts to education always appeal to the lazy and should rarely be encouraged; religious educators have quite properly crusaded against short-term unscholarly teacher-training classes. But with all the agitation for trained leadership, as yet only a very small number of churches have instituted such courses as a prerequisite for teaching. Let us speed the day when this shall be an established fact, and when continuation classes for workers already in service shall likewise be an accepted part of their schedule.

Nevertheless, ideals develop progressively, not at a single leap. The prerequisite of forty weeks' study in a school formerly allowing anyone to teach, might easily banish the entire force. Surely more hope for future years lies in a group of teachers brought to the conclusion of a course in an *Oliver Twist* frame of mind than a dwindling gathering whose loyal few have "stuck it out to the bitter end" and then breathed their sighs of relief that it was over at last.

A four-weeks' course conducted in Southern California this spring attained its culmination before the desire for more had been satisfied. It gathered a group of teachers in four neighboring schools within a radius of a dozen miles. Meetings were held in the churches in turn, a supper preceding the class hour each week. The macadam boulevards connecting the towns made the evening drive of the visiting groups far from a hardship, but their seriousness of purpose was demonstrated by the presence of the largest number on the one stormy night of the series.

A typewritten outline of this "How" Course was distributed to each student and the majority procured the First Year Pilgrim Training Course, upon which all references were based. Though only a small section of the text was covered in the course, the purchase of the book insures its further reading on the part of those who want to get their dollar's worth!

The phraseology of the outline involved viewing church-school teaching as a journey in life and included the following topics:

LESSON I—*Packing for the Trip*. The Teacher's Preparation. Introductory Discussion.

LESSON II—*Modes of Transportation*. Methods of Teaching. References—Part 3, Chapter 8; Part 2, Chapters 2, 7, 8.

LESSON III—*Considering the Time Table*. Definite Schedule for the Lesson Period. References—Part 2, Chapters 5, 3.

LESSON IV—*Reaching the Destination*. Carrying over into Life. References—Part 2, Chapter 10; Part 1, Chapters 9, 10.

One or two special topics were assigned as, for example, a brief

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review of the plan for graded social service in vogue in the Union School of Religion.

The group averaged an attendance of sixty-five, but in spite of its size the discussion method was pursued, and spirited interchange of views characterized the sessions. The personnel of membership varied from youthful teachers in a country parish to elderly university professors, but all acknowledged the value of comparing notes and testing their methods by recognized standards.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Professor Athearn reports 228 college graduates in the course in Religious Education, and 207 under-graduates who are majoring in this field for their baccalaureate degrees; the total enrollment for the year showing an increase of 100% under-graduates and 200% graduate students.

CHURCH NORMAL SCHOOLS

The General Board of Religious Education of the Episcopal Church announces plans for church normal schools in all large cities. New York, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and New Haven are among the cities that are following the plan.

The new plan is "to unify church instruction of children through the centralized leadership of expert teachers." The Christian Nurture Course is the basis of instruction for the thirteen years of childhood from the ages of four to seventeen.

The plan provides in each city a salaried faculty of at least thirteen members, one member for each of the Christian Nurture Courses. Each faculty member is not only a trained conference leader but is also expected to teach his course in a well-organized Sunday school each Sunday.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

The following persons have been appointed Professors of Religious Education at the institutions named: John E. Bentley, Iliff School of Theology, Denver; Robert L. Calhoun, Instructor, Yale Divinity School; F. E. Billington, Texas University, Fort Worth; Harry Monroe, Spokane University; C. F. Cheverton, California School of Christianity, Los Angeles; David P. Ray, Shurtleff College.

Rev. Cecil D. Smith has become Director at the Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Paul, Minn. Rev. Aubone Hoyle, Director, at First Presbyterian Church, Victoria, B. C., Canada; Mr. A. R. Merrixx, Director for the Episcopal Diocese, Victoria, B. C., Canada. Rev. John W. Suter, Jr., educational secretary for the Diocese of Massachusetts.

RED CROSS EXHIBIT FOR SCHOOLS

The Junior Red Cross is sending food and clothing and opening up avenues of education to the children of the Allied countries, and now they are pouring out their thanks in letters and simple gifts which are constantly reaching Red Cross Headquarters at Washington with the request that they be given to the American children. To comply with this request a small traveling exhibit has been designed. A heavy shipping case, the door of which opens back in screen effect, carries a map of Europe showing the location of the various projects of the Junior Red Cross. It displays a cover page of the Junior Red Cross News, a photograph of one of the devastated homes in the war zone which has been supplied with a table and chairs made by the boys of manual training schools in this country, and toys and articles made by children of Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Russia, Italy, and France. A number of these cases will soon be sent traveling about the country bearing a message of gratitude from the children of war torn countries of Europe to their little friends in America.

In Memoriam

LAVINIA TALLMAN, July 16, 1920. Instructor in Religious Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Miss Tallman gave ten years of valuable service to the Religious Education Association, as an active worker in several departments and an officer of the Council of Religious Education. A ready, helpful, thoughtful counsellor and a generous supporter of the organization.

RICHARD CECIL HUGHES, October 9, 1920. Executive Secretary Department of Universities Presbyterian Board of Education. A member and officer of the Religious Education Association from the beginning and a member of the Executive Board since 1905. A loyal and wise friend. Dr Hughes rendered notable service both as President of Ripon College and then as the pioneer and organizer of the work of the churches for University students.