

matter. The increase in numbers as also the discipline and methods of teaching were gratifying, and he felt sure would result in a multitude of Latter-day Saints being raised up to aid in the rolling forth of the great latter day work. Elder Goddard stated that many important items were spoken of by the visiting members of the Union board at these Stake conferences and trusted that every Sunday school worker would teach by example more than by precept in their labors among the young. Two thousand Sunday school treatises had been distributed free among the various Sunday schools, since April conference. This treatise is for the especial benefit of the teachers and officers, and should be studied and discussed in teachers' meetings, that good results may follow its adoption, as it is now the official guide. Elder Goddard recommended that one day of the annual Sunday school conference be held at one place, and the second day at another where practicable, so more parents and children may have the privilege of attending; also that the primary departments hold their sessions at least one and one-half hour, and do not adjourn at 11:15 or even 11:25 as many do. Congregational singing should be encouraged in every school. A new 10c S. S. hymn book—a 20,000 edition—has been distributed to aid in the accomplishment of this purpose. Those who can should at once forward the amount due on the hymn books to the general treasurer, as the funds are needed. Punctuality is a very important matter and all should be prompt in all things. Elder Goddard hoped that this year a full complement on nickel donation would be received, October 25th being nickel Sunday this year. He closed by invoking the blessings of heaven upon all Sunday school workers.

The choir sang: In Our Lovely Desert.

Second Assistant General Superintendent Karl G. Maeser, in speaking upon the subject, *How to Conduct a Sunday School Normal Course*, said the outward growth of the Sunday School Union brings an increase in the requirements, duties and demands upon the Sunday school workers. It is not merely an increase in numbers only but an increase in the work, spirit, method and discipline.

The progress of the Sunday school work produces a constantly increasing demand for skilful workers.

The workers in the different stages of development of the Sunday school cause have in the majority of cases, under the blessings of the Lord, faithfully met the new features gradually unfolding themselves before them.

These new features were the natural outgrowth of a system of logical progression which, (while carefully considering the ultimate aims to be reached) has to be constantly on its guard against the impetuous zeal of some, or against the secularizing tendencies of others.

The system of logical progression in the educational system of the Latter-day Saints (illustrated in our Church schools, Sunday schools, religion classes, Primaries and Mutual improvement associations) brings to bear its elevating influence upon the

material it has to work with, viz: teachers and pupils; keeps in constant view the ultimate aims it desires to reach, viz: A living testimony of Jesus Christ, and of the divinity of the Latter-day work, and endeavors to conduct all its operations in such a manner as to insure the assistance of the Spirit of God.

The general superintendency and the Sunday School Union board, mindful of the great responsibilities resting upon them in regard to the affairs of the great Sunday school work in Zion, have endeavored to meet the emergencies of the case by publishing from time to time instructions through the Juvenile Instructor, by correspondence, by publishing cards, charts, leaflets and pamphlets, and hymn books, by lectures, and by attending annual Sunday school Stake conferences, and by visiting particular Sunday schools whenever possible.

The latest step in this direction is the establishment of a normal Sunday school course at the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, and of special normal Sunday school classes in several other church schools.

It is essential, however, that all those authorized to conduct normal Sunday school classes anywhere will follow the plan laid out by the Sunday School Union Board and carried out at the Brigham Young Academy.

The general outline of the plan is as follows:

The recently published "Latter-day Saints Sunday School Treatise" instituted the basis of the normal instructions for Sunday school work, although the Guide and the Lectures on Sunday School Work, ought to be used as supplements to it, so that every graduate of a Sunday school normal course may handle and explain intelligently these works and follow in his labors the lines indicated by them.

The Sunday school normal course should consist first of theoretical instructions given by a professor duly authorized for this work, and secondly, of practical training in some model Sunday school, organized for that purpose.

A complete normal Sunday school course covers a period of two ty weeks.

The course in theoretical instructions consists of:

1. Primary work, including kindergarten and infant class work. Ladies desirous of devoting themselves to this branch of Sunday school work as a specialty may graduate accordingly.

2. A complete normal Sunday school course comprises all departments inclusive of the primary. Normals desirous of graduating for this course are expected to have their notes and diagrams examined and endorsed by the examining professor, and to answer satisfactorily any review questions put to them.

3. Instructions in the handling of the authorized text-books, charts and subjects. (Concert recitations, congregational singing, myths and fables, etc.)

4. Instructions in organization, discipline, teachers' meetings, reviews, Stake annual Sunday school conferences, Sunday school unions and general executive matters. (Annual S. S. Stake Conferences, etc.)

5. General theological instructions in regard to doctrines, ordinances and

church organization. It will be expected that candidates for graduation can give satisfactory evidence of a living testimony of the divinity of the latter-day work, of willingness to sustain and obey the authority of the Priesthood, and of the determination to set a good example to the youth by their daily walk and conduct.

6. The practical course consists in the training of the Sunday school normals in acting alternately as officers and teachers in various kinds of Sunday school work under the direction and supervision of the professors.

It ought to be understood that no one is authorized to conduct a Sunday school normal class in any of the Stakes of Zion that does not hold a certificate to that effect issued by the Sunday School Union board. This proviso is indispensable inasmuch as uniformity throughout the whole Sunday School Union could not be maintained without it.

Elder E. K. Bassett conducted a sisters' quartet entitled Farewell.

Elder Francis M. Lyman, a member of the union board, addressed the Conference, recommending that hereafter in presenting the general Sunday school authorities in the Stake annual Sunday school conferences, that the general Church authorities be presented also, so the children may become better acquainted with them. Brother Lyman also spoke of introducing members of the Church as Mr. and Mrs. instead of "Brother" and "Sister." The latter terms he thought should now be used instead of the others. He trusted that the Sunday schools would take these remarks up and act upon them, and from now on in addressing pupils of a class, and in introducing members of the Church that the words Brother and Sister would be used.

Elder Heber J. Grant read the instructions of the First Presidency of the Church, that the Sunday schools should not be interrupted by Stake or general conferences, or by other meetings, but should be continued regularly each Sabbath.

General Superintendent George Q. Cannon said he felt the importance of punctuality being taught in our Sunday schools, and urged superintendents and teachers to commence promptly on time and set the example. If children are taught this virtue in their childhood it will be of infinite importance to them as they grow up, as it enters into all the operations of life. In regard to the exercises of the Sunday school, Superintendent Cannon regretted to learn, only that morning, of one Sunday school being held, and during the entire session the name of the Lord was not mentioned. He felt that this was a great wrong, as the object of the Sunday schools is not to hear fairy tales, not to read works of fiction, not to teach the Gospel by the use of myths; but the Sunday schools have been established for the purpose of teaching the children the principles of life and salvation. The New Testament, the Old Testament, the Book of Mormon and the standard Church works should be the guides and text books. Surely in these, and in the history of the Church, and the grand characters which go to make up that history, and in these records are so many beautiful