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OUTLINES PROGRAM OF MODERN CHURCH SCHOOL

Mrs. Carrie B. Prouty Explains System Employed in Teaching Primary Grades

Anyone who gives herself to the earnest pursuit of any subject for a period each week over a series of twenty years, will become an expert in that subject. For more than this length of time Mrs. Carrie B. Prouty of Winnetka has been studying the religious development of children of the ages of 6 to 9 years. For more than this number of years she has been director of the Primary department in the Winnetka Congregational Church school. She has, indeed, become an authority in religious education. Dr. J. W. F. Davies says he considers Mrs. Prouty

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one of the wisest primary leaders that he has known. When asked to give a statement regarding the Primary department she said:

"The Primary Department of the Congregational church comprises the first, second and third grade children of the public schools. The day-school gradings are closely observed, except that children in the Church School are not promoted until the end of the year. The period is from nine thirty a. m. to ten forty-five, separated into one half hour in assembly; spent as follows: ten minutes of singing, when new songs are begun; a ten minute period of simple worship in which everyone shares by song memorized scripture and prayer. The birthday offering is made an occasion of much interest and, with the birthday prayer from all, becomes a real part of the worship. Once a month a little time is taken to discuss what our next money shall be given to, and nearly every Sunday this object is recalled, added interest obtained by more story material on the subject, and more intelligent interest developed.

Have Definite Objectives

"Every attempt is made to have this money earned by the children themselves, but lack of understanding and co-operation by the parents makes this difficult with such young children. The objects are chosen with regard to the child's understanding; always if possible some child, at Chicago Commons, in the Kentucky Mountains, in the care of the church's missionaries in China or India—except that one gift each year is made to our own church—very concretely (for fuel, or light, or music, etc.) and such special appeals as the Near East Relief, or some great emergency of fire or flood is talked of, sympathy aroused and money brought. Always at Christmas toys are repaired or bought for Chicago Commons and at the close of the year scrap-books made for the summer Christmas tree. "At 10 o'clock the first grade children march to their own room, with them their own teachers, that they may have a suitable story, some free physical exercises and simple hand work.

After a good march around Matz hall, the second and third grades are seated in their respective groups for the lesson. This is practically without exception, given in the form of a story, selected with relation to the seasonal and outside interests, ie. 'Patriotism.' In February, 'Giving,' in December, 'Choosing Our Leader—or Ideals,' in January, etc. It is presented with the purpose of meeting the child's daily experiences in home and school life, and carrying them on to a connection with some spiritual truth. One constant aim is to build up in the child's mind, a firm faith in God as his Heavenly Father.

Quotes Diplomat's Words

"You can't ever tell results, nor can you make your plans in this sort of high work with reference to the probable results: that's the bigness and the glory of it.' Ambassador Walter Page was not speaking of religious education, but with a little qualification his words fit the idea of a religious teacher of little children.

"The child of six loves and believes—wonders and reveres, and must have a childlike spiritual teaching. He should have God interpreted to him as a loving Father, and through his wonder at all the beauty and mystery of the world, he should consciously love and be grateful to Him. His lessons should therefore come most naturally through nature stories.

"The second grade, or seven-year old, has come a little further. He wants a Heavenly Father who has created this wonderful world and is still at work in it, a Father who needs and asks through the help of every one of His children in making this world a clean, honest, kindly place for all to live in. Into this fundamental plan all things may enter—morals, ethics, religion weave together. Such Bible stories as develop desired aims, emotions, or stimulus are used. But very many Bible stories are not suitable for such young children many are either too cruel, or too far from the child's experience to have any influence on his life.

Teach Team Work

"Because the seven and especially eight year old child is developing an

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