

Minister of Defence. It was resolved that the balance of £195 9s 2d be handed over to the Government to go to the fund for providing hospital accommodation at Rotorua for wounded soldiers returning from the front.

The Rev. H. H. Robjohns, B.Sc. (formerly General Secretary to the League in the Auckland Province) was appointed Acting Secretary of

Lessons.

(On the lines of the Sunday School Syllabus, as authorised by the Bishop.)

The sketches of lessons under this heading are not intended to be exhaustive, but are merely suggestions to teachers of lines of thought on which to work out the lessons. Help may be obtained from: The London Series of Lessons "God's Love and Care"; National Society's "Lessons on the Gospel Story"; Osborne's "The Children's Saviour," "The Saviour King," "The Children's Faith." These sketches merely provide material. If they are used they should be assimilated by the teacher, and then given in the teacher's own way.

First Sunday in Advent.

THE PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Aim: To teach (1) that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas; (2) to look forward with joy to the Feast of the Nativity, and also to the Second Coming of our Lord in Glory.

Preparation: Show how God prepared the world through all the ages for the first Christmas Day (1) By first creating man in His Own Image, so that by and bye God might take human flesh and human nature; (2) By His promise to Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and constantly in the prophets; (3) By the leading of the Hebrew race to a higher knowledge, free from idolatry; (4) By maintaining their national purity; (5) By over-ruling political and national history so that "in the fulness of time" nearly all the inhabited world was under one gov-

ernment (Roman), with one official language (Greek).

Presentation: A long preparation was necessary so that when Christmas came all might be ready for founding a universal, Catholic, Church. Note the joy of the angels at Christmas; the joy of Mary, and of Zacharias, and of Simeon; the joy of the first Christmas confined to those who knew Jesus to be the Christ. So the joy of each Christmas belongs to those who know that Jesus is our Saviour—No true Christian joy at Christmas except to those who know Jesus as Saviour and King. Advent also prepares for Second Coming. That, too, will be a time of great joy. We can be prepared for it by having our hearts in tune with God. It is being prepared for (1) By the ministry of the Church, in her Sacraments and teaching; (2) In carrying the Gospel to all nations, making them long for the second coming to right all wrongs and destroy sin. We cannot look forward with joy to the Second Coming unless we are penitent and love Jesus Christ. If we have unforgiven sin we must be afraid of Jesus as our Judge. But if we "love His appearing" and know Him as our Saviour we shall look forward to it with joy. We can best prepare for the Second Coming by learning to love Him, His Church, and her services, and His service here upon earth "which is perfect freedom."

Second Sunday in Advent.

Aim: To teach that the Bible contains God's word or message to men.

Preparation: Story of Venerable Bede; A.D. 735; Monastery at Jarrow; Bede dying; nearly finished translation of Gospel of S. John; Eve of Ascension Day; Wilbert, his amanuensis, thinks Bede is too tired but Bede insists on finishing; at last it is finished—"Now it is finished," said Wilbert, to which Bede replied "It is well, thou hast said the truth, it is finished," and passed away. Bede one of many who translated parts of the Bible long ago. No common language in England, only many dialects. The English language gradually developed into a more fixed form; this was helped by the invention of printing; first

books to be printed were the Gospels and by and bye the whole Bible. Why this prominence?

Presentation: The Bible the most important collection of books; collected by the Church in first three centuries under guidance of Holy Spirit. Its component parts; history, law, poetry, prophecy, allegory. Its variety of authors, David (king), Ezra (priest); Nehemiah (statesman), Isaiah (noble), Amos (herdman), S. Luke (doctor), S. Matthew (tax-gatherer), S. John (fisherman). The revelation of God made through imperfect channels and gradually—up to the dawning of day, and the full daylight is not even yet; "I have many things to say, etc."—John viii, 26. Bible records gradual revelation of God to men to prepare them (1) for the Incarnation, (2) for the final Advent. Jesus Christ the true "Word of God"; He is with us; He is still speaking to us by the Holy Ghost. The revelation of God given to men of old is still of value to us, and is preserved and applied and translated by the Church; e.g., note value of psalms for devotion (used by Church in public worship); value of historical books—they show how God built up the Jewish nation to be the vehicle through which His promise (Christ) was to be given to the world; value of Gospels as a record of Christ's sayings and doings, Acts, early Church history, Epistles, apostolic doctrine and the beginnings of Church organisation.

Application: Love and reverence the Holy Scriptures, read them and learn by heart, especially devotional parts; they tell us in what way God spoke to the world in times past; He is still speaking to us through His Church guided by the Holy Spirit.

Third Sunday in Advent.

THE FORERUNNER IN ADVENT

Last Sunday spoke of long preparation through the ages for the coming of Christ on earth. This Sunday—

Aim: To show God's method of preparing the world through ministry of individual prophets, e.g., John Baptist.