REVIEW EXERCISES IN THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL: THEIR VALUE AND METHODS

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SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

THEIR VALUE AND METHODS.

BY

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SUNDAY-SCHOOL REVIEWS.

HARDLY any department of the teacher's work is of greater importance than that of reviews; yet hardly any has received less attention in treatises on Sunday-school teaching, or in actual Sunday-school practice. While an admitted fundamental law of teaching is, "Review, review, review; carefully, thoroughly, repeatedly," volume after volume, and essay upon essay, on the work of the Sunday-school teacher have been completed without so much as a passing mention of the necessity or methods of reviewing; and it is doubtless true to-day that in a large majority of Sunday-schools nothing like a review is ever attempted, either in the class or from the desk, and little is known of how best to conduct one.

The theme has of course not been left altogether unnoticed by Sunday-school writers. Under the heads of "repetition," "revision," and "recapitulation," as well as of "review," its importance has been recognised and its principles enforced by those whose words have weight in the

Sunday-school world. James Inglis has said, "One of the most essential though least interesting parts of the work of Sunday-school instruction, is the revision of what has been previously taught. Every teacher must lay his account with a large measure of this kind of work." Says W. H. Groser, "Teachers must be content, even though they sometimes find it wearisome, to present the same old truths again and again, until they are securely lodged in the understanding and the heart of the pupil." Dr. Gregory declares, "No time is spent more profitably in school than the time spent in reviews; and he is the best teacher, other things being equal, who secures from his class the most frequent and thorough reviews." "For many years," says Ralph Wells, "I have been deeply impressed with the importance of reviews, and fear the subject has not been duly pondered in many of our Sunday-schools." Yet, notwithstanding all these warm words of good workers, so little prominence has, on the whole, been given to the department of reviews in comparison with other phases of the teacher's work, in the range of Sunday-school literature, that now when Sunday-schools generally are invited, in the plan of the International Lessons, to give to reviews at least one Sunday in a quarter, there seems a call for the suggestions herewith presented as to the value and methods of review exercises in the Sunday-school.